



Veterans Affairs Committee Report Summary

This committee report is a record of what transpired and was accomplished during your time together at the USET meetings.

Impact Week Meeting

Joint Collaboration
Mid-Year Meeting

Annual Meeting

This Report is due the day before the last day of meetings, 5:00 pm in the USET office.

Tribal Nations represented 3 Committee Members in attendance 4

Topics Discussed Highlights from Meetings	Outcomes / Any Decisions Made* see directions below	Next Steps / Action Items / Responsible Party* see directions below
DAY 1		
Introductions/Welcome reception/ Honor Guard	N/A	Mike Cook/ Chairman/ Honor Guard
Veteran Town Hall	N/A	Veteran Committee headed to the Veterans Service Organization/ NYS Division of VA (Onondaga County) VBA table/ VA table
DAY 2 - AM		
OTGR National Update/ Office of Rural Engagement	Native American Veteran Homelessness Initiative. Launch an interagency initiative with VA and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the WHCNA Health Committee to increase access to care and services for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness in urban areas. The initiative will involve partnerships with Urban Indian Organizations (UIO) and focus on intake and referral services to ensure that Native American Veterans are aware of and have access to available resources.	VA developed a brochure on resources for Native American Veterans experiencing homelessness. This brochure was shared with UIOs, IHS, and external partners for dissemination, and will continue to be distributed. o IHS and VA developed an interactive map of the UIOs and VA health care systems with points of contact information Develop and implement training webinars for UIOs to raise awareness of VA homeless programs among Native American Veterans and to build or increase effective, responsive, and collaborative relationships between UIOs and VA. On January 10, 2023, VA provided a high-level overview of VA homeless programs to IHS and Executive UIO offices. On April 20, 2023, VA provided an overview of Stand Downs to IHS and UIOs Executive Offices. To support this effort, VA developed an educational tool for stand-down events to be shared with UIO and external partners.
Office of Tribal Government Relations	Claims Clinics/PACT Act Events in Indian Country	In August 2022, President Biden delivered on his promise to strengthen health care and benefits for America's Veterans and their survivors when he signed the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for

		<p>toxic exposed Veterans in more than 30 years. It will substantially increase the numbers of American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans receiving VA compensation benefits and increases Native Veteran eligibility for VA health care.</p> <p>3,453 American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans have been enrolled in VA health care between August 10, 2022, and May 31, 2023, which represents a 21.63% increase from the same time period last year. Office of Tribal Government Relations held 43 Claims Clinics/PACT Act events in FY23. Over 2,000 American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans attended the events.</p>
DAY 2 - PM		
VHA National Update	Copayment exemption for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans	<p>On April 5, 2023, VHA implemented the new law exempting American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans from copayments for VA health care – based on a requirement in the “Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 – Public Law 116-315, (01/05/2021): Section 3002 “Prohibition on collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a Veteran who is a member of an Indian tribe.”</p> <p>As of October 20,2023, there are 2,674 American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans who have been approved for the copayment exemption, with copayment cancellations totaling just over \$1.5M through October 2, 2023.</p>
VHA New York	Connections for VA to Tribal Nation Liaisons in NY	How to file a claim/New Enrollments/ Priority groups/PACT National/ for revenue management groups. /ID cards/ VA vision rehab program.

***Next Steps / Action Items / Responsible Party** (ie: Resolution for submission to Board [Draft resolutions submitted after the deadline are only eligible for consideration at the authorization of the USET SPF Executive Officers Committee (EOC) if: (1) the resolution addresses an emergency, an issue that was not known before the deadline, or for other good cause; and (2) the EOC, at its discretion, agrees to consider the resolution. Whenever possible, late resolutions will be directed to Committee(s) of Jurisdiction prior to USET SPF BOD consideration.]; consultation session scheduled; listening session in works; future/upcoming meetings to be aware of; comments / testimony required – SPF involvement; add to best practices, request special meeting; any motions carried, are there policy implications for USET SPF involvement, etc.)

Impact Week – Did you visit the HILL? Yes No

Annual Meeting – Did you Tour the Host Tribal Nation? Yes No

OTHER Business

Retiring of the Colors.

At A Glance Agenda Items
for Next Meeting

- Veteran to be honored.
- Possible elections to be held.
- Homeless programs
- Cemetery programs
- Purchase and referred care.
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Were Elections Held? YES NO

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Date: 10/24/2023

Prepared by: Bernice Jordan

Committee met under the direction of Chairperson: Michael Cook