

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt Signs Bill in Support of Veterans Mental Health Care at The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Red Rock in Lawton

Governor Stitt and CVN President and CEO Dr. Anthony Hassan Address the Rising Need for Mental Health Services for Oklahoma Veterans, Service Members and Military Families

**Lawton, OK.,** June 15, 2022 – Today, veterans, service members and their families received a \$700,000 commitment from Governor Kevin Stitt, at a ceremonial signing of SB 1048. The bill will allow <u>Cohen Veterans Network</u> (CVN), a not-for-profit philanthropic organization that serves post-9/11 veterans, service members and their families through a nationwide system of mental health clinics, to do more for the veteran and military communities throughout the state of Oklahoma. The event took place at the Cohen Clinic at Red Rock, located at 4202 S.W. Lee Blvd in Lawton.

"We are honored to see the Governor and the state make this kind of commitment to veterans, their families, and mental health. Certainly, the need is great for mental health services here and throughout the country, and this bill will allow for more critical care across the state of Oklahoma," said CVN President and CEO Dr. Anthony Hassan. "It is significant that the Governor has signed this bill today at our Cohen Clinic in Lawton. We are very proud of the work we are doing here to care for veterans, service members, and their families and look forward to continuing to serve."

The Lawton clinic launched two years ago during the height of the pandemic, and formally opened last October in a ceremony headlined by Stitt and Medal of Honor Recipient Ryan Pitts. Since opening, the clinic has delivered over 550 episodes of care through in-person care and CVN Telehealth, face-to-face video therapy, which enables the clinic to see clients throughout the state.

"I am thrilled to be here today to do a ceremonial signing of SB 1048, which will allow Cohen Veterans Network to do more for veterans and their families throughout Oklahoma," said Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. "This bill will provide an increase in funding for this deserving population, leading to better access to care for Oklahomans across the state."

More than 7,000 post-9/11 veterans, 13,000 active duty service members, as well as more than 12,000 family members in the Lawton area are eligible for care at the Cohen Clinic at Red Rock. Statewide, there are more than 67,000 post-9/11 veterans, 24,000 family members, and more than 33,000 active duty service members eligible for care at the Cohen Clinic via telehealth.

CVN offers brief, client-centered therapy for a variety of mental health issues including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, adjustment issues, anger, grief and loss, family issues, transition challenges, relationship problems, and children's behavioral problems. Cohen Veterans Network currently has 21 Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics in operation around the country, with plans to open three more clinics in 2022.

**About Cohen Veterans Network:** Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) is a 501(c)(3) national not-for-profit philanthropic organization for post-9/11 veterans, active duty service members and their families. CVN focuses on improving mental health outcomes, operating a network of outpatient mental health clinics in high-need communities, in which trained clinicians deliver holistic evidence-based care to treat mental health conditions. It was established in 2016 by philanthropist Steven A. Cohen. Learn more about CVN here.

**About Red Rock:** Red Rock Behavioral Health Services is an Oklahoma City based not-for profit agency that was founded in 1974. Red Rock provides mental health and substance use services using the highest evidenced based practices in an integrated model of care. With over 750 employees, last year Red Rock served over almost 17,000 adults and youth across 20 locations in Oklahoma.