

Psychology Call
January 27, 2011
1-800-767-1750; access code 17400

1. VACO: OMHS and 10N reorganization – Dr. Zeiss
 - The VACO reorganization is designed to improve communication and collaboration while clarifying the roles and functions of program offices, policy, planning, and operations. OMHS and the new office of mental health operations will jointly host all national mental health calls, including the monthly Psychology Calls. Although no one has yet been named to lead the MH operations office in 10N, Dr. Schohn works in 10N in the Office of Health Care Transformation as the Initiative Lead for the mental health Operating Plan (Op Plan). Today’s call will include updates from Dr. Schohn regarding the Op Plan and from OMHS as well as updates about other psychology related activities.

2. 10N Perspective – Mary Schohn
 - The mental health Op Plan, *Improve Veterans’ Mental Health*, is one of the Secretary’s major transformational initiatives. It evolved from the Mental Health Strategic Plan and the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook. It is a transformational plan that, along with the plan to end homelessness, has high priority. It is monitored monthly by the Deputy Secretary of VA. It is scheduled to be completed by FY 2013 or 2014. We will communicate information that you need to know and your feedback is always encouraged. Please contact me or Dr. Zeiss with your questions and comments. The Op Plan has three components (Workstreams):
 - A. Complete the implementation of the Uniform MH Services Handbook and develop the structures that will ensure on-going success and evolution
 - i. Development of IT infrastructure
 - ii. Development of system improvement processes & feedback loops
 - iii. Support innovation through workforce development & training
 - B. Add public health and public outreach initiatives
 - i. Web-based self help strategies
 - ii. Expanding partnerships and community education
 - C. Implement the VA/DoD Integrated MH Strategies
 - i. Destigmatize MH help seeking
 - ii. On-going workforce development, training, and innovation

3. OMHS Perspective – Dr. Zeiss
 - I again want to acknowledge Jim Besyner’s death and to recognize the tremendous contributions he made to VA psychology. AVAPL has a memorial on their website and a link for making donations.
 - VA Psychiatry will be modeling new resources after those already in place for psychology, such as this monthly conference call. We all want to share the

same core professional values and to be united around a single mission, but it will be helpful to have discipline specific resources as well.

4. Division 18 Update – Dr. Ann Klee

- We are working with *Psychological Services*, the Journal of Division 18, and with the VA Liaisons and editors to put together a didactic seminar on March 3, 2011 at 3pm Eastern for all who are interested in academic writing and journal submissions. This will be open to all. If you have any issues/questions/feedback on getting more involved with Division 18 or the upcoming conference please contact Ann.

5. SMI Outreach Initiative – Dr. Jeff Burk

- A study was conducted by the Office of Medical Inspector (OMI) in conjunction with SMITREC. It identified Veterans with serious mental illness who had been lost to follow up, and efforts were made to re-engage them in VA care. Of those identified, 68% were located; and of those who were located, 72% were re-engaged in VA care. The mortality rate of those Veterans who did not return to VA care was 6.3%. By comparison, those who did return to care had a mortality rate of 0.5%. As a result of these significant findings, the recommendations of the OMI report will be implemented, eventually leading to a process that identifies Veterans lost to follow-up care on a near-real-time basis.

6. Psychology Qualification Standards Revision – Dr. Jeff Burk

- There are revisions pending that will expand eligibility for hire within VA to include graduates from programs with Canadian Psychological Association accreditation and that will recognize attaining the ABPP credential in lieu of completing an APA-approved internship program. Other changes include the addition of a GS-13 Clinician Investigator job assignment.

7. Psychology Leadership Conference – Dr. Lisa Kearney

- The conference is scheduled for May 18-21. Registration is currently open and hotel space is filling up. Please register and reserve your room ASAP. The deadline for poster submissions is February 1st. Information is available on the website: <http://conference.avapl.org/>

8. AVAPL – Dr. George Shorter

- We will have an election to fill the office of President-Elect in the wake of Jim Besyner's death. Nominations will be open from January 28th through February 4th and voting will take place the following week. Also, please continue to support the work of Dr. Peter Graves in creating a new e-newsletter.

9. Psychology Training Council – Dr. Bob Goldberg

- The VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC) will be conducting a two day, 14 hour training in Washington DC, April 7-8, 2011, for internship and post doctoral directors of the newly funded programs. Currently, there are monthly conference calls for post doctoral directors. The VAPTC is soliciting didactic materials from any VA/DoD guideline designated as a validated treatment for potential posting on the VAPTC SharePoint site. The Committee has drafted a statement on vertical supervision accepted comments through January 31. Work continues on diversity training initiatives and on developing a curriculum for rural education and mental health promotion.

10. Comments/ Questions/ Issues