

Veteran's Committee meeting notes, April 20, 2021

In attendance:

Debbie Jones, Suquamish
Nate Tyler, Makah
Andy Joseph, Colville Confederated Tribes
Sam Spino, Umatilla
Dan Delavan, VA Portland Health Care System
Terry Bentley, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations
Carrie Epperson, VA Seattle regional office
Amanda Gaston, staff
Veronica Smith, contractor
Candice Jimenez, staff
Dondi Head, staff

Minutes from the January 2021 meeting were reviewed.

Amanda Gaston presented on Caring Messages, a Suicide Prevention Intervention that will be launched in November 2021, utilizing text to share messages from and to Native veterans. The committee provided input on the avatars and logo that are under development. Amanda also asked for any volunteers to be a part of the project's advisory board. Interested veterans can email her at agaston-contractor@npaih.org.

Veronica Smith provided a review of the recently passed legislation. The tribal advisory committee to the VA was discussed, and Terry Bentley said that the TAC would likely draw the members along the lines of the current IHS Area divisions, with three more at-large members for 15 total members.

Meeting was adjourned.