

SECOND ANNUAL MILITARY AND VETERAN SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

VETERANS IN TRANSITION

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 - SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY | 33701 STATE ROUTE 52 | SAINT LEO, FL 33574

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Colonel Ann McCulliss Johnson, MSW
(U.S. Army-Ret.) presents "A Veteran's
Transitional Expressions of Time: A
Starting Point for Clinicians"

*Former reserve social work consultant to the
Army Surgeon General and current consultant with the
UCF Psychology Anxiety and Trauma department*

THESE TOPICS AND MORE:

- Evidence-informed practice with military veterans and their families
- Effective strategies for workplace transition and occupational integration
- Ensuring veterans' academic success in higher education and beyond the degree

TO REGISTER

visit www.saintleo.edu/vss2014

Registration fee: \$150 for two days (including light breakfast and lunch each day)

CEU Opportunities

For more information, please contact Jose E. Coll, Ph.D., director of Saint Leo University's Office of Veteran Student Services, at (352) 588-8234 or vss@saintleo.edu



SAINT LEO
UNIVERSITY.



2nd Annual Military & Veterans Social Work Conference: *Veterans in Transition*
Presentation Schedule*
Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida
June 6-7, 2014

To Register:

Visit: www.saintleo.edu/vss2014

Registration fee: \$150 for two days (including light breakfast and lunch each day)

CEU opportunities

For additional inquires please contact: Brooke Fina, LCSW email: fina@uthscsa.edu

**Schedule may be revised slightly*

Clinical Social Work Track – Friday June 6, 2014

8:00-8:45AM

Jose Coll, PhD: *Welcome & Keynote Introduction*

Colonel Ann McCulliss Johnson, MSW (U.S. Army-RET): *Keynote Speaker*

9:00-10:00AM

Fred P. Stone, PhD, MSSW, MPA

A Help Seeking Model for Practice with Military Members and Veterans

Although military members and veterans have high rates of several mental health problems such as post-traumatic stress and alcohol abuse, they are often reluctant to seek help. In this presentation, Fred P. Stone, PhD, MSSW examines the factors that influence helping seeking in this population. He offers a model that identifies the underlying factors that discourage help seeking and provides clinicians with specific interventions to encourage military members and veterans to seek mental health care.

Allen Rubin, PhD

A Practitioner-Friendly Model for Assessing Adaptations of Evidence-Based Interventions for Military Personnel and Families

Great strides have been made in the development of empirically supported treatments (ESTs) relevant to problems experienced by military personnel and their families. Still, the vast majority of clinical trials have examined interventions with civilians, and there is a gap in the literature regarding effectiveness of interventions with military personnel and their families. Moreover, studies are finding that when these ESTs are implemented in real world civilian settings the outcomes are often disappointing. Reasons for this discrepancy include differences between the ideal service provision conditions in RCTs and the far less than ideal conditions in most real world practice settings and differences in clientele served in RCTs and real world settings. This presentation will discuss a practitioner-friendly model for assessing such outcomes in real world practice settings.

10:15-11:00AM

LTC(P) Jeffrey Yarvis, PhD

Treating the Soul Wounds of War and Before. The efficacy of hypnotherapy

A growing body of literature addressing the issue of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has appeared in the decades following the Vietnam War. However, only a small portion of this literature represents empirical investigations of hypnotherapy as a form of efficacious therapy for PTSD and its implications. This investigation seeks to define the extent of treatment success of Heart Centered Hypnotherapy (HCH) versus

traditional cognitive behavioral therapy, which has been considered the most efficacious treatment for PTSD without the use of medication, and critical incidence stress debriefings which have been widely used by military combat stress control teams when soldiers present with trauma reactions. This study showed Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy is a most effective means of treating PTSD.

Alesia McDaniel, LCSW

Recover YOUiversity: A Psycho-Educational Approach to Recovery Based Inpatient Treatment for Veterans

Attendees will learn how to create and present a themed group module for recovery using psycho education as the primary therapeutic vehicle. Attendees will learn how to handle distractions and manage generic groups, facilitate games and role plays to effect change in the lives of psychiatric inpatients or outpatients, using the psychiatric hospital as a group milieu therapy of sorts to create a safe haven which promotes an empowering attitude of recovery behavior for life balance.

11:30AM-12:30PM

Michelle Hoggins, PhD

The Impact of War Trauma for African-American and European-American Female Veterans of OIF/OEF

The phenomenological study examined war-related stressors and whether being African-American and female influenced the combat experience and reintegration. Thirty combat females completed email interviews; fifteen European-Americans served as a comparison group. Combat stress emerged as the most prevalent and reported theme for both African-American (73%) and European-American females (87%).

Dr. Ospina-Kammerer, RN, PhD & Dr. Christine Gordon

Client Self Care Through Therapeutic Gardening Activities/Walking

Client Self Help Through Therapeutic Gardening will be introduced and discussed at length. The Medicine Wheel Garden, as well as other garden styles will be presented as types of “hands on” projects. A demonstration movie “Reflection Garden” will show how to install a medicine garden as a place of solace, contemplation and relaxation. Client involvement will be stressed as a community effort.

12:30-1:45PM ***Lunch and Networking***

2:00-3:00PM

Brooke Fina, LCSW & Tracy Clemans, PsyD, MSW

Treating Combat-Related PTSD with Prolonged Exposure Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy – An Introduction

The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize social workers with Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE) and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for combat-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These two treatments have the greatest empirical support for their use in treating PTSD. Additionally, the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Defense Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of PTSD recommends these two treatments as included in the primary interventions for combat-related PTSD. We will discuss treatment techniques with military populations and how to obtain training and certification in these therapies.

James Whitworth, PhD, LCSW, BCD

Use of Motivational Interviewing Techniques in Counseling Homeless Veterans

This presentation describes the expanding use of Motivation Interviewing (MI) approaches with homeless veterans. MI techniques are emerging as a favored tool with such veterans due to their client-centered focus and readiness for change approach. The presentation will summarize current research and

applications into the use of MI with these veterans along with describing an upcoming effort to train graduate social work students on the practice and use of MI with homeless veterans.

3:15-4:15PM

Moneque Walker-Pickett, JD, PhD

An Overview of Policy: Veteran's Treatment/Diversion Courts

Many court jurisdictions are experimenting with special court diversion programs designed specifically to address criminal offenders who are veterans. Many veterans who appear in court on low-level/misdemeanor offenses have similar service-related mental health issues, as well as substance abuse and cognitive functioning problems. Veteran courts' programs are currently emerging at the county and state level across the United States. The presentation will provide a general depiction of successful veteran court programs from multiple jurisdictions.

Tracy Clemens, PsyD, MSW

Brief interventions for suicidal military personnel and veterans

Suicide rates among active duty service members have steadily increased since 2002, and in 2008, the suicide rate among service members (20.2 per 10,000) surpassed that of the general U.S. population (19.2 per 10,000) (Kuehn, 2009) with 2012 marking the highest number of suicide deaths on record for all branches of service. In addition to increased suicide rates, mental health professionals are frequently providing care to service members and veterans who express suicidal thoughts and exhibit suicidal behaviors. As such, this presentation will provide information on "real world," clinically useful interventions that can be utilized with acutely suicidal and higher risk military personnel and veterans. Likewise, this presentation will focus on understanding "why" military personnel and veterans become suicidal, identifying the differences in suicide risk level, and how to tailor psychological interventions that can reduce the overall suicide risk of service members and veterans.

4:30-6:00PM ***Poster and Wine and Cheese Reception***

Clinical Social Work Track – Saturday June 7, 2014

9:00-10:00AM

Elisa Borah, PhD, MSW, Moderator

Military Families/Spouses Panel

A panel of military and veteran spouses will discuss the stressors associated with military life, as well as the resilience and strengths that they have acquired as a part of their service.

10:15-11:00AM

Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW & Julie Canfield, PhD, LICSW

Military Families and Solution Focused Therapy

A solution-focused and resilience-based approach to military families coping with unique grief reactions to veteran suicide will be presented. Examples of how social work clinicians can adapt solution-focused techniques with a bereaved military family including children will be delineated.

Valvincent A. Reyes, LCSW, BCD

Clinical Skills used In Assisting Combat Veterans with Moral Injury

Service members in the combat zone can be confronted with moral, ethical and spiritual challenges. Most are mitigated by military rules of engagement, effective leadership, combat training and high levels of unit

morale. However, some war zone experiences can transgress deeply held beliefs that characterize one's sense of humanity, fairness and respect for others. Transgressions can occur as a result of direct and indirect acts or witnessing atrocities committed by others. Transgressions that can create internal conflicts which shatter moral, ethical or spiritual beliefs are identified as Morally Injurious behaviors. This seminar will familiarize participants in the construct of Moral Injury in the context of war and provide clinical, social and spiritual interventions that can assist clinicians who treat Afghanistan and Iraq combat veterans.

11:30AM-12:30PM

Nadine Bean, PhD, Lawrence Davidson, MSW Candidate (May 2014), Ms Tracy Pennycuick, Ray Facundo, MSW, (via Skype), Gala True, PhD

Narrative Approaches (Journaling, Photovoice) in Teaching and Learning about Military Social Work

The use of the narrative approach for service members, veterans and their families (SMVF) dealing with trauma has a strong evidence base (Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy). The presenters will discuss using narrative tools (journaling, Photovoice) for learning about work with SMVF from the perspective of veterans, a professor in a MSW Program who teaches a course on working with SMVF, and Curator of From War to Home: Through the Veterans Lens.

April Steen, LCSW, CCTP

Advocating for Families of the Fallen by Joining Forces

This workshop will discuss the key concerns to be aware of when advocating for families of fallen service members. Several components will be addressed including relationship building, overcoming barriers, and partnering with other organizations.

12:30-1:45PM ***Lunch and Networking***

2:00 - 3:00PM

Adam Borah, MD

A Primer on Psychopharmacology Interventions in Military Populations for the Non-prescribing Provider

Psychopharmacology has a role in the treatment many behavioral health disorders as either a primary intervention, as a component of combination therapy, or as an augmenting strategy to address symptoms associated with a condition. However, special considerations must be taken into account when psychotropic medications are utilized in military populations and settings. Specific concerns should include: assessment of the impact of medications- alone and in combination- upon ability to perform duties; knowledge of a medications efficacy in the military population; awareness of medications that are specifically prohibited in areas designated as combat zones; and understanding of the potential implications of medications upon a soldier's career. Furthermore, because of the resource-limited nature of deployment medicine and the reliance upon interdisciplinary treatment teams, it is incumbent upon even non-prescribing behavioral health providers to have familiarity and basic working knowledge of these unique aspects related to utilization of psychopharmacology within the military. This presentation will serve as a practical introduction to the use of psychiatric medications for various behavioral health conditions common in military populations and will address the military specific issues associated with these prescriptions.

Patrick Foley, MSW, MA

The Metaphors they Carry: Exploring Veterans' Use of Metaphor in Describing Experiences of PTSD and the Implications for Social Work Practice

Service Members/Veterans often use language that is colorful and metaphoric. The ability to appreciate and make use of such language in social work practice is instrumental to establishing a strong therapeutic

alliance. This presentation will help social work professionals become more familiar with military language by identifying the metaphors that Service Members/Veterans use to describe their experience of PTSD and exploring how these metaphors can be used to promote healing, resiliency, and a survivor's mission.

3:15-4:00PM

Col. Ann Johnson, LTC Nathan Keller, LTC Jeffrey Yarvis, Dr. Adam Borah [VA speakers TBD]
Panel of DoD/VA Providers addressing Service Delivery with Soldier and Veterans

4:00-4:30PM ***Closing and Evaluations***

Social Work Educator & Veteran Higher Education Track – Saturday June 7, 2014

9:00-9:30AM

Lieutenant Colonel Nate Keller, PhD, LCSW: *Welcome & Keynote Speaker*

9:45-10:45AM

Katherine Selber, PhD, Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Dr. Mary Jo Biggs, Dr. Amy Russell, Mr. Dean Shaffer
Blending Dual Missions: Serving and Supporting Student Veterans in Higher Education while Training Social Workers to Work with Veterans

This presentation will cover the model developed since 2008 for working on campus to blend two distinct missions: providing services to student veterans focused on helping them successfully complete their degrees and the training of social work students to work with the population including working inside the campus environment and outside with veteran service organizations. Data from five years of working to develop this model will be shared both from a university and veteran perspective.

Nancy Poe, PhD, MSW

Unexpected Front Lines of Military Social Work: Non-clinical, Agency-Based Practice with BSW Generalists

CSWE and NASW made excellent inroads in addressing relevant issues related to "military social work" by establishing and publishing standards for graduate curricula (CSWE, 2010) and clinical practice (NASW, 2012). Meanwhile, military-affected persons are increasingly encountered in settings where the front-line service providers are BSW-generalists whose education and training contain no such mandates. This presentation explores educational guidelines appropriate for undergraduate programs and standards for agency-based, non-clinical military social work.

11:00AM-12:30PM

VETS IN HIGHER ED – Panel Discussion

Michael D. Pelts, MSW, Doctoral Candidate, Colleen M Boucher, MSW, LCSW, CCSW, CCH, & David Albright, PhD, MSW

Sexual and Gender Minority Veterans in Higher Education

Reports conservatively estimate there are more than 1,100,000 lesbian, gay or bisexual active or reserve military and veterans (Gates, 2004, Gates, 2010). Estimating the numbers of transgender military veterans is more difficult due to the risk of discharge and potential for discrimination (Shipherd, et al., 2012). However, according to data from the VA, veterans who meet the criteria for gender identity disorder is five times higher than the general population (Blosnich, et al., 2013). Referred to collectively as sexual and gender minorities (SGM), members of this population are enrolling in colleges and universities in large

numbers. We will review data on SGM student veterans; explore factors for faculty, advisors and administrators to consider; and explore implications for clinical social work practice with this population.

Rhondda Waddell, PhD, LCSW

Veteran Students as Agents of Change: Developing Self-Efficacy and Community Service as the New Mission

The intent of this presentation is to discuss community service and service-learning as a powerful learning pedagogy for use with veteran students. As a change agent veterans that engage in community service share a commonality in that they chose to take action fueled by passion and hard work to make a positive difference in the life of a community. Veteran students offer a unique lens to their campus and community based on their military experiences.

Bill DelGREGO Col (ret)

Success Factors for Veterans Transitioning into the Higher Education Environment

The post-911 era has resulted in a great number of veterans searching for the right method to integrate and transition themselves back into civilian life. This presentation will pose three questions as discussed in the outline. Ultimately, the presentation will illuminate that universities need to take a proactive and continuous and intentionally designed approach to engage veteran students so they acclimate to campus life and achieve their educational goals.

Dr. Jessica Strong

Working with Veterans in the Classroom

Service members, veterans, and their family members have unique strengths and needs, both within and without the classroom. This presentation is designed to help educators who will work with and teach this population to become sensitive to and understand those strengths and challenges, develop techniques to help these students succeed in the academic setting, and promote stimulating and sensitive classroom discussion among both military-affiliated and non-military-affiliated students.

12:30-1:45PM Lunch and Networking

2:00-3:30PM

VETERANS IN TRANSITION – A Round Table Discussion

Dr. Mark R. Marquez; Dr. Gregory E. Perkins

Future Trends in Military Social Work

Veterans in Transitions is such an important topic to Social Work that it warrants an ongoing social work-informed professional dialogue. This Roundtable discussion is intended to foster ongoing dialogue and networking with regards to the myriad of contributions social work can make to the field of Military Social Work and more specifically to Veterans in Transition. All social workers can benefit from this dialogue.

Mary Ann Forgey, PhD, LCSW and Sharon Young, PhD, LCSW

How Critical Are Courses in Military Social Work? An Analysis of Learning Outcomes

This presentation will describe how a military social work course was developed, what areas of knowledge were covered, and the pedagogical approaches used in the course. The presenters will describe the 50-item Military Social Work Knowledge Scale that was developed to evaluate learning in course participants. Outcomes of the pre and post quasi-experimental testing using this scale will be discussed.

Kari Fletcher, PhD, LICSW & David Abright, PhD, MSW

The State of Military Social Work Today: Is There Preparation, Presence, and Effectiveness Within Our Graduate-Level Programs?

Aside from limited descriptive information, little is known about how schools of social work have responded to the Joining Forces challenge to prepare graduate students to work with military-connected populations, to what degree programming is in place, and whether or not it is effective. Findings from an unfolding review on the effectiveness of military social work offerings on preparing students to work with military-connected populations will be presented. Current offerings and literature will be summarized.

John Jeanguenat MS Ed

Workshop for Local Veterans: How to Civilianize your Military Resume

One of the biggest hurdles for a person leaving the military is preparing a resume for a position in the civilian workforce. Military writing styles can be very confusing to employers, and the end result can be that a very qualified candidate is not selected for a job. This presentation will highlight some of the major errors that veterans make when compiling an Employment Portfolio as they leave the Military.

4:00-4:30PM ***Closing and Evaluations***