



June 28, 2023

After Action Report for North Florida Stand Down (NFSD) 2023

The North Florida Homeless and At-Risk Veterans Stand Down 2023 was held May 19-20, 2023, at the Al Lawson Multi-Purpose Center at Florida A&M University. Veterans Affairs (VA) registered 265 Veterans at this event. In addition, an indeterminate number of the spouses of at-risk veterans, caregivers, Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives attended the event on Saturday afternoon, May 20, 2023. The event was successful due to the collaborative efforts of all parties involved. There were more than fifty-four (54) agencies/service providers and more than 250 persons who volunteered and participated/assisted in this venture. We are appreciative of all those sponsors, organizations and volunteers that generously helped defray the cost of hosting this Stand Down for our Veterans.

Opening Ceremony: The opening ceremony was moderated by Greg Tish, host of 93.3 talk radio. Remarks were made by Wende Dottor, the Executive Health System Director of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System of Veteran Affairs (VA), Leon County Commissioner Carolyn Cummings and City Commissioner Curtis Richardson.

Housing: Big Bend Homeless Coalition screened over 50 veterans and is currently serving more than fifty of those veterans.

Education: TCC veterans center provided access to training services and provided educational counseling services to Veterans. They had contact with five veterans one required follow-up.

Legal Services: LaVia Law and North Florida Legal Services provided counseling for veterans. Veterans who required court action legal service were told to follow up with LaVia Law or North Florida Legal Service.

Florida Department of Veteran Affairs Distributed information regarding resources available to veterans. They served 150 veterans.

Veteran Service Officers: The Leon County VSOs provided information on available benefits and/or services to 40 Veterans. Services included Compensation Claims/Non-Service Pension Application and Service Treatment Medical Record Requests.

Medical and Chiropractic Care:

VA Medical: The VA provided information and various promotional materials.

Florida Baptist Convention Dental Mobile Unit: Dr. Richard Bastien provided dental services to six veterans on Friday. Dr. Eve James provided dental services to five veterans. The services consisted of extractions and fillings. No follow-up care was required

Bond Community Health Center (BCHC): provided veterans medical services on the Bond Mobile Unit. No follow up was required.

Big Bend Cares: served approximately 70 veterans, providing educational material on HIV along with other STD's. Contraceptives and information on testing were also provided.

Big Ben Hospice: provided veterans with information about hospice and volunteer opportunities. They interacted with approximately 40 veterans.

PanCare: provided medical, dental and vision care to Veterans. They had contact with 35 veterans and served 20.

Neighborhood Medical Center: Provided medical services to over 30 veterans. These services included HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 testing.

Palmer College of Chiropractic: Provided Chiropractic care and exams to over 75 veterans.

Mental Health: Apalachee Center and Behavioral Health Outreach (Apalachee) and, Capital Regional Medical Center participated in planning. They interacted with 100 veterans. Apalachee stated that a number of veterans received information on their services, several required follow up care.

2-1-1 Big Bend: Served many veterans providing counseling, referrals, and follow ups.

Social Services:

American Red Cross provided services to 208 veterans. Part of which consisted of distributing 208 comfort kits and information about fire protection.

Brehon Family Services Provided informational pamphlets to over 30 veterans.

Big Bend Voting Rights Project interacted with over 50 veterans. They registered eight voters.

Florida Department of Health provided public health prevention information and promotional items to veterans.

Teresa Berger Foundation, Inc. served over 75 veterans. They provided personal care items, socks and more.

Tallahassee Senior Center Provided program information to over 50 veterans.

Transportation: Star Metro provided free bus rides to veterans attending Stand Down 2023.

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families: They provided eligibility prescreening, pamphlets, information, food bags and snacks. They served over 50 veterans.

Meals: A total of four meals were served on Friday and Saturday. There were several restaurants and catering companies that prepared the meals: Lindy's Chicken, Krispy Kreme, Big Babies BBQ, Blue Belle Ice-cream, DK's Homemade Delights and Community Coffee.

Employment Services:

CareerSource Capital Region staff members in conjunction provided services to (47) Veterans, including consultations and planning, thirteen veterans requested follow up appointments for job offerings. Disabled Veterans Outreach Employment Services, resume reviews, and partnering employers hiring for their vacancies and scheduled follow up appointments.

Miscellaneous Services:

344th Engineer Company Provided supplies to over 70 veterans.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Provided Food, personal care items and snacks.

Volunteers of America Provided information on various volunteer opportunities for veterans.

Veterinarian Care: At Home Veterinary Care LLC provided full exams, medical treatment, vaccines, heartworm prevention and flea/tick control to 28 animals.

Haircuts: Lively Vocational and Technical Schools student stylists cut and styled hair of numerous Veterans.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13 and the Daughters of the American Revolution managed the volunteer and vendor registration.

Women Veterans Unite enrolled 12 new veterans to their program.

Items Distributed: Numerous toiletries were donated from various organizations and distributed to participating Veterans. Additionally, veterans were provided food from Second Harvest of the Big Bend.

Clothing: Divvy up Socks as well as Bombas Socks donated numerous pairs of socks for the veterans.

Bicycles: His7Finisher provided bicycles, helmets and locks for the 12 bicycles given to veterans.

Free drawings and Giveaways: There were over 80 door prizes given out to veterans. Prizes were supplied by The Alzheimer's Project, Circle K, Wendy's, Chick-fil-A, and more.

Tallahassee National Cemetery Their staff participated and provided prescreening services.

SD 2023 Appreciation Dinner: An Appreciation Dinner will be held to honor the efforts of approximately 250 volunteers who helped to make SD 2023 a successful venture for the Homeless and At-Risk Veterans.

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