

Arizona BE CONNECTED

Arizona Coalition for Military Families

VHA Community Mental Health Summit

(VHA* Facilities in Arizona: Southern AZ VA HCS, Phoenix VA HCS, Northern AZ VA HCS)

L. HoMana Pawiki**

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

September 21, 2022

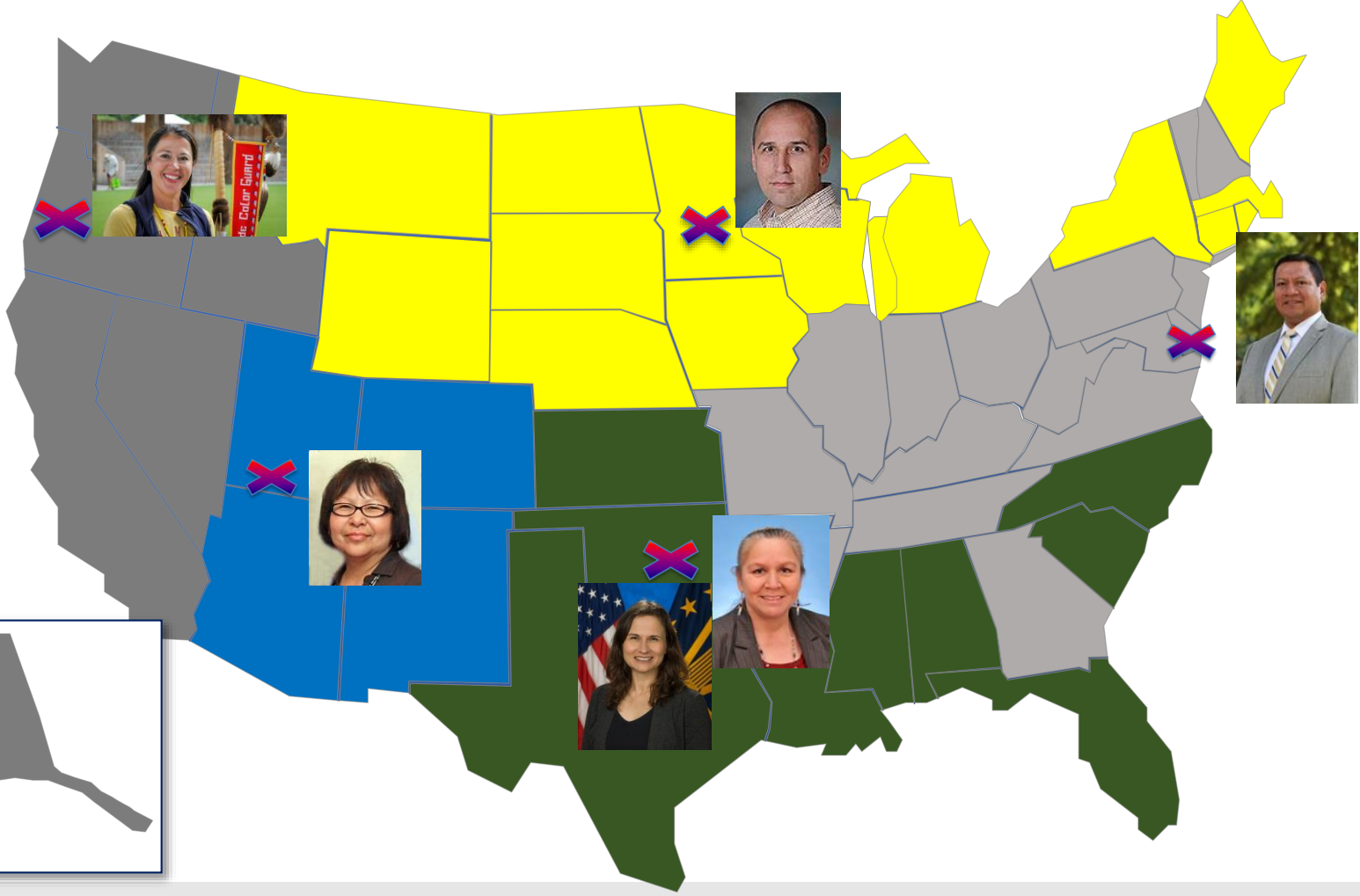
8 am to Noon MST

- **If time allows, Andrew Taylor, Rural Health Coordinator, VHA, Northern AZ VA Health Care System, will cover, some or all, of the slides.*

* VHA = Veterans Health Administration



VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR)



VA Organization

OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Dennis McDonough
Secretary

Donald Remy
Deputy Secretary for VA

Tanya Bradsher
Chief of Staff of VA

Brenda S. Fulton
Assistant Secretary Office of Public & Intergovernmental Affairs

Raphael Chavez-Fernandez
Deputy Assistant Secretary Intergovernmental Affairs

Stephanie E. Birdwell, Director
Office of Tribal Government Relations

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Program Specialist DC

Mary Culley
OTGR Specialist
Southern Plains /
Southeast Region

Peter Vicaire
OTGR Specialist
Central / Northeast
Region

Terry Bentley
OTGR Specialist
Western Region

L. HoMana Pawiki
OTGR Specialist
Southwest Region

Three Goals- Activities of OTGR

- Facilitate the VA Tribal Consultation Policy: “Don’t make decisions about us without us”
- Engage in activities that promote increased access to health care and benefits for Veterans living in Indian Country (and urban areas)
- Facilitate economic sustainability for Veterans living in Indian Country (and urban areas)

Updates from January 2021 Enactments of the 116th Congress: Native Veterans legislation

- Reimbursements to Indian Health Service and Purchase Referred Care (PRC) (HR 6237) – Listening sessions held, IHS and VA working collaboratively on roll out of legislation
- Co-pay prohibitions for American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans (HR 7105 section 3002) – Legislation is due to be implemented this year. Internal VA discussions continue regarding how VA should require Veterans to identify their eligibility for this benefit. The standard eligibility is that they meet the definition of Indian set forth in IHCA.
- State Veterans Homes Grants (HR 7105 section 3004) – DTLL issued and tribes can apply for these grants
- HUD-VASH (section 4206) - \$3.3M renewals of 26 tribes and expanded to 5 additional tribes at \$1.9M
- Urban Indian Health Programs and Reimbursement Agreements with VHA (HR 6237) – Urbans can now participate in these agreements

Tribal Consultation



Linda Woods, U.S. Navy
Veteran, Ojibwe

- 2021 Tribal Consultation Topics – Presidential Memorandum
 - Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation to Nation Relationships 1.26.21
 - VHA/IHS MOU 1.8.21 – 2.18.21 (+session with UIOs)
 - Co-pay prohibitions for AI/AN Veterans 3.29.21
 - Tribal participation in State Veterans Home grant program 5.19.21
 - VHA pharmacy reimbursement rate for IHS and THP reimbursement agreement program 6.3.21
- 2022 Tribal Consultation Topics
 - VA Tribal Consultation Policy
 - T-Rep project
 - VHA Tribal Veterans Office
 - VA/IHS/THP Reimbursement Agreement Template and addition of purchase referred care to RAP

OTGR Team and Contact Information

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www.va.gov/tribalgovernment - Main website

Tribal.agreements@va.gov – VA-IHS-THP
Reimbursement Agreements

Tribal.Consultation@va.gov – email for tribal leaders
to submit inquiries directly to VA

White Mountain Apache Housing Authority Veterans Symposium

VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care

IHS/THP Reimbursement Agreement Program

Kara Hawthorne, Manager

Michelle Slusser, Analyst



VHA IHS/THP/UIO

Reimbursement Agreement Program

VA-IHS/THP Reimbursement Agreements Through July 2022

Executive Summary				
	Jul-22	FY21	FY22	Since Program Inception
Disbursed	\$3,065,982.55	\$27,386,004	\$28,705,493.68	\$180,230,639
Unique Veterans	2,309	7,268	6,518	~14,650
Inpatient Claims	102	629	448	8,275
Outpatient Claims	5,820	62,597	61,152	467,260
Total Claims	5,922	63,226	61,600	475,535

	IHS/THP July 2022	
	IHS	THP
Claims	2128	3,616
Unique Veterans	820	1490
Disbursed	\$782,058.26	\$2,283,924.29

VHA IHS/THP/UIO

Reimbursement Agreement Program

- What
 - VHA = Veterans Health Administration
 - IHS = Indian Health Service
 - THP = Tribal Health Program
 - UIO = Urban Indian (Health) Organization
- Who
 - Kara Hawthorne, Manager, VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care
 - Michelle Slusser, Analyst, VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care
- How Much

VHA IHS/THP Reimbursement Agreements								
Facility Details								
July 2022								
					Fiscal Year 2022		Jul-22	
VISN	IHS/THP	STN	NAME	Agreement Number	Disbursed	Unique Vets	Disbursed	Unique Vets
22	IHS	649	Whiteriver Indian Hospital	VA-644-IHS-0032	\$111,842.67	49	\$1,975.82	17

VHA IHS/THP/UIO

Reimbursement Agreement Program

- What
 - The VHA Reimbursement Agreement Program (RAP) with the Indian Health Service / Tribal Health Program / Urban Indian Organizations (I/T/U) health care facilities to receive reimbursement from VA for direct services provided to eligible American Indian / Alaska Native Veterans
- Who
 - Veterans do not require VA preauthorization and are not subject to a VA Copay
- Urban Indian Organizations (UIO)
 - Public Law U.S.C. 1645 Indian Health Care Improvement Act allowing UIO participation in VA's Reimbursement Agreement Program