

**RESOLUTION OF THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

Requesting that the Department of Veterans Affairs of VA Medical Center (VAMC) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Fill the Vacant Position of VA Representative Outreach Worker with a Navajo Veteran for the Shiprock Area

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. Section 601, the Human Services Committee is established and continued as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council; and

2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. Section 604 (B) (1), (2), (3) and (5), the Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to promulgate regulations for the enforcement and implementation of the labor laws and laws relating to veteran services; to recommend legislation regarding employment, training and veteran services; and to serve as the oversight authority for the Division of Human Resources; and

3. The Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs has learned that the VA Representative Outreach Worker, Mr. Raymond Thompson, whose office is located in Shiprock, Navajo Nation, New Mexico retired as of January 3, 1997 thereby creating a vacancy; and

4. Within the Northern Navajo Agency, there are 1,528 veterans, 49 surviving spouses and 6 dependents who have been utilizing the services of the VA Representative Outreach Worker in such areas as claims processing for pension, compensation, disability, dependent allowance, education, employment, training, etc.; and

5. In June 1976, an Interagency Agreement was entered into, between the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Veterans Administration pursuant to Title 38, U.S. Code, Veterans Benefits, Public Law 85-857, to establish VA participation in providing veterans benefits and services in the Navajo Indian Area, herewith attached as Exhibit "A"; and

6. The agreement specifies there will be established a VA representative at each Public Health Service Indian Health Service Unit, but during the last several years positions have been phased out and/or reassigned to other areas not within provisions of the agreement and without consultation with the Navajo Nation so that today there are only two (2) Benefits Counselors, out of the five (5) initially established, one location in Shiprock and the other at Gallup VA Community Clinic; and

7. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and its veteran population that the vacant position in Shiprock, New Mexico be filled with a Navajo veteran and relocated to the existing office of Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council requests the Department of Veterans Affairs of VAMC of Albuquerque, New Mexico to fill the vacant position of VA Representative Outreach Worker with a Navajo veteran for the Shiprock area.

2. The Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council further requests the Department of Veteran Affairs of VAMC of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to relocate the position to the existing office of Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs of the Navajo Nation.

3. The Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council expresses its appreciation to Mr. Raymond Thompson for his 30 years of service of which 14 years were dedicated to serving Navajo veterans and families.

CERTIFICATION

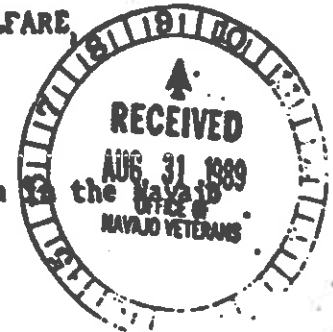
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present, and the same was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 24th day of March, 1997.



Chairperson
Human Services Committee of the
Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Jerry Bodie
Second: Tommy Chavez

**"INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,
AND
THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION**



TITLE: Veterans Administration Benefit Services Program in the Navajo Indian Area

ARTICLE I — NATURE AND PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

The agreement is entered into by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) and the Veterans Administration (VA), agencies of the U. S. Government, pursuant to Title 38, U. S. Code, Veterans Benefits, Public Law 85-857. The purpose of this agreement is to establish VA participation in providing veterans benefits in the Navajo Indian area.

ARTICLE II — PROJECT DEFINITION

- A. The first phase in the development of the VA health service delivery system in the Navajo area is to establish VA representation at each Public Health Service Indian Health Service Unit. In close coordination with the Navajo Area Indian Health Service Branch of Medical Social Work, the program will provide medical benefit services to Navajo area veterans in selected Navajo Area Indian Health Service Units located throughout the Navajo Nation. The selection is to be arranged and mutually agreed upon by the Veterans Administration and HEW Indian Health Service. The VA will provide access to and application for benefits, evaluation of needs, referrals and other arrangements; and will counsel veterans in the HEW Indian Health Service Unit facilities and in Navajo homes, gather and validate data regarding Navajo veterans' health and social needs, and facilitate the veterans' full utilization of existing HEW Indian Health Service, Veterans Administration and other health resources. Future phases of this program are dependent upon data acquired for planning and the implementation of expanded medical or other programs.
- B. Main purposes of Phase I include the following:
- * 1. To identify Navajo veterans who have health care needs, provide them with access to the health care system and assist with applications for benefits.
 2. To acquire, validate and analyze data to determine eligibility for VA services; individual and family health and psychosocial needs in the community; and additional services or resources required in order to maximize optimal health care for Navajo veterans..
 3. To provide counseling to resolve individual and family problems that interfere with the use of available health care.

4. To cooperate with the Indian Health Services in providing liaison activities between the VA and other resources such as alcoholism, treatment, financial assistance, educational and vocational rehabilitation, etc.
5. To disseminate information relative to health care benefits to the Navajo Indian area veterans.
6. To develop and provide orientation and training materials for VA and local health care staff pertaining to the Navajo culture, health care practices, Tribal services, community services, and local needs and issues.

ARTICLE III — PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

- A. The VA will provide administrative direction for the program. This will include recruitment and selection of employees, training, and obtaining materials required in providing veterans benefits to the Navajo area. General supervision will be provided by Medical Administration Service at the Prescott, Arizona, VA Center. Direct supervision will be the responsibility of the VA supervisor located at Gallup, New Mexico. The Claims clerk will rely on HEW for support in the areas of psychological and social counseling deemed necessary for beneficiaries.
- B. HEW will provide office space, facilities, and general office supplies. Office facilities will include necessary communications services. HEW will also provide employee health benefits to the VA employees on the same basis that such services are available to Federal employees on the station. HEW will not be expected to provide staff coverage for a VA employee on annual or sick leave or during other absences.

ARTICLE IV — RECORDS AND REPORTS

- A. Applicable standard Government and VA forms will be used by the clerks to initiate requests for VA benefits. Requests for benefits administered or provided by HEW will be initiated as prescribed by that agency.
- B. Individual contacts concerning veterans benefits will be recorded only to the extent necessary to provide workload information. All information recorded will be subject to applicable provisions of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act.

ARTICLE V — FUNDING

- A. The VA will provide funding for costs that can be directly identified with and charged to the work under the agreement, such as salaries, technical assistance, materials, and any specialized facilities and/or equipment determined to be required for VA use only.

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B. In the event reimbursement to HEW is required for any reason, a Standard Form 1080, Voucher for Transfers Between Appropriations and/or Funds, should be prepared quarterly and submitted to: Chief, Fiscal Service, Veterans Administration Center, Prescott, Arizona 86301. The Standard Form 1080 should be accompanied by itemized listings of support costs incurred.

ARTICLE VI -- EVALUATION

The program will be evaluated by the VA with the cooperation of the HEW, Indian Health Service, (Navajo Veterans Administration Program) and (Navajo Area Health Board) for the purpose of making decisions relative to the modification, continuation or expansion of the program, and to assure conformity with VA and HEW health care standards. Periodic reports will be prepared to assist in the evaluation of the program.

ARTICLE VII -- GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Amendment or Cancellation:

This agreement or any of its specific provisions may be revised or amended only by the signature approval of the parties signatory to the agreement or by their respective official successors. Cancellation may be made upon 90 days written notice of either party, or their successors, to the other.

B. Effective Date:

July 1, 1976, or upon approval and acceptance by representatives of VA and HEW shown below, whichever is later. It is anticipated that VA employees will be assigned within 120 days of the effective date.

C. Authority:

Authority for this agreement is contained in the Economy Act of 1932, as amended, 31 U. S. Code 686.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of this date.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION,
AND WELFARE

By: Clyde C. Cook
CLYDE C. COOK
Director, Supply Service
Department of Medicine & Surgery

By: Emery A. Johnson, M.D.
EMERY A. JOHNSON, M.D.
Director, Indian Health Service

Date: June 7, 1976

Date: June 18, 1976

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To	Leo Chustilla	From	L. Berman
D.		Co.	SR DL JA
Dept.	DNVA/Central	Phone #	(505) 368-1013
Fax #	(520) 871-7288	Fax #	(505) 368-1015

Department of Veterans Affairs

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 1996

From: Raymond Thompson, VA SWA *RT*
VA Outreach Program

Subj: Retirement

To: Staff and All Departments
Northern Navajo Medical Center

1. Please be advised that my retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Center, Albuquerque, NM will become effective January 3, 1997 with well over 30 years of Federal Civil Service.
2. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to have had the opportunity to work with many wonderful and dedicated professional medical staff for the past 14 years here in Shiprock Public Health Service Hospital.
3. Any veterans in need of V.A. medical assistance or information should contact the following agencies:

George Bluehorse, Service Officer
Dept. of Navajo Tribal Veterans Affairs Office
Shiprock, NM 87420
Phone: (505) 368-1013 or 1014

Farmington VA Clinic
1001 W. Broadway
Farmington, NM 87401
Phone: (505) 326-4383

Richard "Rick" Rivera, Service Officer
N.M. State Veterans Service Commission
101 W. Animas
Farmington, NM 87401
Phone: (505) 327-2861




**NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

HERB YAZZIE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL CONCERNED

FROM: 
Thomas W. Christie
Assistant Attorney General
Human Services & Government Unit

DATE: March 18, 1997

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority


Kimberly A. Rozak, Staff Attorney for the Human Services and Government Unit, is hereby delegated the authority to direct and be responsible for all routine administrative matters. James R. Bellis, Assistant Attorney General for the Natural Resources Unit, will have surname authority.


This authority will begin on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 8:00 a.m. and end Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 5:00 p.m.

Your cooperation with Ms. Rozak and Mr. Bellis is appreciated.

TWC/mcy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:


Kimberly A. Rozak
Staff Attorney
Human Services & Gov't Unit


James R. Bellis
Assistant Attorney General
Natural Resources Unit

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