

June 9, 2022

After Action Report for North Florida Stand Down (NFSD) 2022

The North Florida Homeless and At-Risk Veterans Stand Down 2022 was held May 6-7, 2022, at the Al Lawson Multi-Purpose Center at Florida A&M University. We were able to provide many needed services and honor them and heighten the awareness of the challenges that many of these three hundred and three (303) Veterans continually encounter. The event was successful due to the collaborative efforts of all parties involved. There were more than sixty-five (65) agencies/service providers and more than 200 hundred persons who volunteered and participated/assisted in this venture. We are appreciative of all those sponsors, organizations and volunteers that generously gave to help defray the cost of hosting Stand Down for our Veterans.

Veterans Registration: Veterans Registration was staffed by the Veterans Affairs. They registered 303 Veterans during the two-day event.

Opening Ceremony: The opening ceremony was moved inside the Lawson Center due to inclement weather. Remarks were made by the Veteran Affairs (VA) Leadership and representatives of both County and City government. A Special recognition award was given to Sean Golder of PanCare.

Covid-19 concerns. Due to these concerns, we instituted CDC protocols. Temperatures were checked, CDC questions were asked and optional masks were made available. Hand sanitizers were provided for all vendors. Virus testing was provided by Bond Community Health Center and PanCare of Panama City.

Housing: Big Bend Homeless Coalition screened approximately 50 veterans and is currently serving four of those veterans.

Education: TCC Workforce Development and Education provided access to training services and provided educational counseling services to Veterans

Legal Services: LaVia Law and North Florida Legal Services provided counseling for veterans. No Veteran's court was scheduled or held at Stand Down. Veterans who required court action legal service were told to follow up with LaVia Law or North Florida Legal Service. They will provide services and their case will be staffed with Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson.

Drivers Licenses: Veterans took advantage of the DHSMV's Flow mobile and received an updated history of their driving records. Eleven Veterans were serviced by the FLOW Mobile on May 6. They were provided either a replacement driver's license or state identification card.

Veteran Service Officers: The Leon County VSOs provided information on available benefits and/or services to 45 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 twelve veterans on the on Friday. Dr. Eve James provided dental services to eleven veterans on Saturday. The services consisted of extractions and fillings. No follow-up care was required

Bond Community Health Center (BCHC): saw 11 veterans of which five received medical services on the Bond Mobile Unit. No follow up was required.

Big Bend Cares: served approximately 84 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 50 veterans.

PanCare: medical vans provided medical, dental and vision care. They serviced over 60 veterans.

Neighborhood Medical Center: Provided medical services to over 50 veterans. These services included HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 testing.

Palmer College of Chiropractic: Provided Chiropractic care and exams to over 92 veterans.

Mental Health: Apalachee Center and Behavioral Health Outreach (Apalachee) and, Capital Regional Medical Center participated in planning. Apalachee stated that a number of veterans received information on their services, several required follow up care. CRMC provided services to 45 veterans.

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

Social Services:

Ability First provided information to 11 veterans and services to three.

American Red Cross provided services to 250 veterans. Part of which consisted of distributing 250 comfort kits and information about fire protection.

Big Bend Voting Rights Project interacted with over 150 veterans. They registered 24 voters, four people required follow up services.

Florida Department of Health provided public health prevention information and promotional items to 200 veterans.

Power of Life Foundation, Inc. served over 75 veterans. They provided personal care items, socks and more.

Transportation: Star Metro provided free bus rides to veterans interested in attending Stand Down 2022.

Supportive Services for Veterans and Families: They provided eligibility prescreening, pamphlets, information, food bags and snacks. They served over 80 veterans and performed 10 prescreening.

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, Ms. Betty's Homemade Cakes and Starbucks Coffee. The Elks Lodge #937 provide meals.

Stand Down 2013-18 Documentary Update: Los Angeles Film Producer Julian Wilson returned to Tallahassee and recorded many video interviews to update the SD 2013-18 Documentary to the present SD 2022. The major Documentary addition will be moving the Stand Down from the North Florida Fairgrounds to the climate controlled FAMU Al Lawson Jr. Multipurpose Center in 2021.

Employment Services:

CareerSource Capital Region staff members in conjunction provided services to (30) 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.

Veterinarian Care: At Home Veterinary Care LLC provided full exams, medical treatment, vaccines, heartworm prevention and flea/tick control. They provided services for 20 veterans and 27 animals. Supplies were donated by the aforementioned and Merck Pharmaceuticals.

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

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

Big Bend Society for Human Resource Management compiled venter information spread sheet.

Women Veterans Unite enrolled 12 new veterans to their program.

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

Bicycles: Bicycle vouchers were given to 20 veterans for redemption at the Bicycle House.

Free drawings and Giveaways: There were over 80 door prizes given out to veterans. Prizes were supplied by Wing Stop, Bombas Socks, Hobbit American Grill, Lindy's and more.

Tallahassee National Cemetery Their staff participated and provided prescreening services.

SD 2022 Appreciation Dinner: An Appreciation Dinner will be held to honor the efforts of approximately 200 volunteers who helped to make SD 2022 a successful venture for

the Homeless and At-Risk Veterans.

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