



Department of Finance and Administration

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Administrator's Office

1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 201

Post Office Box 3278

Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278

Phone: (501) 682-1823

www.dfa.arkansas.gov/personnel-management

December 18, 2018

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chairperson
Representative Les Eaves, Co-Chairperson
Uniform Personnel Classification and
Compensation Plan Subcommittee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) submits a request from the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) for your review.

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs is requesting one position from the OPM surrender pool established by Ark. Code Ann. §21-5-225(a)(1). The classification being requested is an existing title. The positions being surrendered are listed below:

<u>POSITION SURRENDERED</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>RANGE</u>
22164328	Certified Nurse Assistant	GS03	\$26,034 - \$37,749
22164330	Certified Nurse Assistant	GS03	\$26,034 - \$37,749
22164344	Certified Nurse Assistant	GS03	\$26,034 - \$37,749

CLASSIFICATIONS REQUESTED

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>RANGE</u>
Nurse Practitioner	L104C	MP04	\$89,368 - \$128,690

JUSTIFICATION

The North Little Rock Veteran's Home has been in operation for approximately one year. This campus was designed to manage eight homes each housing a total of twelve residents. The facilities' licensure from the Arkansas's Office of Long Term Care and the Federal Veterans Administration are contingent to the home having a medical physician available 24-hours a day. Maintaining compliance in procuring this contract for 24-hour medical services has been extremely expensive in how these services are billed. ADVA procured a secondary contract to

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chairperson
Representative Les Eaves, Co-Chairperson
December 18, 2018
Page 2

utilize the services of an Advance Practical Registered Nurse (APRN) to provide routine day-to-day care of residents. ADVA is requesting the Nurse Practitioner position to maintain the same level of care for patients at a cost-effective method at over \$100,000 annually. This position will be responsible for providing daily care to residents; coordinating new resident's medical director examinations; and facilitating mandatory medical director/primary care physician examinations. These services are critical in maintaining federal funded care to Arkansas veteran's and their families.

ADVA assured our office that it possesses the funding to support this surrender pool position request. OPM has reviewed this request and **recommends** the approval of one (1) pool position and the requested title. Your approval of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Barnhill" followed by a small circular mark.

Kay Barnhill
State Personnel Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Hanger".

Chief Fiscal Officer of the State

DEC 07 2018

Date



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Department of Veterans Affairs
501 Woodlane Drive, Suite 230C
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 683-1643 / FAX (501) 682-4833

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Nathaniel (Nate) Todd
Director

December 4, 2018

Ms. Kay Barnhill
Administrator
Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
Office of Personnel Management
1509 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Ms. Barnhill,

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs request permission to obtain a position from the Pool in exchange for three positions.

The North Little Rock Veteran's home has been in operations for approximately one year. The Agency designed the campus to operate 8 homes each housing 12 residents. To obtain licenses from Arkansas' Office of Long Term Care and the Federal Veterans Administration, the home is required to have a medical physician available 24 hour per day. Initially, a contract was developed to procure these services which allowed for the physician to utilize the services of an Advance Practical Register Nurse (APRN) to provide routine day to day care of residents. This contract has proven to be extremely expensive to the facility based upon the way in which services can be billed. The Medical Director contract will continue to be used for acute care and required evaluation visits. To maintain the same level of care for patients at a cost-effective method, the Agency is requesting a pool position to be used as a Nurse Practitioner. There will be a cost savings for eliminating a portion of the contract to utilize APRNs verses the cost of an employee. The anticipated saving is over \$100,000 per year.

The Nurse Practitioner will provide day to day routine care to residents, coordinate new residents' medical director examinations, and coordinate mandatory medical director/primary physician examinations. These activities are critical to the continuation of federally funded care and safety of Arkansas' Veterans and their families.

The position will be funded from the revenue received for Resident services provided and room & board per diems. The addition of this position will aid in the day to day operations at each home. The Agency will not be adversely affected by the loss of the 3 certified nursing assistants.

Requested Position:

Class code: L104C Grade: MP04 Title: Nurse Practitioner

Surrendered Positions:

Class code: L082C Grade: GS03 Title: Certified Nursing Assistant 22164328, 22164330, 22164344

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Tafner".

Christian Tafner
Interim Deputy Director

CC: Paul Louthian, Deputy Director DFA
Nate Todd, Director, ADVA
Sara Snead, ADVA, HR Manager