



LTSS in Our Community

A monthly webinar on designing and accessing services for elders and people with disabilities in Indian Country

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

**VA Office of Tribal
Government Relations
and
VA Rural Interdisciplinary
Team Training**

Part 3 of Veterans and LTSS Series

- **Part 1** – Overview of VA and Long-Term Care Services
- **Part 2** – VA Health Care on Native Lands
- **Part 3** – VA Office of Tribal Government Relations and VA Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training

**Past webinars are archived on the
LTSS Technical Assistance Center on [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov).**

The VA Geriatric Scholars Program: Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training



B. Josea Kramer, PhD, MS, MA
Director, VA Geriatric Scholars Program Associate
Director for Education/Evaluation
Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System GRECC
Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Team Training in Care of Elders



Port Gamble S'kallam Tribe

Key Topics in Care of Elders



VA.GOV Minority Center

- Working as a team: clinicians and non-clinicians
- Normal aging & Geriatric syndromes
- Issues of concern: Warning signs and red flags
- Challenges of transitions in care
- Recognition and assessment of dementia
- Team's action plan to improve care for elders

For more information, contact:

Eve.Gottesman@va.gov

718-584-9000 ext. 3813

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Office of
Tribal Government
Relations

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations



Stephanie Birdwell
OTGR Director
Washington, DC

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

- Part of the VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Based in Washington, DC
- Established more than 6 years ago
- The Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) advises the VA Secretary on VA's relationships with tribal governments

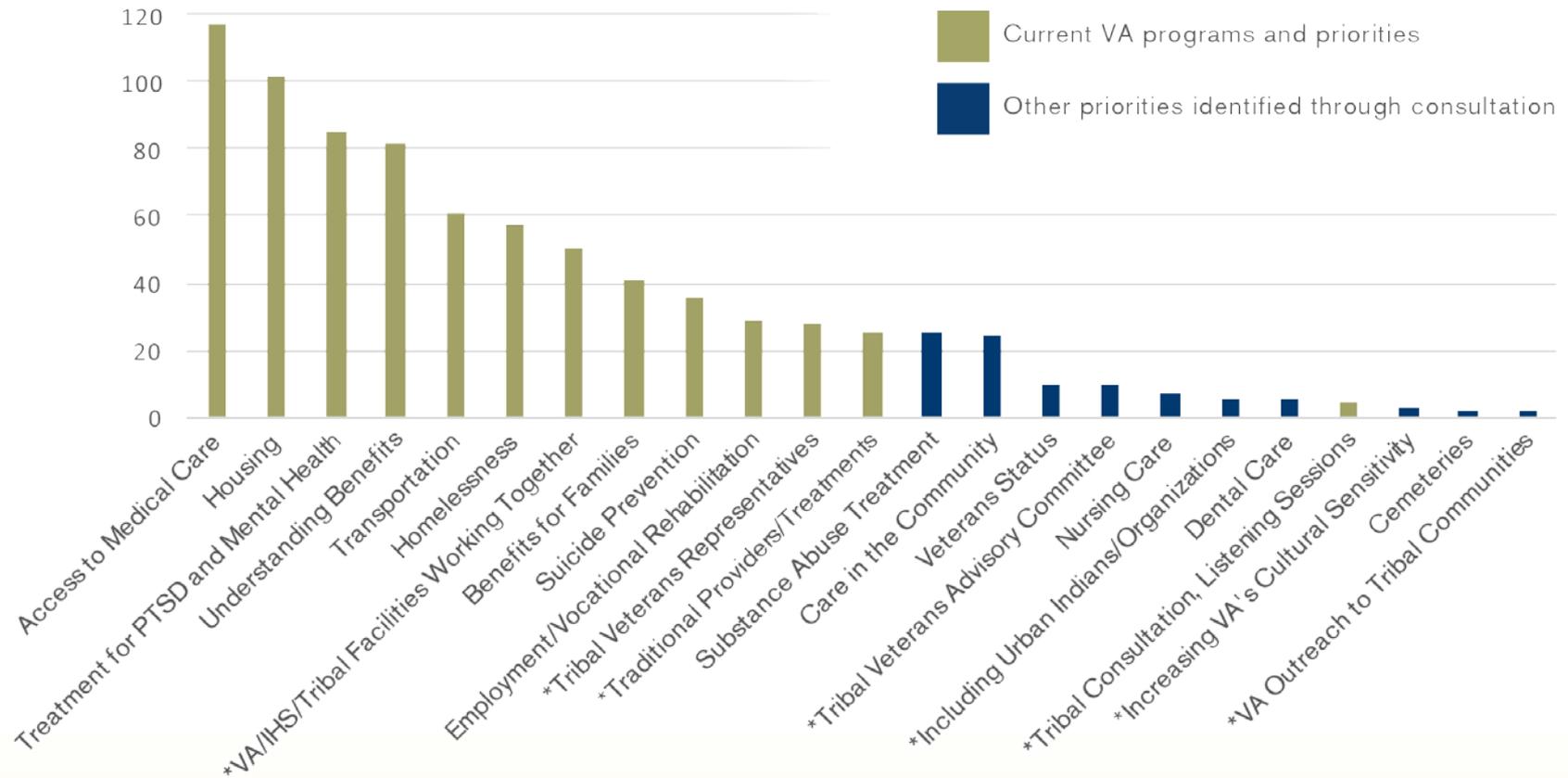
OTGR's Areas of Focus

- Facilitating tribal consultation
- Facilitating access to health care and benefits for Veterans
- Promoting economic sustainability for Veterans living in Indian Country

We believe that working to ensure Veterans access to benefits they have earned through their service will improve the overall quality of life for our Veterans, their families, and their communities.

Tribal Consultation: Priorities for Veterans

Tribes' Priorities for Serving Veterans



Respondents ranked their priorities from 1 through 5. The graph shows which priorities received the highest ranks compared to other priorities. To determine the top five priorities, some similar items were combined, such as housing and homelessness.

* Starred priorities are culturally specific items relevant to American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and Veterans. VA recognizes the importance of culturally specific efforts in their relationships and work with tribal nations

Access to Care: Applying the VA-IHS MOU in Communities

- Working with VA Office of Rural Health
- Implementing VA-IHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - The MOU is a “book” with many possible “chapters” of collaboration



OTGR Regions & Regional Specialists



Stephanie Birdwell

Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations (Brown)

✉ StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov

☎ 202-461-7400

Washington, DC



Clay Ward

Program Analyst, Office of Tribal Government Relations (Brown)

✉ David.Ward@va.gov

☎ 202-461-7445

Washington, DC



Terry Bentley

Regional Specialist Pacific Region (Green)

✉ Terry.Bentley@va.gov

☎ 541-440-1271

Roseburg, OR



Regions:

- Washington, DC
- Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington
- Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas
- Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah
- Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming



Mary Culley

Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, and Southeast Regions (Orange)

✉ Mary.Culley@va.gov

☎ 405-456-3876

Oklahoma City, OK



Homana Pawiki

Regional Specialist Pacific and Continental Regions (Blue)

✉ LoRae.Pawiki@va.gov

☎ 928-445-4860 x5306

Prescott, AZ



Peter Vicaire

Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, North Atlantic and Southeast Regions (Yellow)

✉ Peter.Vicaire@va.gov

☎ 651-405-5676

Minneapolis, MN

Demographics and Economic Sustainability

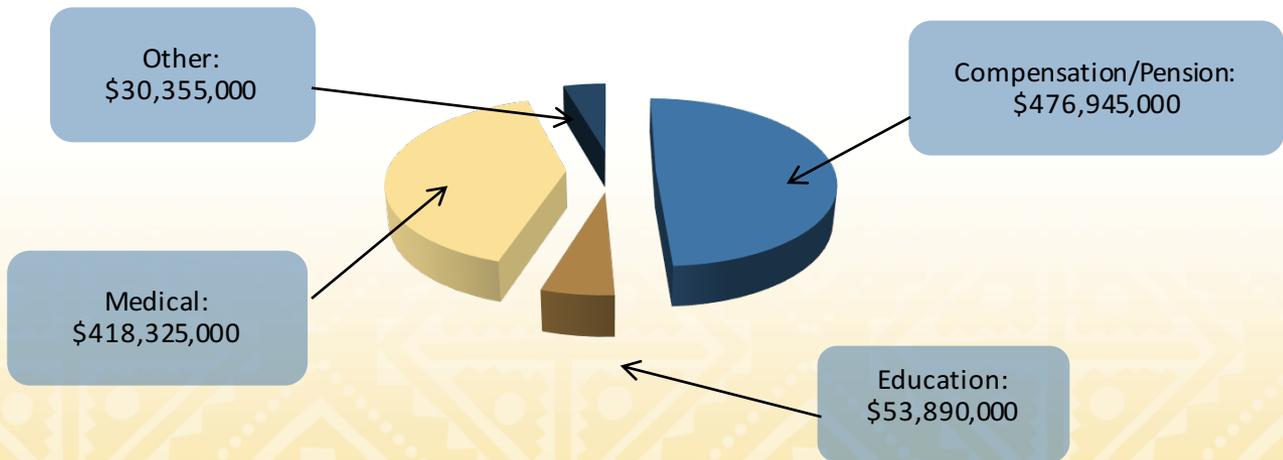
Total Expenditures in Ten Counties of Navajo Nation (AZ) FY 2015³

Total Expenditures
\$979,515,000

Counties	Compensation/Pension ^a	Education	Medical ^b	Other ^c
Apache (AZ)	\$ 15,641,000	\$ 1,681,000	\$ 10,448,000	\$ 71,000
Coconino (AZ)	\$ 22,300,000	\$ 5,904,000	\$19,497,000	\$ 332,000
Navajo (AZ)	\$ 25,623,000	\$ 2,013,000	\$22,173,000	\$ 294,000
Bernalillo(NM)	\$272,873,000	\$32,296,000	\$266,270,000	\$59,982,000
Cibola(NM)	\$ 9,741,000	\$ 393,000	\$ 9,877,000	\$ 152,000
McKinley (NM)	\$19,832,000	\$1,632,000	\$17,023,000	\$ 256,000
Rio Arriba (NM)	\$14,388,000	\$ 449,000	\$ 9,371,000	\$163,000
Sandoval (NM)	\$68,402,000	\$6,623,000	\$43,339,000	\$957,000
San Juan (NM)	\$26,790,000	\$2,767,000	\$17,838,000	\$413,000
San Juan (UT)	\$ 1,355,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 2,489,000	\$ 31,000

105,462
Veterans in
area

Average
expenditures
per Veteran:
\$9,287.84*



Trends and Priorities

What trends do you see in your region for serving Veterans?

What priorities or concerns for Veterans do you hear most frequently in your region?



Colville Color Guard at Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) Training and Summit

Building Partnerships

How do you build or support collaborations in your region?

How is partnering with state Departments of Veterans Affairs important?



Terry Bentley with Alfie Alvarado (Director) and Steve Gill of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

Best Practices and Successes

Are there best practices from your region that you want to spread the word about?

What's a success story in VA-tribal collaboration from your region?



Mary Culley and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel at 4th Annual Inter-Tribal Homeless Veterans Stand Down

Questions and Comments

Washington, DC

Stephanie Birdwell

Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations

Email: StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov

202-461-7400

Clay Ward

Program Analyst, Office of Tribal Government Relations

Email: David.Ward@va.gov

202-461-7445

Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington

Terry Bentley

Regional Specialist Pacific Region

Email: Terry.Bentley@va.gov

Phone: 541-440-1271

Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas

Mary Culley,

Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, and Southeast Regions

Email: Mary.Culley@va.gov

405-456-3876

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Homana Pawiki,

Regional Specialist Pacific and Continental Regions

Email: LoRae.Pawiki@va.gov

Phone: 928-445-4860 x5306

Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Peter Vicaire

Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, North Atlantic and Southeast Regions

Email: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov

Phone: 651-405-5676

Resources for Connecting with VA in Indian Country

- Access the materials in the Resources box at right.
- Download **VA Programs Contact Info** for eligibility, LTSS, VA-IHS collaboration, RITT, and OTGR information:
<http://files.kauffmaninc.com/projects/ltss/VA-Contact-Info.pdf>
- Watch past LTSS webinars, including Part 1 and Part 2 of the Veterans and LTSS series:
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/American-Indian-Alaska-Native/AIAN/LTSS-TA-Center/LTSS-Webinars.html>
- Email us at ltssinfo@kauffmaninc.com with questions.