



VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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MIRECC Clinical Education Project Update

Bringing Our Soldiers All The Way Home: How To Help Combat Veterans Accept Mental Health Services

Presented March 13, 2006 at Salisbury VAMC

and

Methods For Fostering Combat Veterans' Engagement In Mental Health Treatment

Presented March 14 - 15, 2006 at Salisbury VAMC

Last month, Dr. Ron Murphy visited Salisbury VAMC to present a talk and a workshop sponsored by the MIRECC Education component on his innovative approach to engaging veterans in mental health treatment. Dr. Murphy began to develop his techniques while with the Palo Alto VAMC PTSD program. He is presently a visiting professor at Bowdoin College in Maine. Next year Dr. Murphy will be taking a position as an Associate Professor in Psychology at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. His proximity will facilitate developing collaborations with VISN 6.



On March 13, Dr. Murphy gave an outreach talk to the community about the challenges of getting veterans with mental health difficulties the help that they need. More than half of veterans needing treatment will not seek it due to stigma and other problems. Dr. Murphy has been developing methods to overcome the roadblocks that prevent veterans from receiving help.

A discussion session followed Dr. Murphy's talk. He was joined by a panel of experts representing the Veteran Centers and Community

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Mental Health Service Line Subcouncil Conference

The VISN 6 Mental Health Service Line held its Spring Subcouncil Conference on February 13 - 14 2006 at the Salisbury VAMC. The first afternoon was dedicated to presentations from the Research, Education and Clinical components of the MIRECC. Dr. McCarthy (Director) gave the introductory remarks. Dr. Hurley (CoDirector, Education) gave an overview of the new Clinical Education Grants

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Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). These providers are on the front lines, working to engage returning veterans in treatment.



Members of the audience and the panel discussed practical strategies for improving outreach to returning veterans. The presentation was covered by local media.

Dr. Murphy's talk was part of a MIRECC Clinical Education Project developed by Harry Piersma (staff psychologist), Jackie Friedman (psychologist, MIRECC Education trainee) and Debra Volkmer (social worker, Seamless Transition Coordinator) of the Salisbury VAMC and funded by the MIRECC Education component. The talk and discussion were videotaped by MIRECC educational staff, and will be available for viewing on the MIRECC website shortly.

On March 14 and 15, Dr. Murphy presented a workshop for mental health care providers on his Motivational Enhancement techniques. The emphasis of this workshop was on working with veterans with PTSD. A particular focus was engaging returning OIF/OEF veterans in treatment. Dr. Murphy demonstrated his four session protocol for workshop attendees. This protocol centers on helping veterans

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Community Outreach

On April 5, **Dr. Harold Kudler (MIRECC Co-Director, Clinical)** appeared on the the cable-access news magazine television show, Carolina Week, to discuss the challenges facing OIF/OEF veterans and their families. The program will be broadcasted repeatedly during the month of April.

Dr. Robin Hurley (MIRECC Co-Director, Education) was interviewed in a VA News segment entitled, "Seamless Transition Policy in Practice in North Carolina". This interview was seen on VA News nationwide and on The Pentagon Channel worldwide.

Publications

Hughes JW, Feldman ME, Beckham JC. Posttraumatic stress disorder is associated with attenuated baroreceptor sensitivity among female, but not male, smokers. *Biological Psychology* 2006;71(3): 296-302.

Kudler H. Chronic Stress and Adaptation. (Letter to the Editor) *American Journal of Psychiatry* 2006; 163(3):552-553.

Taber KH, Hurley RA. Neuroimaging of Sleep Deprivation and Disruption: Implications for Neuropsychiatry. *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience* 2006 Winter; 18(1): 1-5.

Clinical Outreach - Pope AFB

On March 10, Drs. **Kudler, Straits-Troster** and **Jones** provided an introduction to the MIRECC to mental health and family clinicians at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, NC. The meeting was hosted by **Mike Lydon**, LCSW, Family Advocacy Outreach Manager for Pope AFB, who also took this picture of the session participants.



Recent Presentations

Boggs CD, Beckham JC, Collie C, Yeatts B, Calhoun PS, Straits-Troster K, Butterfield MI. *Childhood Violence is associated with Aggression and Suicidal Ideation in Males with PTSD.* 24th Annual Meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service, Washington, DC, February 15-17, 2006.

Boggs CD, Braxton L, Beckham JC, Collie C, Yeatts B, Calhoun PS, Straits-Troster K, Butterfield MI. *Racial Differences in Validity of Psychometric Test Data in Veterans Being Evaluated for PTSD.* Annual meeting of the Society for Personality Assessment, San Diego, CA. March 22-26, 2006

Boggs CD, Strauss J, Calhoun PS, Roland J, Marx C, Straits-Troster K, Butterfield MI. *Higher Rates of Suicidality in Women Veterans with Depression and Comorbid PTSD.* 24th Annual Meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service, Washington, DC, February 15-17, 2006.

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Mental Health Service Line Subcouncil Conference

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program. Five projects from across the VISN were presented. Chaplain Oliver (Durham) presented "VA Spiritual Care for Post-Deployment Veterans and their Families: An Educational Model". Dr. Fearer (Salem) presented "Development of Educational/ Motivational Materials Addressing the Substance Abuse Treatment Needs of OIF/OEF Veterans". Dr. Bolger (Fayetteville) presented "Identifying and Treating Sleep Problems in OEF/OIF Soldiers". Ms. DeMario (Beckley) presented "Ongoing Lifestyle Enhancement Program". Dr. LaMotte (Salisbury) presented "A WEB-Based On-Demand Education Program to Train Clinical Pharmacists to Counsel Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury". Following a break, Dr. Kudler (Co-Director, Clinical) gave an update on the Clinical component. Dr. Calhoun presented an update on the Evaluations component. Dr. McCarthy described the MIRECC's Central Registry Study. Dr. Marx gave an overview of the Interventions core research on neurosteroids. Dr. Morey described the research underway in the Neuroimaging core. Dr. Beckham presented the Genetics core's research projects.

Invited Lectures

Dr. Harold Kudler was the invited discussant on a paper by Herbert H. Stein, M.D. entitled "*Analytic Perspective on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Combat Veterans.*" This presentation was a Scientific Session of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York and was held on February 27 at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY.

Dr. Kudler, Co-Director of the MIRECC Clinical Component presented on its programs for OIF/OEF veterans and their families at a University of North Carolina at Pembroke's 14th Annual Social Work Symposium on March 31.

Drs. Kudler, Straits-Troster, and Jones (MIRECC Clinical component) provided a talk on OIF/OEF veterans and their families to the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Program of Duke University on April 7th. CAPS is responsible for providing mental health services to Duke students. The session provided CAPS counselors with information about the unique needs of OIF/OEF veterans and their family members. The MIRECC and CAPS staff considered effective outreach strategies on campus.

Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

May 5

Dr. Nancy J. Dunn (VISN 16 - Houston VAMC)
Anxiety Disorder and PTSD

June 2

Dr. Ryan Dehaas (Salisbury VAMC)
Substance Abuse and Anxiety

July 7

Debra Volkmer, LCSW (Salisbury VAMC)
Adjustment to a Different World: Assisting the Veteran and Family with Transition from Deployment to Community Re-Integration

This series is presented by V-tel and telephone conferences. Web-casting will become available in the near future. If any of you have suggestions or ideas for lectures or for the series process, please feel free to contact Dr. Robin Hurley or Dr. Katherine Taber with your feedback.

Below are the **V-tel phone numbers** to dial to participate in the series for the calendar year 2006. Dial in at starts at 11:45 am Eastern Time.

VISN 6 Office	304 262-3950	Hampton 5th Floor	304 262-3930
Asheville	304 262-3952	Richmond	304 262-3951
Beckley	304 260-4839	Salem	304 262-3942
Durham	304 262-3924	Salisbury	304 262-3948
Fayetteville	304 262-3928	CBOC Jacksonville	304-260-4809

There are ten audio lines scheduled. For **audio lines only** call: 800-767-1750 and inform the operator that you are calling in for the "V6 PD Mental Health Problems"

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to identify PTSD-related problems that they were not aware of. These often are the issues that "blind-side" the veteran and contribute to relapse after treatment has ended. There were over 70 workshop participants, drawn from all VAMCs within VISN 6, as well as representatives from Vet Centers in the greater North Carolina region.

Recent Presentations

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Crawford EC, Calhoun PS, Braxton LB, Beckham JC. *Incremental Validity of the Personality Assessment Inventory Aggression and Violence Indices in Veterans with PTSD.* Annual meeting of the Society for Personality Assessment, San Diego, CA. March 22-26, 2006

Roberts ST, Dennis MF, Calhoun PS, Beckham JC. (2006). *An Examination of Interpersonal Violence in Women with PTSD and Major Depressive Disorder.* 24th Annual Meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service, Washington, DC, February 15-17, 2006.

Taber KH, Warden DL, Hurley RA. *Functional Neuroanatomic Atlas of TBI: Applications to Blast-Related Brain Injury.* American Neuropsychiatric Association 17th Annual Meeting, La Jolla, CA, February 18-21, 2006.