

Secretary
Colonel (Ret)
Nathaniel
Todd

Arkansas Department of Veteran Affairs



Arkansas State Veterans Home-NWA

- Current Fayetteville facility safety concerns.
- Current UAMS lease ends Jan 2026
- RFP posted – Benton County submitted proposal; 60-acre Rogers land plot donation from the Walton Family Foundation.
- \$45M SB104 appropriation for replacement home.
- \$15M State matching funding letter required NLT 1 August 2022 to compete for Federal fiscal year 2023 \$30M Federal matching funding grant.
- Compete for FY23 Federal funds
- Begin construction of facility located in Rogers FY 2024
- Completion expected NLT Fall of 2026

Working Group Membership

- Commissioner Profit – (**Chairman**)
- Commissioner Paul Mlakar – (**Vice Chair**)
- Commissioner Tom Thomas
- Commissioner Kyle Moore
- Commissioner Jamie Clemmer
- Sen Breanne Davis
- Sen Greg Leding
- Rep Mark Berry
- Rep Charlene Fite
- Rep Nicole Clowney
- Maj Gen (Ret) Robert Rego (**City of FS**)
- Ms. Anita Deason – (**Sen Boozman**)
- Mr. Devyn Noblett- (**Sen Cotton**)
- Mr. Beau Walker – (**Rep Wommack**)
- Mr. Austin Booth – (**ADVA CoS**)
- Ms. Rachel Bunch – (**AHCA**)
- Ms. Shirley Thurston – (**Federal VA**)
- ASVH-F Staff

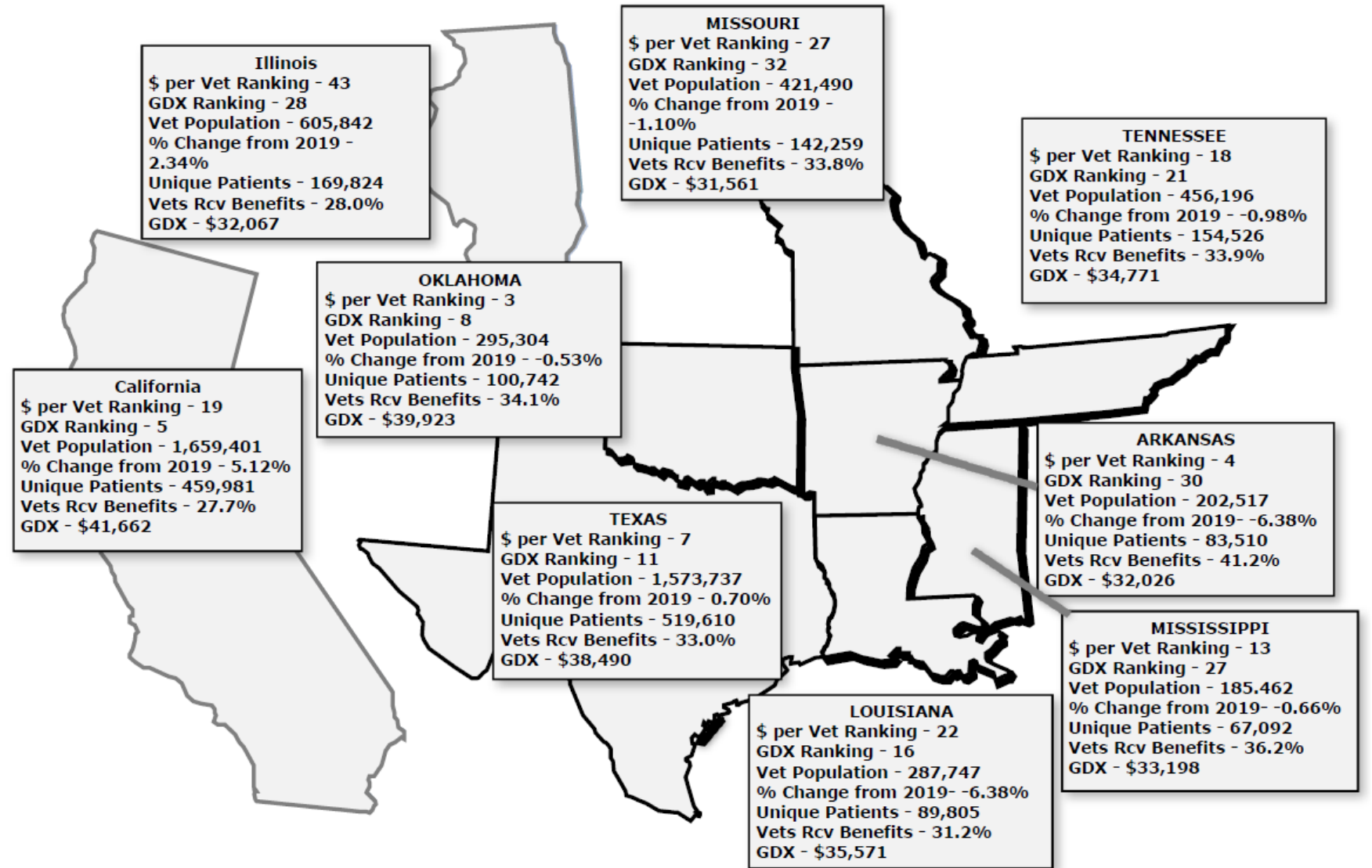
Working Group Task

- Address the following questions:
 - o PH I – Should there be a second State Veterans Home in NW Arkansas?
 - o PH II – If so, should we renovate the existing facility or replace it?
 - o PH II – If replaced, where should it be located?
 - o PH III– What is the optimum operations model for a state veterans home— state run, contract, or hybrid?

Veterans Cemetery NLR – Corrective Action Improvement Plan

- Establish a working group membership consisting of Commissioners, Veterans Groups, Congressional Delegation, Cemetery Foundation, Congressional Delegation, ADH and Funeral Home Association
- Assistant Director of Cemeteries reports to Deputy Director/Chief of Staff effective June 6, 2022
- Maintenance Manager and Cemetery Manager report directly to the Assistant Director of Cemeteries effective June 6, 2022
- All maintenance personnel report directly to Maintenance Manager effective June 6, 2022
- 100% audit of headstone sequence NLT July 31, 2022 by section (weekly update)
- 100% audit of disinterment procedures and development of standard operating procedures/controls NLT July 31, 2022
- Determine feasible timeline for placement of permanent markers due to current conditions
- Purchase gravesite locator kiosks NLT August 1, 2022
- Validate headstone disposal procedures and controls to include weekly disposals NLT June 30, 2022
- Deputy Director/Chief of Staff review and validate the federal survey assessment corrective action plan NLT 31 July 2022
- Examine technology for the location of caskets NLT October 1, 2022
- Establish timeline for realignment of all sections and develop a sustainment plan for alignment
- *Plans to increase military Funeral Honorarium rate from \$50 to \$100 effective July 1, 2022

Regional VA Compensation Statistics

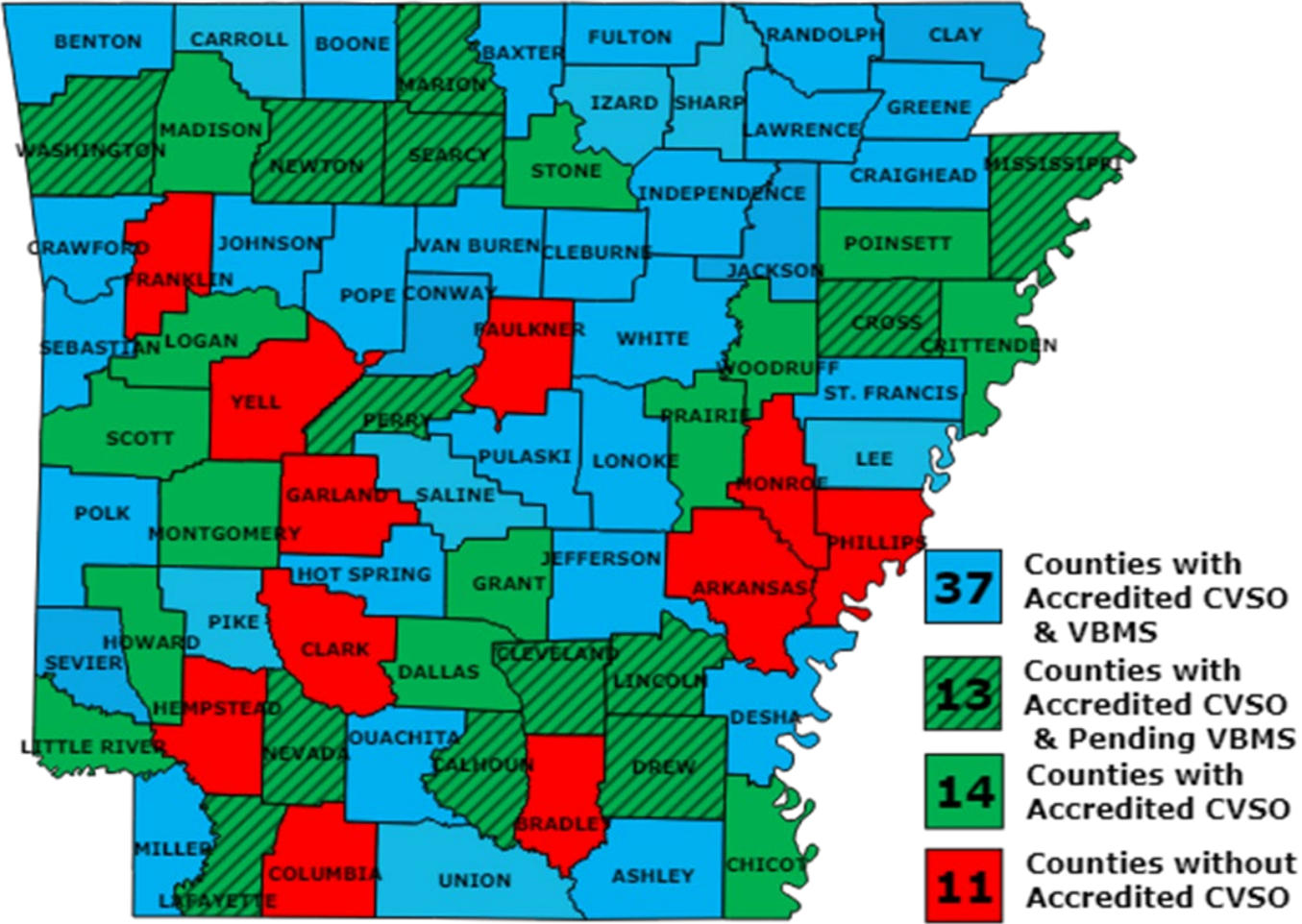


County Veteran Services Officer- Act 941

- Amended the law concerning programs providing financial assistance to counties by the AR Department of Veterans Affairs- effective July 1, 2021, may:
 - Provide an additional incentive payment of \$500.00 per quarter of the fiscal year to counties that ensure CVSO obtains and maintains accreditation by the US Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Provide an additional incentive payment of \$500.00 per quarter of the fiscal year to counties that ensure CVSO obtains and maintains access to and proficiency in US Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Benefit Management System

CVSO's That Are Accredited And With VBMS Access

CVSO
Accreditation
and
VBMS Access



Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer

- **Chief Financial Officer** – Mrs. Karen Watkins- is a native of St. Louis, Karen married an Arkansan and relocated to Little Rock in 1989. While working full-time as a flight attendant for Trans World Airlines, Inc., she attended the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, she began her career with Complete Computing in Little Rock as an Accounting Systems Consultant helping small businesses implement automated accounting systems. Her career path landed her with Alltel Information Systems for nearly seven years where she worked as a Business Analyst, Senior Software Analyst, Corporate Systems Helpdesk Supervisor and Senior Project Manager. She joined the Arkansas Department of Information Systems in 2010 as its Cost Recovery Administrator and in 2013 the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs hired Karen as its Chief Fiscal Officer where she served until 2018. She rejoined ADVA as CFO in May 2022. She and her husband reside in Little Rock with their dog Bruno and cat Cleopatra. In their free time they visit their children who are scattered around the world in Bentonville, Cairo, New York, Argeles sur Mer and Bogota.

Chief of Staff -Colonel (Retired) Erica Ingram a native Arkansan. She graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a degree of Business Management and minor in Business Administration. She commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army on August 15, 1995. She has served in numerous positions as Active Duty Army and as fulltime Arkansas Army National Guard (ARARNG). Her most recent positions include serving as Camp Joseph T. Robinson Maneuver Training Center (RMTC) Installation Commander, ARARNG Deputy Chief of Staff- Personnel, and 871st Troop Command Battalion Commander. She recently retired with 26 years service. Her career with Arkansas Department of Veteran Affairs October 2021. Colonel (Retired) Ingram resides in Little Rock. She has two daughters DeeDee (Ingram) Hutchins and Desarie. She also has one granddaughter.

