

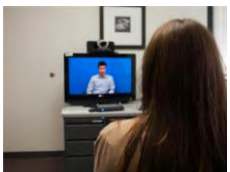
News & Events



Clothesline Project: In April, VA San Diego Healthcare System hosted a Clothesline Project to raise awareness about military sexual trauma and its impact. More on this project can be found [here](#).



Pet Therapy Horse: VASDHS has a wide array of methods to help Veterans with recovery and rehabilitation - yoga, dogs and soon a horse. Beanie Baby, pictured left, is a miniature horse that will soon be making monthly rounds to visit patients at the San Diego VA Medical Center.



Telemental Health: In April, VA San Diego Healthcare System was selected for a new Western Regional Telemental Health Program that connects mental health staff with patients using secure internet connections and web cameras. Aside from saving time, the [program](#) has opened up mental health treatment possibilities for Veterans who would otherwise have to travel long distances to their nearest VA Medical Center for appointments.



Volunteer Recognition Week: Behind the scenes and after hours, volunteers help take care of the little things that make a big difference in the quality of our health care system. [Robert Cheseborough](#) is one such volunteer and was recognized recently at our annual Voluntary Service Award and Recognition Ceremony.



National Research Week: Highlighting our newest and most recent studies, VA San Diego Healthcare System hosted a research symposium April 25 - 26 at the medical center. A listing of the topics can be found [here](#).

Media Hits



PTSD and Drinking: Dr. Sonya Norman was interviewed about her research on PTSD and alcohol use for a [story](#) published May 17 in the U-T San Diego.

Mental Health: Dr. Robert Anthenelli, associate chief of staff for mental health was interviewed May 8 by KGTV about wait times for mental health (in response to the recent OIG report on mental health wait times). We were able to share our efforts in improving access to better serve San Diego Veterans.

TBI CARE: Dr. Lisa Lin, coordinator for traumatic brain injury care at VASDHS, was interviewed by the U-T San Diego for a story on VA research on chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The [story](#) ran May 17.



Clothesline Project: Four media outlets covered the Clothesline Project event on April 23 at the medical center: Telemundo, Fox, KUSI and KGTV. The broadcasts aired that evening.



Who will get PTSD?: VA researcher, Dr. Dewleen Baker, was interviewed by the Boston Globe April 19 about her Marine Resiliency Study. A brief mention of her study was included as part of a larger [article](#) on post-traumatic stress disorder and locating individuals who might be susceptible to PTSD.



Navy Seals Research: San Diego researcher, Alan Simmons, was interviewed by the Scientific American Mind April 30 regarding his research on stress response in Navy SEALs.

Accomplishments & Awards



From right – VASDHS Nurse Executive Sandra Solem, VASDHS Nurse Kathleen Dunn, Dunn relative Richard Knutson.

VA Nurse Award: VASDHS Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Nurse Specialist, Kathleen Dunn, MS, RN, CRRN, CNS-BC, received the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Award for Nursing and the Advancement of Nursing Programs. She was nominated in the Expanded Role category and received her award in Washington, D.C., June 1.

Nursing Academy Extension: The VA Nursing Academy partnership with San Diego State University's School of Nursing has been extended for a sixth year. This will continue the innovative clinical practice and academic partnership for educating Bachelor of Science Nursing students.

Upcoming Events



PTSD Awareness Month/Day: June/June 27

National HIV Testing Day: June 27

Independence Day: July 4

24th Annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans: July 13 – 15, San Diego High School Athletic Field.