

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0041-20

DATE: February 26, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Plan of Operation.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2388
Website Posting Time/Date: 2/26/2020 2:40AM
Posting End Date: 03/02/2020
Eligible for Action: 03/03/2020

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL — Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0041-20

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO
NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Authority

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to exercise oversight authority on laws and policies affecting veteran services 2 N.N.C. § 400 (C) (3); 401 (C)(6).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is also empowered to approve the plan of operation for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration pursuant to 2 N.N.C § 1034.

Section Two. Findings

- A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) is empowered to recommend policies and legislations regarding Veterans to the Navajo Nation Council through the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council consistent with applicable governmental laws and policies. See **Exhibit "A"**, Section III (E).

1 B. The NNVA recommends that its current plan of operation, adopted by
2 HEHSCAU-12-16, be amended as set forth in **Exhibit A**.

3 C. The proposed plan of operation set forth in Exhibit A was reviewed by NNDOJ
4 and deemed legally sufficient. See **Exhibit "B"**.

5
6 **Section Three. Approval**

7 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation
8 Council hereby approves the amendments to the Plan of Operations for the
9 Navajo Nation Veterans Administration as set forth in **Exhibit A**.

PLAN OF OPERATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

I. ESTABLISHMENT

The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) is established within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government and as a Navajo Nation Administration within the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation.

II. OBJECTIVES

The NNVA shall be responsible for carrying out the following objectives on behalf of Navajo Veterans:

A. Advocate, prioritize, evaluate and provide administrative oversight and coordination for needed services and programs for Navajo Veterans in areas such as housing, education, healthcare, ~~and~~ other specialized training; ~~such as~~ provide support for legal, medical and small business development assistance and other related Veterans' benefits or programs.

B. To seek accreditation for veterans' benefits and claims which are available pursuant to Title 38 U.S. Code and other benefits available from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and the Navajo Nation.

C. ~~Identify, prioritize and advocate for program services to assist Veterans.~~

D. To advocate for ~~the preferential treatment of~~ veterans preference in business and employment.

E. ~~Evaluating and advocating for the needs of Veterans.~~

III. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) shall be to:

A. Seek Federal recognition under 38 C.F.R section 14.628 to prepare, present and ~~prosecute~~ follow through with claims for Veterans Administration (VA) benefits.

B. Effectively and efficiently provide outreach, services and benefits to Navajo Veterans; and to identify the ~~exclusive and distinctive~~ unique needs of Navajo Veterans, their widow(er) and Gold Star Mothers.

C. Seek ~~additional~~ funding, ~~and make recommendations, and for the implementation,~~ expand and improvement of existing NNVA programs of the ~~NNVA~~, and Navajo Nation

divisions and offices of the Navajo Nation to ensure Navajo Veterans receive the benefits and services they are entitled to.

D. The extent permitted by federal, state and/or Navajo Nation law, the NNVA shall monitor and assess all Veterans' benefit programs made available to the Navajo Nation and its Veterans, which affect the unique ~~exclusive and distinctive~~ needs and interests of Navajo Veterans.

E. Recommend ~~overall~~ policies and legislation regarding Navajo Veterans to the Navajo Nation Council, ~~through the Navajo Nation Council Committees~~ to its respective committees and Navajo Chapter communities that ~~which consider and~~ are consistent with applicable Navajo Nation governmental laws and policies.

F. ~~Seek~~ Identify and improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare benefits, ~~health and~~ services for Navajo Veterans on the Navajo Nation.

G. Monitor, advocate and promote employment and educational benefits and training for Navajo Veterans, business preference, employment preference, and other services.

H. ~~Seek the Establishment and funding of the~~ Veterans' Housing Programs or services for Navajo Veterans ~~on within the Navajo Reservation Nation~~. This may include seeking partnership(s) with local, tribal, state or federal housing entities to provide the best services available for housing.

I. Determine, implement and provide program services to address the critical ~~for the~~ needs and benefits of for Navajo Veterans pursuant to Navajo Nation budget appropriations, and ~~pursuant to~~ duly accepted and approved program funds received by the Navajo Nation on behalf of Navajo veterans.

J. Partner with the Office of the Controller-Credit Services to ~~in~~ implementing and maintaining a Navajo Veterans Loans Program in accordance with all applicable Navajo Nation Laws, and operating procedures and guidelines for the Navajo Veterans Loan Program, as approved by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

K. ~~Recommend~~ Seek Navajo Nation, Federal, State and business-financial sources of the ~~appropriation of available funds for use by~~ the Navajo Veterans Loan Program.

L. Advocate, improve, manage and administer ~~Manage by administering, advocating and improving the~~ Carl T. Hayden-Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Fee Reimbursement program for Traditional Navajo and Native American Healing Ceremonies.

M. To the extent permitted by ~~federal, state or~~ Navajo Nation, federal or state law, the NNVA shall assist Navajo Nation Chapters and Veterans to in implementing the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act of 1998.

N. ~~Consult with the Navajo Veterans Advisory Council on policy matters.~~

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. The NNVA shall be responsible for the administration, operations and ~~logistics~~ management of the NNVA ~~under~~ within the Office of President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation.

B. The NNVA shall ~~have~~ establish a central administrative office located near Window Rock, Arizona and ~~have~~ shall establish sub-office across the Navajo Reservation Nation ~~which may include satellite areas of the Navajo Nation.~~

C. The NNVA organizational chart ~~for the NNVA~~ is attached as "Exhibit A" ~~herein~~.

V. PERSONNEL

A. ~~The NNVA shall be supervised by a Executive Director who shall be selected and contracted by the President of the Navajo Nation. The President of the Navajo Nation, after consultation with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, shall retain by contract for a term of six (6) years an Executive Director who shall head the Veterans Administration.~~

B. The NNVA's staff shall be selected, employed, supervised and terminated by the Executive Director, pursuant to and in accordance with the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual and ~~all other~~ related Navajo Nation laws, regulations and benefits applicable available to ~~executive Navajo Nation employees of the Navajo Nation~~ executive Navajo Nation under the Office of the President and Vice President.

VI AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall be to:

1. Administer the operations and management of the NNVA, including the supervision of NNVA personnel and contractors. ~~Supervise personnel and administer the operations of the NNVA.~~

2. In the absence of the Executive Director the ~~next senior personnel or next delegated personnel on the organizational structure~~ Deputy Director or delegated personnel shall assume ~~all~~ delegated duties and responsibility of the Executive Director to ensure continuity of NNVA operations and management, accountability, responsibility and communication.

3. Report on a quarterly basis or from time to time to and as requested, to the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Council and legislative oversight committee on the status of the NNVA projects and work undertaken to provide support and assistance to Navajo veterans.

4. Create a Veterans ~~registry census~~ program ~~that to~~ ensure an accurate and periodic Veterans population count, to include demographics on housing, employment, healthcare, education, and other relevant information to support the NNVA's work to support and assist Navajo veterans.

5. ~~Pursue and recommending necessary budget~~ proposals and related budgets for professional and/or technical assistance positions and services, as needed, to carry out the ~~duties and responsibilities set forth herein~~ objectives and purpose of the NNVA.

6. Implement, administer and enforce the following, but not limited to:

a. ~~Recommending and providing~~ coordination for the implementation of authorized federal, state and tribal program for the benefit of Veterans pursuant to ~~all~~ applicable Navajo Nation, State, or Federal laws, rules and regulations.

b. ~~Serving as a liaison to seek and~~ Identify additional state, federal and tribal financial resources to supplement and provide the maximum return for Navajo Nation general funds and private matching funds.

c. ~~Recommend,ing the negotiate,tion and~~ advocate for Navajo Nation, federal and state funding appropriations of to be used ~~available funds to use~~ for Veterans services and programs administered by the NNVA.

d. Manage ~~monetary~~ Navajo veterans' financial assistance programs, including the Veterans Trust Fund, and/or services to ~~all~~ eligible Veterans, Widow(er)s and Gold Star Mothers pursuant to ~~duty~~ approved programs, policies, and procedures with legislative oversight by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

e. ~~Developeing, recommending, and implementing~~ policies and procedures for the administration of all programs for veterans under the NNVA.

f. ~~To provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.~~

7. Direct, manage and operate the Navajo Nation Veterans administration pursuant to the NNVA Plan of Operations.

VII. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall exercise legislative oversight for the operation of the NNVA shall be provided by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

B. ~~In consultation with the~~ The Navajo Nation Council's Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and the Budget and Finance Committee ~~of the Navajo Nation Council~~ shall provide jointly exercise legislative oversight ~~to~~ of the NNVA-Loan Program.

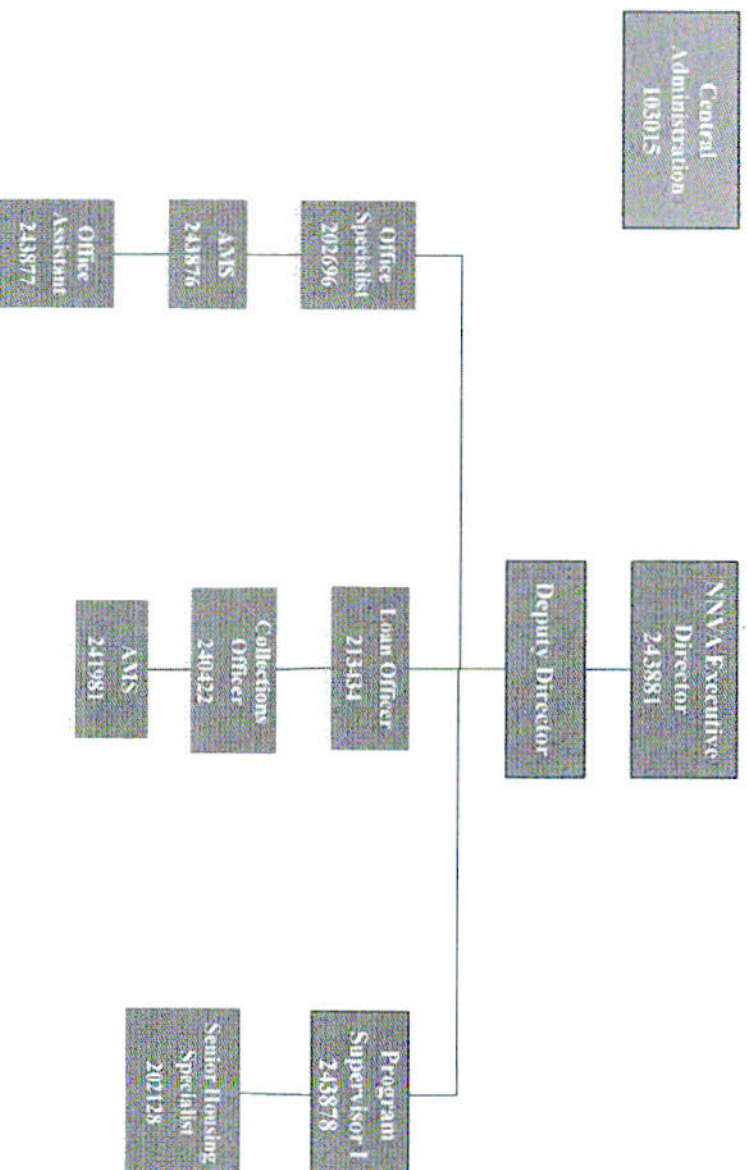
C. The Navajo Nation Council's Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Resource and Development Committee shall jointly exercise legislative oversight of the NNVA Veterans Housing Program.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Plan of Operations may be amended ~~periodically~~ as needs arise with approval by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

NNVA Organizational Chart

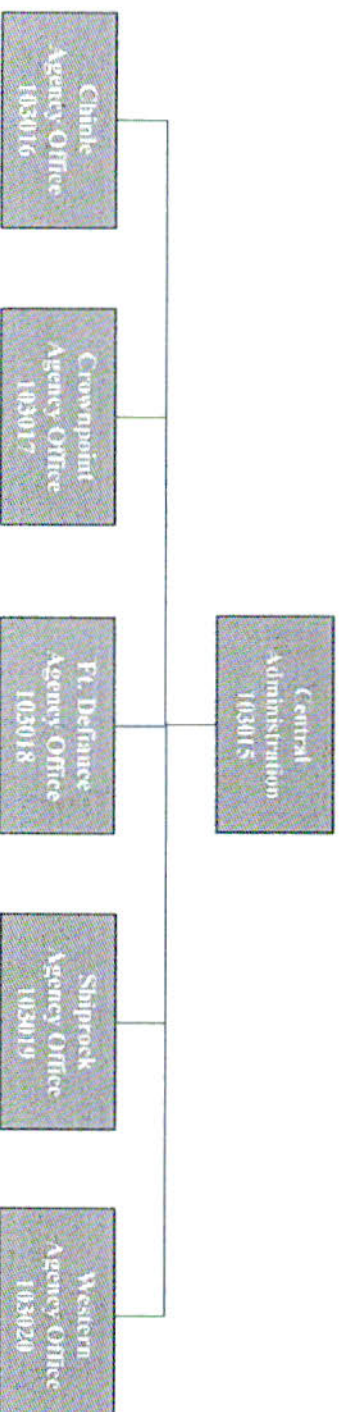
Central Administration



NNVA Organizational ChartAgency Offices



NNVA Organizational Chart





NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR SERVICES



DOJ
1/31/2020 @ 3:48pm
DATE / TIME
RFS #: 20-0224
UNIT: H59u

☐ RESUBMITTAL

*** FOR NNDJ USE ONLY - DO NOT CHANGE OR REVISE FORM. VARIATIONS OF THIS FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ***

CLIENT TO COMPLETE

DATE OF REQUEST: 1/31/2020 ENTITY/DIVISION: OPVP
CONTACT NAME: Jim Zwierlein DEPARTMENT: NNVA
PHONE NUMBER: 928-871-6413 E-MAIL: jameszwierlein@navajo-nsn.gov

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL NEED AND SERVICES REQUESTED (Attach Documents):

REVIEW: Plan of Operation

DEADLINE: Click here to enter a date. REASON:

DOJ SECRETARY TO COMPLETE

DATE/TIME IN UNIT: 1/31/2020 @ 3:57pm REVIEWING ATTORNEY/ADVOCATE: Chris Schneider

DATE TIME OUT OF UNIT: PREPARED BY (initial): mi

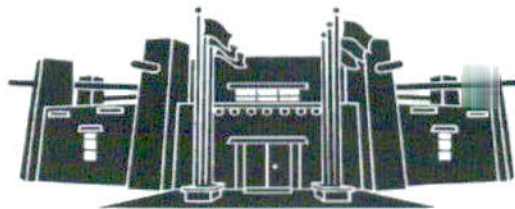
DOJ ATTORNEY / ADVOCATE COMMENTS

One minor Grammar Tical Change on page #2

REVIEWED BY: (PRINT) Chris Schneider DATE / TIME: 31 JAN. 20 / 4:55

DOJ Secretary Called: Willemena Tsosie for Document Pick Up on 1/31/2020 at 4:54 By: mi

PICKED UP BY: (PRINT) DATE / TIME:



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Pernell Halona
Tohatchi, Twin Lakes, Coyote Canyon and Naschitti

FROM: 
Rodriquez Morris, Legislative Staff Assistant
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: February 18, 2020

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE; AMENDING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE
NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government it may be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Council confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) reviews based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§ 301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(5).

Please review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If this proposed resolution is acceptable to you, please sign it where it indicates "Prime Sponsor", and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services for the assignment of a tracking number and referral to the Speaker.

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, or if you have further questions, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. You may contact me at (928) 871-7166. Thank you.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0041-20 _____ SPONSOR: Pernell Halona

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee;
Amending the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration

Date posted: February 26, 2020 at 2:40pm

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7590

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0041-20

SPONSOR: Honorable Pernell Halona

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Amending the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration

Posted: February 26, 2020 at 2:40 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: March 02, 2020

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>None</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	1) Jefferson Begay, Commander Naatsis'aan Veteran's Organization



Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

8:13am 3/03/2020

Date/Time

Legislative Summary Sheet Tracking No. 0041-20

JL Begay <rezblldr@gmail.com>

Fri 2/28/2020 5:17 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Billy Goodman <billy.goodman.jr@gmail.com>; Delphina C Francis <n8tive_fina@yahoo.com>; lesliede1952@gmail.com <lesliede1952@gmail.com>; Gregg Whitehat, Sr. <dmwhitehat@gmail.com>; Darlene Pino <zedi1836@gmail.com>; Larry Welch <larry.welch.612@gmail.com>; Nelda Achee <neldaAchee@gmail.com>; Herman Daniels, Jr. <hdaniels@navajo-nsn.gov>; ottotso@navajo-nsn.gov <ottotso@navajo-nsn.gov>; Myron Lizer <myronlizer@gmail.com>;

 2 attachments

COMMENT ON RESOLUTION Tracking No. 0041-20C.docx; 0041-20.pdf;

I hereby submit my comments on the proposed amendments for the Navajo Nation Veteran's Administration. The legislation is good with a few exceptions regarding existing Navajo Nation Veteran programs which are a duplication of services and create bureaucratic encumbrment for the Navajo Veteran's and subject their benefits to subjective determinations contrary to the legislative intent of the appropriated funds. This is the Chapter Veteran's Supplemental Funds.

We at the Naatsis'aan Veteran's Organization agree that these funds be administered by the NNVA with the same oversight as proposed by this amendment.

Attached is the language relative to this recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of our Navajo Veteran's in Navajo Mountain, Utah and the Navajo Nation.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Begay, Commander

Naatsis'aan Veteran's Organization

E: Rezblldr@gmail.com

M: 602-499-8878

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

COMMENT ON RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATED
TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, AMENDING THE PLAN OF
OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Tracking No. 0041-20

Date: February 28, 2020

EXHIBIT "A"

III. **PURPOSES, Paragraph C.** – Seek additional funding, make recommendations, and implement, expand and improve existing NNVA programs and Navajo Nation Divisions and offices to ensure Navajo Veterans receive the benefits and services they are entitled to under the supervision and oversight of one administrative office, the NNVA thereby eliminating duplication of services and reduction of administrative processing.

, **Paragraph D.** – The extent permitted by federal, state and/or Navajo Nation law, the NNVA shall monitor and assess all Veterans' benefit programs made available to the Navajo Nation and its Veterans, which affect the unique needs and interests of the Navajo Veterans, regardless of funding source.

, **Paragraph I., - Determine,** implement and provide program services to address the critical needs and benefits for Navajo Veterans pursuant to Navajo Nation budget appropriations, and duly accepted and approved grant funds received by the Navajo Nation on behalf of Navajo Veterans without unnecessary bureaucratic and subjective administrative oversight

, **Paragraph L., - Advocate,** improve, manage, monitor, and administer the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Fee /reimbursement for Traditional Navajo and Native American Healing Ceremonies,

, **Paragraph M., - To the extent permitted by Navajo Nation, federal or state law, the NNVA shall assist Navajo Nation Chapters and Veterans to transfer their Chapter Veterans Supplemental funds to the Navajo Nation Veteran's Trust fund for efficient and expedient processing of Navajo Veteran benefits.**

VI. **AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

, **Paragraph A., 6., - Implement,** administer and enforce the following, but not limited to:

Subparagraph a., - Recommend and provide coordination for the implementation of authorized federal, state and tribal program for the benefit of Veterans pursuant to all applicable Navajo Nation, State, or Federal laws, rules and regulations under the direct supervision and oversight of the NNVA and the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

Subparagraph d., - Manage Navajo veterans' financial assistance programs, including the Veteran's Trust Fund, the Chapter Veterans Supplemental Fund, and/or services to all eligible Veterans, Widow(er)s and Gold Star Mothers pursuant to approved programs, policies, and procedures with legislative oversight by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.