

VA



- Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
- Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

November 2023



Jennifer S. Gutowski, MHA, FACHE
Medical Center Director
VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, CHC, VHA-CM
Medical Center Director
VA Northern Arizona Health Care



Bryan C. Matthews, MBA
Medical Center Director
VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



Stakeholder Meeting

Phoenix VA Health Care System

November 4, 2023

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.





Local Marines Donate Equipment

PVAHCS' Recreational Therapy Program received a recumbent trike (\$3000) and two adaptive kayaks (\$8270) Oct. 16

- Medical Center Director and Deputy Medical Center Director with the help of Voluntary Services thanked the Military Order of the Devil Dogs - Kennel (MODD) at Tempe Town Lake for their donation
- The equipment was purchased for Veterans who attend PVAHCS' Adaptive Sports Program
- Over 25 Veterans, 2 cycling volunteers, and 2 members of "MODD" attended the thank you presentation
- MODD members who accepted the thanks for the organization were Marine Veteran Pat Connell and Marine Veteran Robert (Bob) Wallace both who are members of the Marine Corps League Department of Arizona
- Video Link: <https://youtu.be/PUcjrt-TEg>





PVAHCS Medical Lab unveiled Equipment

Medical Lab unveiled new Vitek MS Prime Oct. 17

- New equipment was unveiled in the Carl T. Hayden Medical Center by employees and streamlines and speeds up the analysis of bacterial cultures by days which helps us help Veterans faster
- With older methods, it could take up to multiple days to analyze blood and find if there's any bacteria in it





Mental Health Summit

The Phoenix VA Health Care System held their 12th Annual VA/Be Connected Community Mental Health Summit Oct. 19



- Held virtually and in-person at the 32nd Street Outpatient Clinic
- Brought together Phoenix VA staff, community partners, and more than 80 Veterans for the conference
- The theme for this year's Mental Health Summit was "Dignity in Mental Health," and the event was designed to strengthen collaboration and care with the community in support of Veterans and their families
- Article Link: <https://bit.ly/46WAuBv>





White Cane Safety Day

PVAHCS hosted its annual White Cane Safety Day event for blind and visually impaired Veterans at the 32nd Street Clinic Oct. 19

- VA event held in observance of White Cane Safety Day, celebrated on Oct. 15, which Lyndon B. Johnson created in 1965
- Vendors attended the event to inform Veterans on various assistive technologies for blind and visually impaired Veterans
- Article Link: <https://bit.ly/3MmTZLO>





National Mammogram Screening Day

Phoenix VA held a walk-in mammogram screening day at the Amethyst Clinic at Carl T. Hayden Medical Center Oct. 20



- Held in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Gave away informational resources related to Breast Cancer
- Veterans due for a routine mammogram screening may self-schedule your mammogram at the PVAHCS by calling: 602-277-5551 x 5498.
- Article Link: <https://bit.ly/3QFbN7i>



Phoenix Pride 2023 Festival and Parade

Phoenix VA participated in the Phoenix Pride 2023 Festival and Parade Oct. 21 and Oct. 22

- Distributed information on services provided to Veterans, such as Suicide Prevention, Inpatient care, Outpatient Care, Mental Health Care, Adaptive Sports, LGBTQ+ Services, Sexual Orientation & Sexual Health Care, LGBTQ+ Care Coordination, and hiring information
- More than 140 Veterans and other individuals visited the booth





Joint Exercise with AZ National Air Guard

PVAHCS joined a joint exercise for the National Disaster Medical System at the 161 Air Refueling Wing, Goldwater Air National Guard Base Oct. 24



- The NDMS is a partnership between the Departments of Health & Human Services, Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs
- Execution of NDMS is dependent on pre-determined Patient Reception Areas (Major U.S. Cities) which community Clinical Care Services and/or Healthcare related services, Military bases, Commercial Airports, Emergency Management Agencies, Public Health Departments, EMS, Fire, Police, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Humane Society and other volunteers team-up to receive/transport and provide essential care for evacuated medial patients and their Non-Medical Attendees.
- Article Link: <https://bit.ly/45XAX5M>



Az HHA Quality Awards Winner

PVAHCS ICU team received award for infection prevention Oct. 25



- The inaugural AzHHA Quality Awards celebrates and recognizes Arizona's leaders committed to advancing healthcare with exceptional quality performance, community engagement, and a culture of continuous improvement
- Honored at the AzHHA Quality Awards Luncheon during the 2023 Arizona Hospital Leadership Conference
- Applicants had to be able to highlight a recent project in Quality and Patient Safety, Community Engagement, Emergency Management



Native American Heritage Month Ceremony

Opening Day Ceremony held to celebrate rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans at 32nd Street Clinic Nov. 1

- Theme was “Service. Honor. Traditions. Legacy.”
- An opportunity for Veterans and the community to learn about Native American Heritage
- Ceremony was held virtually and in-person
- Drum provided by Blue Sage Singers (Akimel O’odham Tribe)
Guest speaker was Natiana King, a native of the Navajo Nation and the 1st Attendant, Miss Indian Arizona 2023-2024





COVID-19 Vaccines are now Available

COVID-19 vaccines are available now to enrolled Veterans at all Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

**IT'S
Vaccination
TIME!**

COVID-19 vaccines are available now to enrolled Veterans at all Community-Based Outpatient Clinics. Appointments are not necessary. Veterans can go to any CBOC and ask for a COVID-19 vaccination.

**COVID-19 vaccines are not available for walk-ins at the main hospital.*

- Appointments are highly recommended but not necessary
- Veterans can go to any CBOC and ask for a COVID-19 vaccination
- We have the Moderna "SpikeVax" for COVID-19
- ***The main hospital does not have the COVID-19 vaccine available for walk-ins.**



Community Engagement

VetsGiving

A Thanksgiving celebration for our Veterans, Families and Staff

- Hosted by PVAHCS
- Will include food, live music, games, prizes, and more
- Nov. 4, from 10 am – 2 pm
- Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

Veggies for Veterans

Free Fresh Vegetables for Veterans

- Sponsored by Legacy Foundation, Gregory's Fresh Market, Peddler's Son, & Priory of the Light
- **32nd Street Clinic** (Nov. 9)
- **Carl T. Hayden Medical Center** (Nov. 14 & Dec. 12)
 - in ACC Hallway and drive through

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade w/VBA

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade honors the contributions of our United States Veterans

- Sponsored by HAV
- Nov. 11, from 11:00am - 1:00pm
- In-Person

Veterans Healing Ceremony

A ceremony for Veterans

- Facilitated by Traditional Healer of Phoenix VA Dino Haley
- Nov. 14, from 1-2 pm
- Carl T. Hayden Medical Center Bldg. 31
- In-person

5th Annual Tribal Veterans Symposium

This FREE event is for Tribal Veterans, Military Service Members and their families, providers, partners, and stakeholders

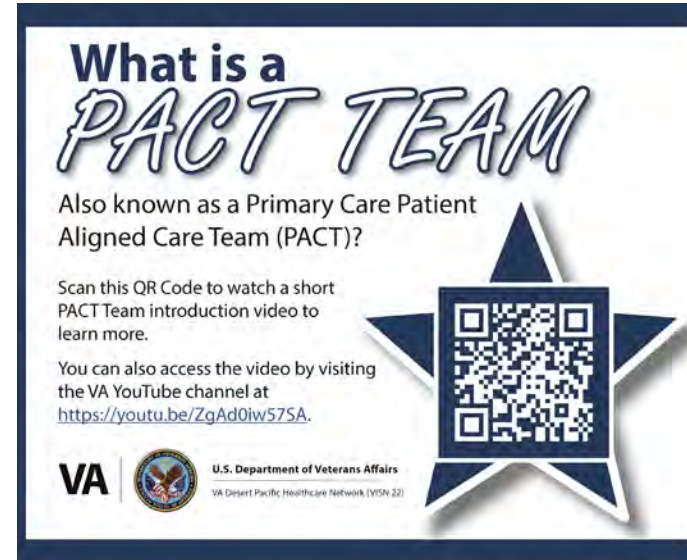
- Sponsored by Northern Arizona VA, Phoenix VA, and BCBS AZ
- Nov. 17 - 18
- Gourd Dance on Nov. 18 at 1pm
- Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, 22181 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ
- Must register at <https://bit.ly/47aaLpo>
- In-Person
- More Information TBA



Questions?

What is a PACT Team - A PACT or Patient Aligned Care Team is how we ensure that every Veteran receives comprehensive and complete care. It's team of providers, nurses and staff that are focused on you, the Veteran.

Find out more in this short video:
<https://youtu.be/ZgAd0iw57SA>



What is a PACT TEAM

Also known as a Primary Care Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)?

Scan this QR Code to watch a short PACT Team introduction video to learn more.

You can also access the video by visiting the VA YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/ZgAd0iw57SA>.

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network (VDSN 22)

Let's make history



Million Veteran Program (MVP) - Our MVP Team who have enrolled over 18,000 Veterans into the Million Veteran Program. If you are a Vietnam Veteran, joining the Million Veteran Program could help other Veterans who served with you. At the Million Veteran Program, researchers are studying how military experiences and exposures affect Veteran health. All Veterans can learn more and join today at www.mvp.va.gov.

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Veterans COMPACT Act - Veterans in acute suicidal crisis can go to a VA or community health care facility to receive free emergency health care – including ambulance transportation costs – and be eligible for inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work. For more information contact the Suicide Prevention Coordination Office at (520) 792-1450 extension 1-6145 or 1-4415.



The Department of Veterans Affairs is deploying more than two dozen mobile medical units to expand health care access to homeless and at-risk Veterans - for Veterans to meet with medical providers for primary care, women’s health, audiology, laboratory, and telehealth services. The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) is expected to receive their unit in January 2024.



Southern Arizona VA Health Care System's Caregiver Support Group - is hosting a resource fair on Wednesday, November 8th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium of Building 4 at the Tucson VA. Information from Alzheimer's Association, Tucson Vet Center, American Red Cross, SAVAHCS Whole Health team, Pima Council on Aging, TMC for Seniors and much more will be available! Please register at [VA Caregiver Resource Fair Tickets, Wed, Nov 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/va-caregiver-resource-fair-tickets-729036296187)



The flyer features a background image of a healthcare professional in a white coat. On the left, there is a logo consisting of an orange heart shape with three blue stars inside. The text 'You are invited!' is written in a cursive font above the main title. The main title 'Caregiver Support Resource Fair' is in large, bold, blue and orange letters. Below the title, it states 'VA and Local Community Resources will be present. Open to all Caregivers and Veterans.' The event details are listed: 'Tucson VA Medical Center, Wednesday, November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Auditorium, Building 4, 3601 South 6th Avenue Tucson, AZ 85723'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS). At the bottom right, there is a QR code. A blue banner at the very bottom contains the RSVP link: 'RSVP link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/va-caregiver-resource-fair-tickets-729036296187'.

You are invited!
Caregiver Support Resource Fair

VA and Local Community Resources will be present. Open to all Caregivers and Veterans.

Tucson VA Medical Center
Wednesday, November 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Building 4
3601 South 6th Avenue Tucson, AZ 85723

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

RSVP link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/va-caregiver-resource-fair-tickets-729036296187>



November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung Cancer screenings save lives. Join us for the Lung Cancer Screening Program Event on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Rose Garden Courtyard at the Tucson VA Hospital. Lung cancer is the deadliest cancer among Veterans, but catching it early means a much higher rate of treatment success. If you're 50-80 years old, and if you formerly or currently smoke cigarettes, talk to your provider if lung cancer screening is right for you. Learn more about who can be screened and how.

www.prevention.va.gov/preventing_diseases/screening_for_lung_cancer.asp




Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

Should you be screened for lung cancer?

LUNG CANCER SCREENING RECOMMENDATION

Yearly screening with low dose computed tomography (CT) if you meet all of the following criteria:

 Age 50 - 80	 Currently smoke or quit in the last 15 years	 20 pack year history (at least 1 pack a day for 20 years)
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***Don't Wait, get checked today.
Ask your doctor if you qualify for annual lung cancer screening.***

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | Veterans Health Administration | Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)





- Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary of Health for the Department of Veterans Affairs, met with local Veterans and SAVAHCS staff. He listened to Veterans share their health care experiences at SAVAHCS. He ended his visit with a Town Hall to discuss with staff current VA initiatives and strategies aimed at providing Veterans high quality health care. Dr. Steven Braverman, VISN 22 Interim Network Director also participated in the visit – October 13
- SAVAHCS staff and Veterans sported pink in support of National Pink Out Day, which aims to raise awareness for breast cancer. Together we can send a powerful message, and save lives – October 13
- SAVAHCS Outreach Team attended the Pinal County Veterans Stand Down in Casa Grande – October 14
- SAVAHCS Outreach Team attended the Annual Rockin 4 Heroes Event which honors First Responders, Active Military, Veterans, and Gold Stars. Veterans and family members in attendance received information and services from Enrollment and Eligibility, Environmental Registry and Suicide Prevention – October 15
- SAVAHCS Persons With Disabilities Special Emphasis Program hosted a table at the Tucson campus to raise awareness for Disability Mentoring Day, which is a nationwide effort to promote career development for Veterans with disabilities through hands-on career exploration – October 19

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Tucson - SAVAHCS

Community Engagement & Partnerships



- CEO/Tribal Liaison Tonya Hamilton with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family met with the Director and SAVAHCS Staff to discuss SAVAHCS volunteer services, community engagement, chaplain services, as well as health care services and outreach for the Native American Veteran population – October 23
- SAVAHCS celebrated our 95th Anniversary. The theme was the Roaring 20's. The era when ground was broken on what would become the heart of SAVAHCS. Veterans, Staff, and Family members enjoyed performances by the Catalina Foothills High School Jazz Band and a talent show from our SAVAHCS Staff – October 27
- SAVAHCS Fisher House celebrated an open house sponsored by Charities Helping American Military Patriots. CHAMP and the Sons of the American Legion Riders of Arizona presented awards to the outgoing Fisher House Director Kelly Laurich in appreciation for her eight years of dedicated service to Veteran families – October 28
- SAVAHCS Outreach Team attended the 35th Annual NAM Jam Event which honors the Vietnam Veterans returning home. Veterans and family members in attendance received information and services from Enrollment and Eligibility, Women's Health Clinic, Military 2 VA, Tucson VET Center, and Suicide Prevention – October 28

VA



- **PACT Act:**
 - As of 11/2/23 we have screened 43,541 Veterans for Toxic Exposure Screenings, and 21,365 Veterans requested follow ups.
- **Southern Arizona VA Health Care System is proud to announce we have been recognized as an Arizona Hospital and Health Care Association 2023 Quality Award Winner**
 - We received the Community Engagement award, the Emergency Management Innovation award, and the Top Overall Excellence award in the Federal Hospital Classification! This recognition wouldn't have been possible without our tremendous employees and caregivers.

"I am so proud that the SAVAHCS has recently been honored by receiving these quality awards from the AzHHA. These achievements are a testament to our commitment to delivering exceptional care and serving our Veterans, families, and caregivers with purpose, passion and pride. Thank you to all who contributed their hard work and dedication in making this possible," said Jennifer Gutowski, CEO, SAVAHCS Medical Center Director.



Questions

Million Veteran Program (MVP) Approaching Historic Milestone



- The national program is less than **12,000 enrollees** away from the **1 Million goal**
- Our MVP site launched on Aug. 15 and is stationed in the Laboratory/Pharmacy Waiting Area inside Bldg. 164
- Operation hours: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday - Thursday
- For more information, go to mvp.va.gov, call 866-441-6075, or visit our station



Rough Riders Horse Parade Oct. 7



- 70+ horses were ridden through campus as part of this annual fundraising effort for Veterans



Navajo and Hopi Visits Oct. 9-10



- Representatives from both tribal nations visited our Medical Center in Prescott in early October to tour our facility and discuss how our organizations can better serve Northern Arizona Veterans.

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Hiring Fair Oct. 21



- Very successful
- Selected 140 applicants for a wide range of job positions



Yavapai College Bachelor of Science in
Nursing Degree Announcement
Prescott, Oct. 16



Nation's Finest 50th Anniversary
Bullhead City, Oct. 18



Prescott - NAVAHCS

In The Community

**Navajo County Stand Down
Holbrook, Oct. 13**



**Lake Havasu City Stand Down
Lake Havasu City, Oct. 21**



**First Annual John Mateczun
Memorial Veteran Resources Event
Oct. 27**




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PACT Act Enrollment Claims Event Mohave Valley, Nov. 9



Your Service. Our Mission.

VA WILL BE HOLDING A
Bringing VA Benefits Home event in your hometown.



During the event, you can:

- ✓ Speak with a VA representative
- ✓ Get answers to VA claim and benefits questions
- ✓ File your claim
- ✓ Get same-day decisions where you share complete information

EVENT DATE & TIME(S):
November 9th, 2023 (Thursday)
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Fort Mojave Indian Health Center
1607 Plantation Rd, Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

POINT OF CONTACT:
FMIT POC: Health Director (928) 346-4679;
Andrew.Taylor2@va.gov; Joshua.Wear@va.gov

PHONE NUMBER:
FMIT POC: Health Director (928) 346-4679; OTGR:
928-306-3615; VA R.H.: 928-458-8713

Office of Tribal Government Relations

5th Annual Tribal Veterans Symposium Twin Arrows Casino in Flagstaff, Nov. 17 & 18



ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT:
Culture, Health, & Service

November 17 & 18, 2023
Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
22151 Resort Blvd., Flagstaff, AZ 86004

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

The FREE event is for Tribal Veterans, Military Service Members and their families, providers, partners, and stakeholders.
Join us for GOOUR DANCE on November 18th at 1pm

For more information contact Holly Figueroa at Holly.Figueroa@azblue.com



- Free event for Tribal Veterans, Military Service Members and their families, providers, partners, and stakeholders
- For more information contact Holly Figueroa at Holly.Figueroa@azblue.com



Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, Nov. 11, Downtown Prescott, 11:00 a.m.
(Opening Ceremony @ 10:30 a.m.)



- **Theme this year:** *Honoring Our Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans... A New Generation of Warriors*
- **10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10** - Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Soldier's Memorial (located on the west side for the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza). ERAU Army and Air Force ROTC programs will stand guard at the memorial for 24 hours.
- All Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans are invited to gather at the corner of Willis St. and Cortez St. in the old Foothills Bank Parking lot to walk in the parade as a group.

VA



New Employees



We continue to fill vacant positions with new employees.



Questions?

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