

VA



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• Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

February 2026



Michael Welsh, MS, RD

Deputy Medical Center Director
VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



Maria Nguyen, MPH

Interim Medical Center Director
VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, FACHE, CHC

Medical Center Director
VA Northern Arizona Health Care

Phoenix VA Deputy Director Updates



Phoenix VA recognized for reducing physician burnout



The Phoenix VA Health Care System has earned Bronze level recognition from the American Medical Association's Joy in Medicine® Health System Recognition Program for our commitment to reducing burnout and helping physicians and patients thrive.

The American Medical Association recognized the Phoenix VA and six other VA health care facilities for their work to reduce physician burnout.

AMA's Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program annually highlights health systems across the nation that are standouts when it comes to building well-being and reducing burnout, which research shows remains higher for physicians compared to other American workers.

Veterans Town Hall – Virtual Event



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

VIRTUAL VETERANS Town Hall

January 29 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM

We look forward to sharing with you important information on services and activities for our Veterans.



<https://qrcodes.pro/tpVksW>



Phoenix VA held a Virtual Town Hall event, Jan. 29., attended by more than 80 Veterans.

Presenters included the Veteran Resource Center, Mental Health, Telehealth, Primary Care, Infections Disease, and updates from the VBA.

After the presentations, Veterans asked questions that were answered directly from the subject matter experts in the room.

National Salute to Veteran Patients – Next Week



During the National Salute, Phoenix VA is glad to have, Veterans groups, military personnel, and civic organizations participate in a variety of activities at our VA medical center and clinics. Below is a list of activities prepared for next week as the Phoenix VA staff joins with some of our community partners to salute our Veterans.

Monday Through Friday

10:30 am – Cake cutting at Main Campus, 32nd St. Clinic, & SE Clinic

Tuesday, Feb. 10

10 am – RT Music Therapy Veterans Ensemble at Main Campus

Thursday, Feb. 12

10:30 am – Piano music at 32nd St. Clinic

10:30 am – Apache Spirit band at Main Campus, canteen patio

10:30 am – Pizza at Main Campus, canteen patio



Phoenix VA attends the Unhoused Women Veterans Stand Up event on Jan. 22.



The Phoenix VA joined community partners and Veteran Service Organizations at Veterans First Limited's second annual Women Veterans Unhoused Stand Up to provide services, resources and information to women Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness at American Legion Post 1 in Phoenix, Jan. 22.



The Phoenix VA partnered with Veterans First Limited, state agencies, community providers, and nonprofit organizations to give Veterans access to multiple support in one location.



Fisher House Updates



Phoenix VA Healthcare System



VSO MIXER

Food and drinks will be provided!

Second Tuesday of the month
1-2 p.m.

Phoenix VA 32nd Street Outpatient Clinic and Teams ([Click Here](#))

Or call in:
[+1 205-235-3524](tel:+1205-235-3524)
Conference ID: 746 788 251#

- The event is open to current VSO's and those interested in partnering with Phoenix VA.
- An agenda will be distributed one week prior to each meeting. You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time throughout the month. We look forward to your continued partnership and participation.

To RSVP, please email:
prphoenix@va.gov



Feb. 10

When: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Thursday

Where: Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic

March 10

When: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Thursday

Where: VFW Post 9400, 804 E Purdue Ave, Phoenix, AZ

April 14

When: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Thursday

Where: Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic

More Info: Agenda will be distributed prior to each meeting. You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time prior to the next meeting.



Women Veterans Town Hall

JOIN THE PHOENIX VA
WOMEN VETERANS' TELE-TOWN HALL

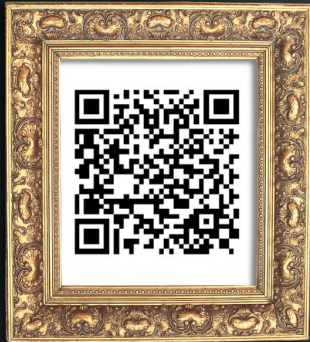
Thursday, March 12th
4:30 - 5:30 PM

TOPIC: HEALTHY AGING

With presentations from Psychology, Nutrition, Recreation Therapy, and Community Care

Three ways to join

1. Streaming online: <https://access.live/PHXVAWomenVets>
2. Accept the VA phone call to automatically join
3. Dial in by calling 855-962-1525



Women Veterans Tele-Town Hall

When: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12th

Where: Online or by phone call

More Info: Presentations from Psychology, Nutrition, Recreation Therapy, and Community Care

Join: Streaming on <https://access.live/PHXVAWomenVets> or by calling 855-962-1525



Phoenix - PVAHCS

Questions?

Get Connected!

On the Web



www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media



linktr.ee/prphoenix



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National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

Event: National Salute to Veteran Patients Week

Dates: February 8 to 14, 2026 (Valentine's Week)

Planned Activities:

Valentine's Day Cards: Shared by local schools with our Veterans.

Engaging Events: Hosted by Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) at Northwest and Sierra Vista Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Tokens of Gratitude: Coffee, spin-the-wheel prizes, sweet treats, and community tours.

Purpose:

To express heartfelt appreciation and respect for Veteran patients.

To acknowledge their selfless sacrifice in service to our Nation.

Special Thanks:

To caregivers, community partners, and all supporters of Veterans. Your dedication and compassion make a significant difference in their lives.

Call to Action:

Let's come together to honor and celebrate our nation's heroes!



Groundbreaking of New Yuma VA Outpatient Clinic

Event Date: January 23rd

Expansion of Access: New clinic expands high-quality care for Veterans in the Yuma region.

Commitment to Service: Presence of Veterans highlights commitment to providing care for those who have served.

Future Vision: "Transform into a premier outpatient clinic," said Interim VISN 22 Network Director Bryan Arnette.

Facility Details:

Size: 30,000-square-foot free-standing clinic

Location: Onvida Foothills Medical Plaza off I-8 in Yuma

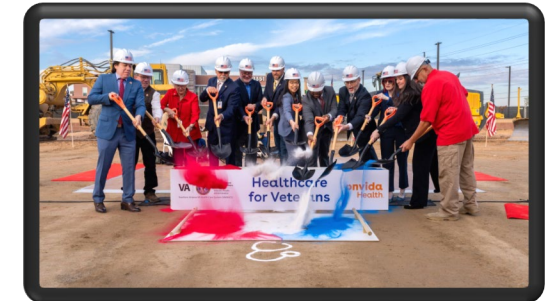
Completion: Expected Summer 2027

Services: Physical Therapy, Optometry, Audiology, Women's Health, and Primary Care

Expansion: Part of VA's nationwide growth with 25 new clinics opened last year

Collaborative Effort: Reflects a shared commitment among VA, Onvida Health, and community partners to build a brighter future for Veterans.

Stay Informed: Click for [Facebook](#) or [article](#).



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SAVAHCS Chapel Grand Opening

On Friday, January 30, 2026, the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) marked a significant milestone with the grand opening of the new SAVAHCS chapel.

The new chapel, located in Building 2, Room S100, near patient care areas, is a project that has been envisioned for years.

SAVAHCS Chaplain Troy Parson addressed the spiritual significance of the new chapel. "A healthcare chapel is more than just a room," Parson said. "What makes this space sacred are the prayers and tears that will be shed here. People seek a place of comfort; it's kind of like the building's heartbeat, a space to foster well-being and healing for the whole person."

In continuation of the celebrations, a ceremony for the consecration of the tabernacle chapel was held on Monday, February 2, officiated by Catholic Bishop Gerald Frederick Kicanas. This further solidified the chapel's role as a spiritual haven for the SAVAHCS community.

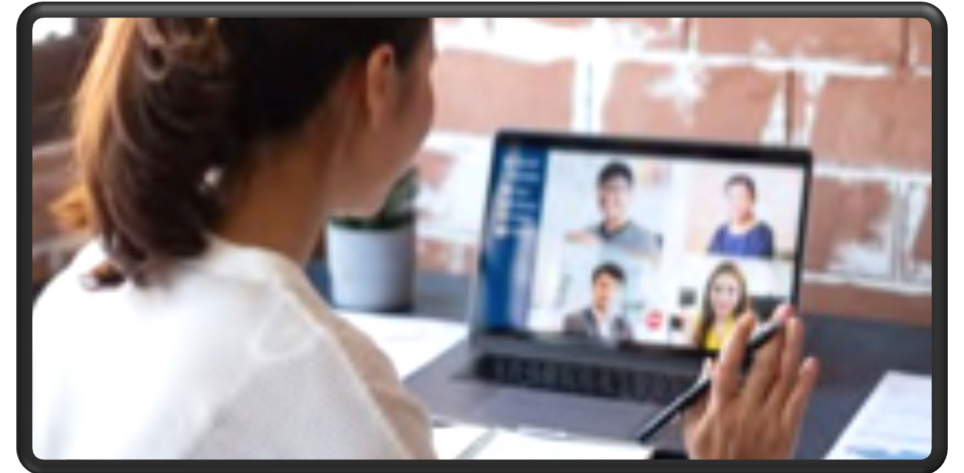


SAVAHCS Mental Health Open House

Join us for our Mental Health Open House on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The presentation will be in person in Building 4, Conference Room A and virtually through Microsoft Teams Webinar.

Seating is limited, please RSVP at 520-629-4810 to reserve your spot! If joining virtually, provide your email address when you RSVP.

We will send a follow up email with the link to the open house.



SCAM ALERT

We want to alert you to a new scam. Veterans have reported that they received texts claiming to be from the VA, asking them to "update their information."

These texts included a link to a very convincing website where people could unknowingly enter their sensitive personal information. **Please be aware that this is a scam!**

If you receive a suspicious text message or email, please report it to the VHA at (866) 842-4357. Any scams related to VA benefits (VBA) should be reported to (833) 388-7233.

For non-VA scams, contact the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382-4357 or online at <http://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>. These resources are available 24/7.



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Make a Difference as a Volunteer Driver or a Volunteer Visitors

We are seeking volunteer drivers around Sierra Vista and Yuma areas to help transport Veterans to their medical appointments in Tucson. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as Volunteer Visitors for homebound and isolated Veterans. These volunteers offer one-on-one social interaction, engaging in activities such as conversations, art projects, games, walks, and gardening. No hands-on care is required, and visits can also provide a break for caregivers.

For details on how to become a volunteer driver or a volunteer visitor, contact the SAVAHCS Center for Development and Civic Engagement Office at (520) 629-1822 or email TucsonCDCE@va.gov.



Expand and Renovate Clinics Bldg. 80 The General Contractor has built the base on the second floor near the elevator area to support the steel framework for the new addition. Station Level Projects will finish the elevator area by installing the floor and painting the walls. Workers will begin putting up the steel for the second floor, and this will continue until February 20. The East entrance of Building 80 will be closed until

March 2026. Please use the West entrance near the Emergency Department for patient access to the Cholla, Ocotillo, and Saguaro Clinics. We know this is inconvenient, but it's necessary for everyone's safety during the construction.

Emergency Department (ED) Renovations and Expansion: The General Contractor completed the floor slab which will eventually add another 8,000 square feet to the Existing ED. They are now working on installing the outer walls, interior partitions, and above ceiling utilities.



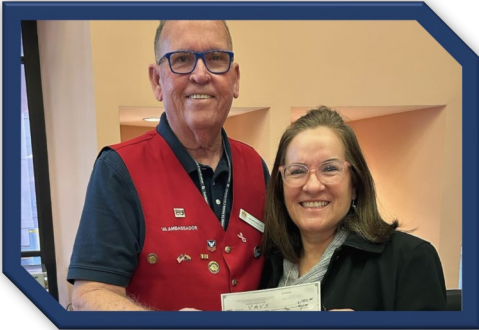


The SAVAHCS Homeless Veteran [Surge Event](#) was held from January 5 to 7. We came together with one mission—to house as many Veterans as possible experiencing homelessness. Over the first two days, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) partnered with the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program and the City of Tucson for targeted outreach to homeless Veterans.

We held a wonderful New Year appreciation event in the Building 80 lobby on January 20 for our Veterans, with the theme ["Helping You Achieve Your Health Goals."](#) Our staff provided Veterans, their family members, and caregivers with valuable information and resources.

Our sincere thanks goes to the [Fort Lowell Military Order of the Purple Heart and Mrs. Susan-Lea Skuhr](#) for their \$15,000 donation to the SAVAHCS Hematology Oncology Department. This gift, given in memory of Charles H. Skuhr Jr., will fund snacks for Veterans receiving oncology treatment, offering comfort and support when it is needed most.





Special thank you to the [Sunflower Community Veterans Club in Marana](#), AZ, for their generous \$1000 donation to support the VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) Committee! Members of the VAVS Committee come from the local community and Veteran Service Organizations. They collaborate with the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) to recruit and retain volunteers who supplement the workforce at the Tucson VA Medical Center.



Special thank you to the incredible members of [American Legion Auxiliary Post 66 in Green Valley](#), we extend our deepest gratitude for their generous and incredibly thoughtful donation to the Patriot Pantry at the Tucson VA Medical Center.



Our [Yuma Veteran Engagement and Resource Fair](#) at the Salvation Army Yuma Corps Community Center was a huge success! Our outreach team provided resources and information to over 100 Veterans on benefits, eligibility and enrollment, Women's Health, Suicide Prevention, Fisher House, Post-9/11 Military2VA (M2VA) Case Management Program, and more.



Questions

Follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- ❑ Website: va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care
- ❑ Facebook: facebook.com/VATucson
- ❑ Instagram instagram.com/vatucson
- ❑ X/Twitter: x.com/TucsonVA
- ❑ YouTube: [Subscribe now](#) and join the SAVAHCS community!



We're pleased to announce the detail of Mr. Bryan E. Arnette as Interim Network Director for VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network (VISN 22).

Mr. Arnette currently serves as Deputy Network Director, overseeing a \$9 billion annual budget and ensuring strategic support for eight healthcare systems across Arizona, New Mexico, and Southern California.

He brings extensive leadership experience from facility, VISN, and Central Office roles, including service as Interim Medical Center Director in Northern Arizona and Loma Linda, and as Interim Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary in VA Central Office.





Our Virtual Health Research Center (VHRC) attained the top score during a site audit of over 80 facilities across VHA.

Special Recognition

Virtual Health Resource Center

In recognition of outstanding performance and dedication, this certificate honors the Virtual Health Resource Center at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System for achieving one of the top overall site review scores among participating VHRCs.

Through consistent visit engagement, strong participant reach, documented outreach efforts, effective use of training and orientation resources, and commitment to customer feedback, this site has demonstrated excellence in supporting Veterans, VA staff, and other participants through virtual health services.

This recognition reflects not only measurable outcomes, but the continued effort, adaptability, and commitment of the staff who make this VHRC a meaningful and impactful resource for all who access its services.

Christina Armstrong

Christina Armstrong, Ph.D.

Connected Health Implementation Lead
Veterans Health Administration



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Digital Health Office

VA



The **Office of Inspector General's (OIG)** mission is to provide objective oversight to promote the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the United States Department of Health and Human Service's programs, as well as the health and welfare of the people they serve.

Date of Inspection: Jan. 13-15, 2026

NOTE: Official report has not yet been issued

Focus Areas

- Patient Safety
- Environment of Care
- Integrated Veteran Care
- HUD VASH, Homeless Outreach, and Veterans Justice Outreach
- Organizational Culture
- Methodology Changes from Previous CHIP Inspections

Highlights

- Very positive overall
- NAVAHCS was commended on the following:
 - Communication of test results processes and Behavioral Health program status, (HCHV, Homeless Outreach, HUD/VASH and VJP)
 - Primary Care/Community Care/ED
 - Care of facility grounds and hospital cleanliness

*Previous OIG visit was an unannounced inspection in March 2022.



Texas Roadhouse Donation



Texas Roadhouse donated \$8,960 in gift cars to our facility to be distributed to our Veterans in the CLC, DOM and any other Veterans in need throughout the year.

Fidget Blankets Donation



Sacred Heart Catholic School 4th graders quilted and donated fidget blankets to our CLC.

Quartzsite VFW, Parker VFW & Parker Strip VFW

Mohave County, Jan. 6-8



Combined Totals

- 77 Veterans attended
- 11 Enrollments/Registrations
- 17 Veteran VA Healthcare ID
- 10 Mobile Medical Appts.

Golden Valley AZ, Golden Valley VFW & Bullhead City VFW

Golden Valley/Bullhead, Jan. 13-15



Combined Totals

- 64 Veterans attended
- 8 Enrollments/Registrations
- 6 Veteran VA Healthcare ID
- 13 Mobile Medical Appts.



Blue Water Tribal Veteran Conference

Parker, Jan. 23-34



- 112 Veterans attended (largest turnout in the 3 years of hosting the event)
- NAVAHCS partnered with 40 other service organizations to provide a wide range of resources
- Our contracted Mobile Medical Unit was on-site and provided 9 primary care appointments
- More photos available [HERE](#)

Phase 1 Move-in Imminent

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Managers:** U.S. Vets and Gorman & Co.
- **Name:** Post at Fort Whipple: Liberty Housing Project
- **Units:** 103 total. 23 apartments via six renovated officer's quarters (8 of which are two-bedroom), and 80 via a new four-story complex being constructed. **84 total HUD VASH vouchers** available.

UPDATES

- Phase 1: Officer's Quarters
 - Buildings have passed final HUD inspection and are ready for move-in
 - NAVAHCS's VASH team has submitted 19 applicants that are pending approval from property manager and Arizona Dept. of Housing (ADOH)
- Phase 2: Apartment Complex
 - Expected to begin accepting applications in May, with possible move-in August 1 (subject to change based on construction progress)
 - 30+ Veterans already identified by VASH team for complex

Four-story
Complex



Renovated
Officer's
Quarters



Women Veterans Virtual Town Hall

Virtual, Feb. 19



- Join us on **Wednesday, February 19, from 5-6 p.m.** for our biannual **Women Veterans Virtual Town Hall**.
- Veterans can ask questions, discuss services available, and receive helpful resources. To participate, simply dial in on any phone at **(833) 305-1738** or click access.live/naz to join.

Monthly VBA Claims – Flagstaff VA Clinic

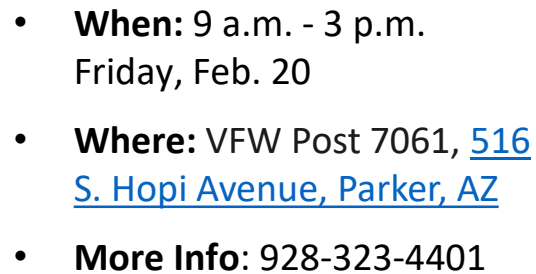
Flagstaff, March 3



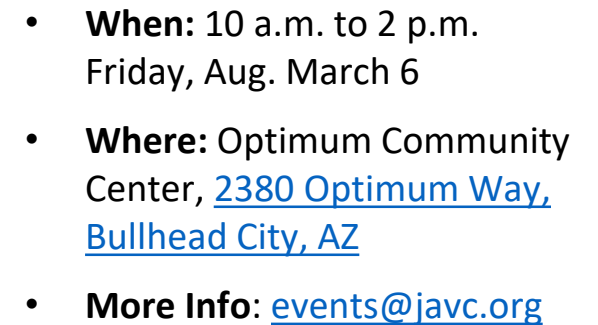
- **When:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month
- **Where:** Flagstaff VA Clinic, [1300 W. University Ave. Ste 200](https://www.va.gov/locations/flagstaff-va-clinic)
- **VBA Contact:** 1-800-827-1000



Parker, Feb. 20



Bullhead City, March 6





VA |  **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Health Administration
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System

Veteran Services Event

Presented By NAVAHCS and American Legion Post 81

Date: February 10th 10 am - 4 pm
Location: 181 Paseo Del Sol Ave
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

- Learn about Veteran programs and services.
- Speak with Dept. of VA staff at event.
- Enroll for Veteran benefits.
- Medical appointment/services for eligible veterans.

POC: Rural Health Coordinator Joshua Wear 928-458-8713

- **Lake Havasu City American Legion Post 81** – Tues, Feb. 10
 - [Details](#)
- **Lake Havasu City VFW Post 9401** – Wed, Feb. 11
 - [Details](#)
- **Quartzsite VFW Post 769** – Thurs, Feb. 19
 - [Details](#)
- **Golden Shores VFW Post 6306** – Thurs, March 5
 - [Details](#)

Questions?

Visit our website or follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- Website: <https://www.va.gov/northern-arizona-health-care/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VAPrescott>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/va_prescott/?ig

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