

# VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

Western Region Veterans Benefit Summit  
Pala Casino Spa & Resort – Pala, CA

# April 9-10, 2013



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Tribal Government Relations  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

#### HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

Pala Casino, Phone: 877-725-2766, - \$99.00  
for deluxe room, no taxes. Rooms are  
reserved under: Veterans Benefits Regional  
Summit (code VETD13A)

Website: <http://palacasino.com/>

Limited shuttle service is available from the  
VA San Diego International Airport upon  
request. Please contact  
[Terry.Bentley@va.gov](mailto:Terry.Bentley@va.gov)

#### **Conference Objectives:**

The goal of these meetings is to invite tribal leadership from within the Western Region (OR,WA,ID,NV,CA,AK), as well as, other federal and state partners who work with American Indians and Alaska Native Veterans for services and benefits to collaborate, educate, and network to better serve this population.

Specifically, OTGR's goals are to:

- 1) Increase Veteran access to healthcare and benefits;
- 2) Economic Sustainability:
  - a. Increase utilization of Native American Direct Home Loan Program
  - b. Increase utilization of Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - c. Increase utilization of Vocational Rehabilitation Program
  - d. Increase access to Compensation and Pension
  - e. Increase access to federal employment opportunities
  - f. Facilitate greater involvement by tribes and Native American Veterans in small business development and federal contracting opportunities
- 3) Tribal Consultation

**Target Audience:** Tribal Veterans, Tribal Leaders, Tribal Health Directors and those who serve or care for Veterans in Indian Country.

**Registration Required:** No cost for registration. However, please email your name, title, organization or tribe to: [Terry.Bentley@va.gov](mailto:Terry.Bentley@va.gov)



# Office of Tribal Government Relations

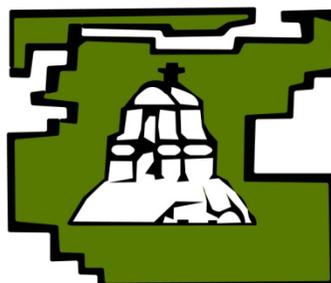
Conference Agenda  
VA OTGR Western Region (OR, WA, ID, NV, CA, AK)  
Pala Casino Spa & Resort, 11154 Highway 76, Pala, CA

TUESDAY, April 9, 2013

Healthcare	Break out session specific to healthcare
Housing/Homelessness	Break out session specific to housing and homeless
Tribal Veteran Representatives (TVR)	Break out session specific to TVR

7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Registration throughout the day - At Entrance to Ballroom1B Please take individual breaks throughout the day as needed.		
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Exhibits/Vendors - Ballroom 1B	<p>Opening Ceremonies:            Welcome Address/Moderator: Terry Bentley and Cindy Sullivan            Post Colors &amp; Flag Song: Pala Color Guard            Invocation: Angelo Lavato            Welcoming Remarks: Chairman Robert Smith, Pala Band of Mission Indians</p>	
8:45 am - 9:15 am		<p>Overview of OTGR &amp; Welcome / Goals for Meeting:            Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations            Margo Kerrigan, California Area Director of IHS            Terry Bentley, OTGR Western Region Specialist</p>	
9:15 am - 10:00 am		<p>Coordination of Benefits            Dave Sprenger, M.D.            California Area - IHS Office</p>	
10:00 am - 11:15 am		<p>History &amp; Benefit of the Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR) Program:            Susan Yeager, VA Alaska Healthcare System</p>	
11:15 pm - 11:30 pm		<p>Don Loudner, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of South Dakota</p>	
11:30 pm - 1:00 pm		<p>Lunch Break (on your own)            Afternoon Workshops (see specific agenda's on pages 3-5)</p>	
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm		<p>Healthcare Ballroom 2A</p>	<p>Tribal Veteran Representatives Ballroom 2B</p>
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm		Gourd Dance Session	

Co-sponsored by the following:



# WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2013

8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Registration - At Entrance to Ballroom1A	
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Continue Workshops (see specific agenda's on pages 3-5)	
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	Healthcare Ballroom 1A	Housing / Homelessness Ballroom 2B
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break (on your own)	
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Contract Health Services and Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund Margo Kerrigan, California Area Director of IHS	
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Facilitators of Breakout Sessions Provide an Update/Overview to General Assembly	
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Exhibits Open	Listening Session with Tribes and other Attendees Question & Answer with Panel Members: John Garcia, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations Margo Kerrigan, California Area IHS Director Jeff Gering, Director, VA San Diego Healthcare System Joann Chambers, Director, VBA San Diego Regional Ofc Patrick Zondervan, Service Center Manager, VBA San Diego Regional Ofc Chairman Robert Smith, Pala Band of Mission Indians
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm		Closing Prayer - Angelo Lavato Retiring of the Colors - Pala Color Guard / Honor Song
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm		VHA, VBA, NCA staff available for one-on-one questions and Veteran assistance
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm		Dinner Buffet in the Infinity room \$40.00 per person - contact <a href="mailto:Terry.Bentley@va.gov">Terry.Bentley@va.gov</a> to confirm Master of Ceremony - Richard Garcia, American Indian Veteran Association Entertainment Provided by Wayne Nelson & Guy Trujillo - Bird Singers Guest Speaker - Joey Strickland, Arizona State Department of Veteran Affairs

Co-sponsored by the following:



FOUR DIAMOND AWARD WINNER

VA DESERT PACIFIC  
HEALTHCARE NETWORK



**TUESDAY, April 9, 2013 - Healthcare Workshop  
Ballroom 1A**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Healthcare WORKSHOP</b>
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Terry Bentley, OTGR Western Region - Co-Facilitator Margo Kerrigan, California Area IHS Director - Co-Facilitator Round Table Introductions
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Recognizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Understanding PTSD, Trans-Generational PTSD, Effective Tools for Managing PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma, Unique Differences -OEF/OIF/OND: Dr. Sonya Norman, VA San Diego & Dr. Sprenger California IHS
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Insight into VA/IHS MOU & VA-THP Reimbursement Agreements: Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations Margo Kerrigan, California Area IHS Director
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	OEF/OIF/OND Reintegration Kym Grey, VA San Diego
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	Diabetes Management: Kathleen O'Hanlon, MSN, VA San Diego & Dan Calac, M.D. California Area IHS
4:15 pm - 5:00 pm	Overcoming Barriers in Serving AI/AN Veterans Sky Road Webb, Tribal Veterans Advocate-Tribal Council of California, Inc. Louis Bickford, National Director, 1 <sup>st</sup> Nations VSO Cedric Decory, Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager, Boise, VAMC

**TUESDAY, April 9, 2013 - Tribal Veterans Representatives  
Ballroom 2B**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Tribal Veteran Representatives (TVR) WORKSHOP</b>
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Louie Bickford, 1 <sup>st</sup> Nations Veterans Service Organization, Co-Facilitator Susan Yeager, VA Alaska Healthcare System - Co-Facilitator Round Table Introductions
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Social Security Administration (SSA) 101: Yolanda York, SSA Public Affairs Director, San Diego, CA
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	How to Request a Headstone, Marker, Medallion: Tom Mullen, Acting Director, Rosecrans/Miramar National Cemetery
2:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Vet Center Programs & Services: Travis Riley, B.A., Global War on Terrorism Outreach Specialist San Marcos Vet Center
2:45 pm - 3:15 pm	VA 101 Healthcare - Eligibility/Enrollment/Billing Overview: Clarence Sellers, Tap Coordinator, VA San Diego, CA
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Department of Labor: Veterans Employment & Training Service Maarla Sullivan, Assistant Director, DOL, San Diego, CA
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Veterans Benefits Q&A: Post 9/11 GI Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ)'s E-Benefits/Submitting Veterans Benefit Claim & Appeals Joanne Postle, VA Regional Office, San Diego, CA Kadell Felton, VA Regional Office, San Diego, CA John Quichocho, VA Regional Office, San Diego, CA

**WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2013 - Healthcare Workshop  
Ballroom 1A**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>HEALTHCARE WORKSHOP</b>
8:30 am - 8:45 pm	Terry Bentley, OTGR Western Region - Co-Facilitator Margo Kerrigan, California Area IHS Director - Co-Facilitator Round Table Introductions
8:45 am - 9:15 am	Suicide Prevention: Dawn Miller & Lindsay Gold - VA San Diego & Dr. Sprenger, California IHS
9:15 am - 9:45 am	Women Veterans: Jennifer Roberts, VA San Diego
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Telehealth Judith Jensen, Home Care Director, VA Loma Linda, CA
10:15 am - 10:45 am	Substance Use Disorders/Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (Domiciliary Programs): Shannon Robinson & Martha Carlson, VA San Diego
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Veterans Justice Outreach: Kristi Woodward, LICSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, VA Palo Alto, CA Joy Villavicencio & Angela Simoneau, Veterans Justice Outreach, VA San Diego
11:15 am - 11:45 pm	Blind Rehabilitation Program / Visual Impairment Services Team Anthony Candela & Robert Kozel, VA Long Beach, CA

**WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2013 - Housing / Homelessness Workshop  
Ballroom 2B**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Housing / Homelessness WORKSHOP</b>
8:30 am - 8:45 pm	HoMana Pawiki, VA OTGR (AZ,CO,NM,UT) Facilitator Round Table Introductions
8:45 am - 9:30 am	VHA Services for Housing/Homelessness/HUD-VASH/ Treatment/Preventions: Yolanda Sidoti, VA San Diego
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Native American Veteran Direct Loan Program: Jeff Wilson, VA Phoenix Regional Loan Center
10:00 am - 10:30 am	VHA Caregiver Support Karin Kupka, Caregiver Support Coordinator, VA San Diego
10:30 am - 11:00 am	VA for VETS - Veteran Employment Michael Lew, Regional Veterans Employment Coordinator, Region 1
11:00 pm - 11:30 pm	Employment/Job Training: Compensated Work Therapy Program/Vocational Rehabilitation Program Jeff Scanlon, MS, CRC, VA San Diego