



VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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Clinical Component Update



Harold Kudler, MD (MIRECC Associate Director, Clinical) presented a keynote address to over 400 community providers, leaders and stakeholders at the King County Veterans Community Training, which was held at the SeaTac Doubletree Hotel in Washington State on September 22 and 23. The King County Veterans Training Program featured a variety of workshops devoted providing services to Veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. Dr. Kudler focused on issues specific to the Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserve Members) and their families.

Among other speakers were Steve Hunt, MD (Director of the Deployment Mental Health Clinic, Puget Sound Health Care System), Thomas Schumacher (Director of Behavioral Health Programs for the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs), Patricia Lester, MD (UCLA, Director of the FOCUS project in support of military families on bases across the nation), and Murray Raskind, MD (Director, Puget Sound Health Care System MIRECC). This meeting offered an important opportunity to share best practices in service to Veterans and their families across MIRECCs and across DoD/VA/State and Community Partnerships.

Education Component Update



Traumatic Brain Injury CDE Standards

www.commondataelements.ninds.nih.gov/TBI.aspx

Dr. Robin Hurley (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) served on the TBI Common Data Elements Workgroup, a multi-agency collaboration which recently released Version 1. Four groups have been established to complete the next stage of this work. Dr. Hurley has accepted an invitation to serve on the Concussion/ Mild TBI Workgroup, tasked with developing recommendations about [1] the most appropriate items in Common Data Elements Version 1 for studies of this population and [2] any additional items required to fill critical gaps.

Recently Approved Grants

Katherine Taber PI, Jared Rowland (CoI) *Magnetoencephalography Investigation of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Post-Deployment OEF/OIF Veterans*, Wake Forest University Translational Science Institute / W.G. Hefner VAMC

Approved Research Sites & Contacts:

Durham VA

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Program Update

Engaging Chaplains in Mental Health 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.

VA Mental Health and Chaplaincy Forum
September 1-2 2011, Washington, DC



Healthcare leaders from around the country convened a few blocks northeast of the White House to attend this Forum. The meeting provided attendees with a unique opportunity to examine how chaplains, clergy, and other spiritual care providers might be optimally integrated into a public health model that better addresses the complex health needs of Veterans, Service members, and their families. The seventy eight attendees representing many different types of health care providers (chaplaincy, mental health, primary care) and organizations (VA, all branches of the military, various academic and community organizations) converged to provide input on existing programs and on how to take steps toward better integrating care for Service members and Veterans.

An article about the meeting has been posted on the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Blog.



Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/09/29/model-integrated-care-veterans-community-clergy>

Book Chapters

Kudler H, Batres AR, Flora CM, Washam TC, Goby MJ, Lehmann LS. *The Continuum of Care for New Combat Veterans and Their Families: A Public Health Approach*. In: Ritchie, EC (ed). *Combat and Operational Behavioral Health*. In: Lenhart MK, (ed). *The Textbooks of Military Medicine*. Washington, DC: Department of the Army, Office of The Surgeon General, Borden Institute; 2011:325-338.

Journal Articles

Dao TK, Youssef NA, Gopaldas R, Chu D, Bakaeen F, Wear E, Papatopoulos KN. *Randomized controlled trial of brief cognitive behavioral intervention for depression and anxiety symptoms preoperatively in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery*. *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*. Sept 2011; 142(3): e109-115.

Lamar CD, Hurley RA, Taber KH. *Sepsis associated encephalopathy: Review of the neuropsychiatric manifestations and cognitive outcome*. *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience* 2011 Summer; 23(3): 236 -241.

Marx CE, Bradford DW, Hamer RM, Naylor JC, Allen TB, Lieberman JA, Strauss JL, Kilts JD. *Pregnenolone as a novel therapeutic candidate in schizophrenia: emerging preclinical and clinical evidence*. *Neuroscience* 2011,191:78-90.

Straits-Tröster K, Brancu M, Goodale B, Pacelli S, Wilmer C, Simmons E, Kudler H. *Developing community capacity to treat post-deployment mental health problems: A public health initiative*. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. 2011, 3: 283-291.

Youssef NA, Ege M, Angly S, Strauss JL, Marx CE. *Is obstructive sleep apnea associated with ADHD?* *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry*. 2011 Aug; 23(3):213-224.

New Collaboration

Dr. Katherine Taber (MIRECC Assistant Director, Education) is collaborating with Debra Volkmer (Caregiver Support Coordinator for the Salisbury VAMC and VISN 6 lead for the program) to develop materials for use in the VA's new Caregiver Support program. Their first project was to create a flyer for the upcoming caregiver events. In honor of National Family Caregiver Month, the Salisbury VAMC is recognizing family caregivers by hosting events at each outpatient clinic and a Grand Celebration at the Salisbury VAMC.



FAMILY CAREGIVER RECOGNITION EVENTS

Hickory Clinic
Wednesday November 2,
9am - 11 am

Charlotte Clinic
Thursday November 3
9am - 11 am

Winston Salem Annex
Friday November 4
9am - 11 am

Salisbury VAMC Building 6
Tuesday November 15
9am - 2pm

Debra Volkmer (704) 638-9000 x 4499

Durham MIRECC Research Lecture Series

- November 10** *Compassion Fatigue & Caregiver Burden -Literature Review, What's Missing, How Does it Apply to OEF/OIF Veterans & Family Members* - Mira Brancu, PhD, Psychologist, VISN 6 MIRECC, Durham NC
- December 15** *Meta Analysis of Neuropsychological Functioning in Euthymic Bipolar Disorder: An Update & Investigation of Moderator Variables* - Monica Mann-Wrobel, PhD, VISN 6 MIRECC, Durham, NC

This series is presented live at our Durham site. Occasionally, a lecture is opened up for live participation by audio-conferencing. Lectures are also archived as webcasts at: <http://mireccweb.biac.duke.edu/Mediasite/Viewer/> Contact Jaimie Marinkovich (jaimie.marinkovich@va.gov; 919-286-0411 ext 5554) with any questions.

★ Free ★ Web Courses for Providers

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

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

- 1 - *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*
- 2 - *Traumatic Brain Injury*
- 3 - *Issues of Women Returning from Combat*

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.

Meeting Presentations

Montella D, Brown SH, Elkin PL, Jackson JC, Rosenbloom ST, Wahner-Roedler D, Welsh G, Cotton B, Guillamondegui OD, Lew H, Taber KH, Tupler LA, Vanderploeg R, Speroff T. Comparison of SNOMED CT® versus Medcin® Terminology Concept Coverage for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury. American Medical Informatics Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 22-26, 2011.

Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

November 11 VA holiday

This series is presented by V-tel and audio conferences. We are having increasing participation from sites outside VISN 6, so our assigned numbers may change. The number that each VISN 6 site will use to dial in will be included in an email notification prior to each presentation.

If you wish to attend from a site outside of VISN 6, please contact Mary Peoples (mary.peoples1@va.gov; 704-638-9000 ext 2956).

Visit our web site for more resources
<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6.asp>

Outreach to Providers

Group Supervision for Clinicians Listening to Trauma Histories

Therapists treating PTSD often find themselves in parallel turmoil, as they react to the patient's inner and outer worlds. Good clinical supervision is essential. In addition to receiving guidance and support from an experienced colleague, having the opportunity to share one's often turbulent emotions and learning how these can be used to better understand the case are also important.

Facilitator: Dr. Harold Kudler, Psychiatrist & MIRECC Associate Director - Clinical

Purpose: Assist presenter in processing a case that is particularly disturbing and hard to let go of.

Audience: Trauma clinicians and staff who routinely hear disturbing trauma histories

Objectives: As a result of participating, the attendee will be able to:

- Develop new personal and professional strategies and new clinical understanding;
- Recognize the potential effects of trauma narratives on therapists and staff;
- Identify the importance of on-going clinical supervision in work with trauma

Upcoming sessions: November 9, December 28

Participation available in person (Durham VA) or by audio-teleconferencing.

Register to participate or present a case at an upcoming session by contacting Jaimie Marinkovich (jaimie.marinkovich@va.gov; 919-286-0411 ext 5554).