

Arizona Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Councils

There are three Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Councils in Arizona:

- **Prescott – Northern AZ** (NAVAHCS)
- **Phoenix – Central AZ** (PVAHCS)
- **Tucson – Southern AZ** (SAVAHCS)

The mission of the VMHAC is to establish a true partnership between the Veterans and their families, VA mental health professionals, community partners and Veteran Service Organizations in order to improve the quality of VA mental health services, to improve Veterans' understanding of those services, and to promote the best use of those services.

The VMHACs invite **ALL interested** community members, Veterans and their families to join their monthly meetings or to call for more information.

VHA reference information regarding VMHAC and its function:

<https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/searchform.cfm>

Search for publication # 1160.01 or 1762 to find a PDF of: *VHA Hbk 1160.01, Uniform Mental Health Services in VA Medical Centers and Clinics*, and look in the Community Mental Health section.

The VMHAC acts as:

- Voice of the Veteran
- Agents of change
- Advocate for Veterans
- Voice of the community
- Educators to expand awareness of VA mental health services
- Collaborative partners
- Promoter for VA health care

A Veterans Mental Health Council is a group of Veteran mental health consumers, family members, and other relevant stakeholders who provide input into mental health services. The Council is an independent voice, in collaboration with VA.

- **Veterans and family members** of Veterans who use or have used inpatient and/or outpatient mental health services (including substance use treatment & homeless program services).
- Representatives from **community mental health agencies/organizations**.
- Representatives from the **Veteran Service Organizations**.
- A **VA staff member acts as the liaison** to the VMHAC, assisting the Council as needed and playing a key role in the communication pathway between the Council and VA Mental Health leadership.

Northern Arizona Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Council

Rocky Coronado – Council Co-Chair, Be Connected Navigator-Northern Arizona, Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI); 480-438-7193, RCoronado@cbridges.com

Linda McMahon – Council Co-Chair

Valerie Crossman, LCSW - Council Secretary, Director of Behavioral Health at U.S.VETS – Prescott

Nancy DeVine, LCSW – Council VA Liaison, Local Recovery Coordinator NAVAHCS, 928-445-4860 ext 5281, Nancy.devine@va.gov

NAVAHCS Council Meetings

- Council meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there! We currently hold our Council meeting via Microsoft Teams.
- Join on your computer or mobile app: [Join the meeting](#)
- Or call in (audio only): 1-323-457-8335,,477227542# United States, Los Angeles
- Phone Conference ID: 477 227 542#

Phoenix/Central Arizona Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Council

Geoff Davis - Council Chair, 602-469-7154

Travis Burns - Council Co-Chair, Phoenix VA Hospital Veterans Family Advisory Council (VFAC), Communications Director for Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV)

Spencer Beck, PhD. - Council VA Liaison, Local Recovery Coordinator, Phoenix VA

Phoenix Council Meetings

- Council meetings are the 4th Wednesday of every month from 1:00-2:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there! We currently hold our Council meeting via Zoom.
- Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85720874187?pwd=YXR5VTVsQkZQYnlmL0lsaDIER1dmQT09>
- Meeting ID: 857 2087 4187 Passcode: 407920

Southern Arizona Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Council

Ramon Encinas - Council Chair, Founder of My Veteran Passion (MVP)

Dana Allmond, LTC, Army Retired - Council Co-Chair

Katie Civiletto Stenger, MHA - Council Secretary, Summit BHC-Tactical Recovery Program

Angela LoPresti, LCSW - Council VA Liaison, SAVAHCS Local Recovery Coordinator

SAVAHCS Council Meetings

- Council meetings are the 1st Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there! We currently hold our Council meeting via Microsoft Teams:
- Join on your computer or mobile app: [Join the meeting](#)
- Or call in (audio only): 1-872-701-0185, 459584795# United States, Chicago Phone Conference ID: 459 584 795#

Follow us on Facebook: [@VeteransMentalHealthAdvisoryCouncil](#)

Email us at: TucsonVeteranMentalHealthAdvisoryCouncil@va.gov