



Appendix 4 to Veteran's Advisory Board Strategic Plan 2026-2028

Goal 4: Strengthen and Grow Health Care and Mental Health Services for Veterans

Objective 4.1: In coordination with the Santa Fe Veteran Center and the New Mexico DVS, work to implement the recommendations of the Syracuse University IVMF Study.

Initiatives

- 4.1.1** Improve communication, including a feedback loop, between the various organizations providing health care and mental health services, including the Veteran Integration Center (VIC) in Albuquerque, the Santa Fe Veteran Center, and DVS. **New initiative.**
- 4.1.2** Collaborate with DVS to expand health and mental health care services in Northern NM through a combination of additional VA funded clinics, mobile clinics, and private providers under contract to the VA. **New initiative.**
- 4.1.3** In conjunction with DVS, expand capability to transport veterans in rural areas to the nearest clinic or provider. **New initiative.**
- 4.1.4** Work with DVS to oversee funds provided by the Highly Rural Grant that include support to veteran transportation and hiring more healthcare providers. **New initiative.**

Objective 4.2: Work with the city and county of Santa Fe and DVS to expand the CONNECT Network to other counties in northern New Mexico.

Initiatives

- 4.2.1** Ask DVS to contact through their Veteran Service Officers appropriate city staff in Espanola, Taos, Las Vegas, Raton and Farmington to brief them on the CONNECT model and encourage them to replicate it at their locations. **New initiative.**
- 4.2.2** Once a CONNECT Network is established in northern New Mexico, work with DVS to expand it throughout the state. **New initiative.**
- 4.2.3** Work with DVS and the Syracuse team to develop and deploy a data-sharing capability across the network. **New initiative.**

Objective 4.3: Collaborate with DVS and other veteran organizations to secure additional funding from the legislature and the VA for veteran health care and mental health treatment in rural areas of New Mexico.

Initiatives

- 4.3.1** Secure additional funds either from the legislature or the VA for the acquisition of additional mobile clinics until DVS has secured the 18 recommended by the IVMF team. **New initiative.**

4.3.2 Ensure each mobile clinic has access to a Veteran Services Officer, and health care provider and a mental health therapist. **New initiative.**

4.3.3 Establish a capability at DVS to administer this mobile network, in coordination with NM Healthcare Services. **New initiative.**

Objective 4.4: In coordination with DVS and other veteran organizations, work to reduce the incidents of veteran suicide in NM.

Initiatives

4.4.1 Work with the Vet Center to expand their suicide prevention program. **New initiative.**

4.4.2 Consult with the legislature on developing a Red Flag Law, focused on veterans in NM, that will stand up in court. **New initiative.**