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VISN 6 Leadership

VISN 6 Director
Daniel F. Hoffmann, FACHE

Director - Mental Health Service Line
Miguel Lapuz, MBA, MD

Recenty Approved Grants

Jennifer Gierish (PI) Adjunctive Mood Management for Telephone-based Smoking Cessation in Primary Care. VA HSR&D Merit Review Award
Focus on the VISN

HOME Program - Rural Extension continued from page 1
A home visit and weekly phone contacts involving suicide assessment and safety planning is provided by the project clinician until the Veteran becomes connected to and engaged in outpatient care. In addition, data will be gathered to help evaluate factors related to feasibility of implementation for rural Veterans.

New Clinical Certifications
Drs. Cindy Swinkels and Christi Ulmer (MIRECC Durham site) recently received certification in Behavioral Sleep Medicine from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine!

Honors & Awards
Dr. Mike Ellwood (MIRECC Richmond site) received the Association of VA Psychologist Outstanding Training Director Award. The award was announced on August 8th at the 122nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Dr. Robin Hurley (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) received the 2014 Eugene A. Hargrove, MD, Mental Health Research Award from the Psychiatric Foundation of North Carolina for her contributions to the field of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research. The award was announced on September 27th at the North Carolina Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting and Scientific Session.

Journal Articles


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Promotions
Dr. Larry Tupper (MIRECC Assistant Director, Neurocognition) has been promoted to Associate Professor (Track IV) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University.

CBOC Mental Health Rounds
Each CBOC MH Rounds presentation is now offered twice a month.
Wednesday November 12 from 9-10 am ET
Thursday November 13 from 12-1 pm ET
Ethical Challenges of Dual Relationships
Laurie Guillory, LCSW & Beth Jeffries, PhD

Remember to register in TMS for a session to receive credit. Log into your TMS account to join the presentation.
December 10 &11 Spirituality
January 14 &15 ADHD
February 11 &12 CBT and Chronic Pain

Contact Ashley McDaniel with any questions: ashley.mcdaniel@va.gov or 501-257-1223

Invited Lectures
Dr. Jason A. Nieuwsma (MIRECC researcher) presented “Whose lane is it anyway?” to the Psi Chi chapter at Meredith College, Raleigh, NC, September 2014. Dr. Nieuwsma also presented a full day workshop “Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to Improve Integrated Psychological and Spiritual Care” at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA, September 17, 2014. Drs. Nieuwsma, Nobles, Stevens and Yeaw presented the symposium “The Role of Chaplains in Service Member Care” at the Psychological Health and Resilience Summit, Washington, DC, September, 2014. Drs. Nieuwsma and Ramchand presented the webinar “Suicide in Military and Veteran Populations: Implications for Chaplains, Health Care Providers and Leaders” for the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, September 25, 2014.

Online Training Resources for Veterans: http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/
There are several free and anonymous on-line education and life coaching programs that use interactive exercises and video demonstrations to teach skills for overcoming life challenges such as relationship and parenting problems, financial hardship, and re-adjustment issues.

Moving Forward - Overcoming Life’s Challenges
An educational and life coaching program that teaches Problem Solving skills to help you better handle life’s challenges

Parenting for Service Members & Veterans
This course provides parents with tools that strengthen parenting skills and helps them reconnect with their children.

PTSD Coach Online
PTSD Coach Online is for anyone who needs help with upsetting feelings. Trauma survivors, their families, or anyone coping with stress can benefit.
Meeting Presentations

VIRGINIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Fall Convention & Educational Conference
October 15 - 17 2014, Richmond VA

Rooney M, Murphy C. Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) in Soldiers and Veterans.

Buncher R, Bradshaw M. Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery at Veterans Medical Center.

Campbell TA, Pickett TC Lessons Learned from Working with Veterans with TBI.

Stratton KJ. Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Pain.

Futrell O, Rooney M. Peer Support and Veteran’s Mental Health Care.

Journal Articles
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Visit our web site for more resources
Program Update: Engaging Chaplains in MH Care

This project is funded by Central Office and housed within our MIRECC. Dr. Keith Meador directs the initiative, and Dr. Jason Nieuwsma serves as associate director.

Workshop: Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to Improve Integrated Psychological and Spiritual Care
Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth VA
September 17, 2014
Dr. Jason Nieuwsma

More than 130 chaplains, substance abuse counselors, social workers, nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists and VA employees attended this invited full day workshop.

Symposium: The Role of Chaplains in Service Member Care
Psychological Health and Resilience Summit
September 17-19, 2014

Webinar: Suicide in Military and Veteran Populations: Implications for Chaplains, Health Care Providers and Leaders
Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Webinar
September 25, 2014
Drs. Jason Nieuwsma & Rajeev Ramchand

This presentation begins with a description of the epidemiology of suicide in the United States, with a specific focus on suicide among service members and veterans. An epidemiologic foundation of suicide provides context to understanding how current research relates to a variety of prevention strategies. The discussion includes the role and approach of chaplains to suicide prevention in the military. Using data from a survey of chaplains in the Army, this overview reviews suicide prevention efforts and factors that may enhance or constrain effective support. The presentation concludes with recommendations from policy and research perspectives on how the military and civilian communities can bolster suicide prevention efforts.


Free Web Courses for Providers

Treating the Invisible Wounds of War
www.ahecconnect.com/citizensoldier

Click on New Users to register. You will then see the available web courses listed:

1 - Treating the Invisible Wounds of War (TTIWW) english & spanish editions
2 - TTIWW - A Primary Care Approach
3 - TTIWW - Employee Assistance in the Civilian Workforce
4 - TTIWW - Issues of Women Returning from Combat
5 - TTIWW - Recognizing the Signs of mTBI during Routine Eye Examinations
6 - TTIWW - Understanding Military Family Issues
7 - TTIWW - Taking a Military History: Four Critical Questions

These courses were developed by MIRECC faculty in collaboration with Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP) and North Carolina Area Health Education Center (NC AHEC). They are designed to help primary care physicians, case workers, mental health providers - who may see a veteran or family member on an unrelated issue - develop a better understanding of the culture in which veterans and their families live and work, and provide best practices for identifying, assessing and treating mental health problems that result from the trauma of war.

Visit our web site for more resources