

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norman, Oklahoma--The Absentee Shawnee Tribe and Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System is pleased to announce our Native American U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Partnership. Native American Veterans eligible for Veterans Health Benefits can now conveniently receive their coordination of VA care through two Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System clinics located at Little Axe Health Center and Shawnee Clinic. The newly-signed reimbursement agreement increases health care access for Native American veterans, shortens wait times for all veterans utilizing area VA facilities, and increases revenues to continue improving and expanding tribal healthcare services.

"Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System is extremely excited to partner with Veterans Administration and to provide our Native American Veteran patients with faster, convenient access to high-quality healthcare and flexibility to choose where they can receive their Veterans healthcare services," said Mark Rogers, Executive Director of Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations indicated that Native Americans have one of the highest representations in the armed forces and the VA is excited to add the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System as a tribal health benefits partner as part of their Native American Partnership Development Program.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System is now scheduling appointments at both clinics for Basic VA Medical Eligibility, Behavioral Health Services, Service-Connected Disabilities, Dental Services, and Vision Services. A CDIB is required and the veteran's annual required VA hospital visit must be current and within the calendar year. Veterans must be VA Service-Connected to be seen for Dental, Vision, or Service-Connected Disabilities.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System encompasses two healthcare facilities located in Norman and Shawnee, Oklahoma. Providing a culturally-sensitive, quality health care system for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and qualifying Non-Natives, both healthcare facilities offer health promotion and disease prevention through a multi-disciplinary team using holistic and evidence-based practices that address all health issues and educational needs while protecting individual confidentiality.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe, a self-governed Native American Tribe with 4,000 tribal members and corporate offices established in Shawnee, Oklahoma, was organized in 1936 as the "Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma" under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. Business entities include Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Thunderbird Casinos in Norman and Shawnee, Thunderbird Express Convenience Store & Smoke Shop, and Building Blocks Day Care Center.

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