



VA PSYCHOLOGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2023 VA Psychology Leadership Conference Presenter Biographies

Tanya Aaen, PhD

Dr. Aaen is a Clinical Psychologist serving as one of the National Mental Health Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultants (QIIC) in the Office of Mental Health Suicide Prevention (OMHSP). She first joined VA in 2004 where she completed her internship and then became a frontline provider with the Salem VAMC Center for Traumatic Stress. In 2010, became PCT Lead VA Northern California Healthcare System. She served in several roles: Program Manager for PTSD Services, EBP Coordinator, Psychology training faculty, VISN 21 PTSD Mentor, and Acting ACOS/MH. Dr. Aaen enjoys working with individuals and teams across mental health services, with focus on PTSD and Evidence Based Care.

Nate Askerlund, DNP, ARNP

Dr. Askerlund is a Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse who joined the VHA in 2013. He has had the opportunity to work in a variety of front line clinician and administrative positions. Prior to joining the team he served as the Chief Nurse for Mental Health and oversaw Behavioral Health Quality and Accreditation for the SLCVAHCS. Dr. Askerlund earned his Masters and Doctoral degree from The University of Utah in Salt Lake City. In 2021, he joined the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in VHA Central Office as a National Quality Improvement Implementation Consultant. Nate enjoys travel, gardening, and honing his cooking talents with his family in Northern UT.

Thema Bryant, PhD

Dr. Bryant is the 2023 president of the American Psychological Association, the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology with more than 120,000 members. Dr. Thema Bryant completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Duke University and her post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical Center's Victims of Violence Program. Upon graduating, she became the Coordinator of the Princeton University SHARE Program, which provides intervention and prevention programming to combat sexual assault, sexual harassment, and harassment based on sexual orientation. She is currently a tenured professor of psychology in the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University, where she directs the Culture and Trauma Research Laboratory. Her clinical and research interests center on interpersonal trauma and the societal trauma of oppression. She is past president of the Society for the Psychology of Women and a past APA representative to the United Nations. Dr. Bryant also served on the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology and the Committee on Women in Psychology.

The American Psychological Association honored her for Distinguished Early Career Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest in 2013. The Institute of Violence, Abuse and Trauma honored her with their media award for the film Psychology of Human

Trafficking in 2016 and the Institute honored her with the Donald Fridley Memorial Award for excellence in mentoring in the field of trauma in 2018. The California Psychological Association honored her for Distinguished Scientific Achievement in Psychology in 2015. She is the editor of the APA text *Multicultural Feminist Therapy: Helping Adolescent Girls of Color to Thrive*. She is one of the foundational scholars on the topic of the trauma of racism and in 2020, she gave an invited keynote address on the topic at APA. In 2020, the International Division of APA honored her for her International Contributions to the Study of Gender and Women for her work in Africa and the Diaspora. Dr. Bryant has raised public awareness regarding mental health by extending the reach of psychology beyond the academy and private therapy office through community programming and media engagement, including but not limited to *Headline News*, *National Public Radio*, and *CNN*.

Jesse Burgard, PsyD

Dr. Burgard is a licensed clinical psychologist and national *Senior Consultant for Suicide Prevention -Interventions* within VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Prior to this role, he was a regional *Chief Mental Health Officer* providing programmatic oversight of mental health care at VA facilities in VISN 10I. His 23-year VA career began with a VA pre-doctoral internship, VA post-doctoral fellowship (pain management), and seven years of direct patient care at VA facilities in OH, FL, and NC. Dr Burgard then served as departmental *Chief of Mental Health* at VA facilities in GA and TX before moving on to the regional role.

Dr. Burgard holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Florida, a Master of Science degree, and a Doctor of Psychology degree (PsyD) in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. He has held various academic appointments in schools of psychology and medicine. He is a 2007 graduate of the VA's Executive Career Field Program and a 2016 Senior Executive Fellowship in Leadership at the Harvard - Kennedy School of Government. He lives in Oakwood, OH with his wife, 3 sons, a golden retriever & cat.

Tamara Campbell, MD

Dr. Campbell is responsible for the development, implementation, and operational integrity of the VHA programs that provide Veterans with access to a full continuum of integrated mental health care and suicide prevention services. Key services include immediate crisis intervention through the Veterans Crisis Line, facility-based, same-day services for emergent needs, sustained access to a variety of services to support wellness, and a broad array of web-based resources for Veterans, family members, and community partners. Dr. Campbell is a mission-driven leader committed to engage Veterans in lifelong health, well-being, and resilience.

Dr. Campbell is a United States Air Force Veteran. She attained her Medical Degree and Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology from Wright State University. She completed Clinical Psychology Internship at Wright Patterson Airforce Base and General Psychiatry Residency University Hospitals Cincinnati Ohio where she served as Chief Resident. She completed advanced training in Hypnotherapy at Menninger Clinic. She has a certification in Advanced Psychodynamic Psychotherapy from the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute. She is a

Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc and she is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. She is past president of the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association.

Maggie Chartier, PsyD, MPH

Dr. Chartier has served as the Director of Program Operations for the Specialty Care Program Office (SCPO) since February 2022. Prior to this position, Dr. Chartier served as the Acting Director of Clinical Operations for Specialty Care Program Office from March 2020 through February 2022. She also served as the Deputy Director for the HIV, Hepatitis, and Related Conditions Programs (HHRC) in SCPO starting in September 2015. Prior to that she was the National Public Health Clinical Psychologist for HHRC and a Staff Psychologist in the HIV and Liver Clinics at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. Dr. Chartier completed her MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Washington, Seattle and her PsyD from the PGSP-Stanford Consortium in Palo Alto, California.

Lindsay Childress-Beatty, JD, PhD, CAE

Dr. Childress-Beatty is the Interim Ethics Director at the American Psychological Association (APA). She has been involved with ethics at APA for over 20 years, first as Deputy General Counsel, then leading the adjudication team in the Ethics Office, before becoming the interim director in March of 2017. The APA Ethics Committee is involved in both the professional ethics of psychologists as well as organizational ethics. She is currently guiding the association through its most recent revision of its Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (the “APA Ethics Code”), one of the most widely cited professional ethics codes among associations. The APA Ethics Code is also used by a majority of U.S. psychology licensing boards. Lindsay is also the current Past Chair of the American Society of Association Executives (“ASAE”) Ethics Committee. As Chair, she led a 2022 revision of ASAE’s aspirational Standards of Conduct for association professionals/executives, consultants, and industry partners to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Lindsay presents on ethics at national and international psychology conferences, as well as association, medical and multidisciplinary legal conferences, and provides consultations on psychological and organizational ethics. She is a co-author on a chapter on ethics in the fourth edition of Professional Practices in Association Management (Susan Radwan, Executive Editor). She has a Master of Philosophy degree in International Relations from Cambridge University (UK), a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University.

Kaily Clark, PsyD

Dr. Clark is a licensed Psychologist in the state of Colorado and has been serving our Nation’s Veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) since October 2012. Dr. Clark has a unique skillset and expertise in the area of suicide prevention. She currently serves as the V19 CRH Supervisor of the Suicide Prevention 2.0 (SP 2.0) Clinical Telehealth Program where she oversees the implementation and sustainment of this program. With her team, she offers specific evidenced-based treatments for Veteran’s at higher risk for suicide, while also providing structural, conceptual, and practical foundational components for her team’s and

Veteran's success, in the area of suicide prevention. Dr. Clark is the VA Psychologist Leadership Conference (VAPLC) Chair for 2022 and 2023. She is currently also a national consultant for Problem Solving Therapy for Suicide Prevention (PST-SP) and Advanced Safety Planning Intervention (ASPI). Previously, Dr. Clark worked as part of the Clinical Core at VA's V19 Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention where she participated in the national implementation of several national VA suicide prevention programs, such as REACH VET and SPED. Her first role at VA was as a Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the Cheyenne VAMC.

Jay L. Cohen, PhD

Dr. Cohen has served with the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2006. In his current position as Chief of Staff for the Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention (OMHSP), Dr. Cohen is responsible for the administrative management and business operations, including oversight of a \$600 million plus budget, strategic action planning, budget and resource management, and office modernization. Prior to that, Dr. Cohen worked within OMHSP as a Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant. He previously served as Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Mental Health at the Battle Creek (MI) VA Medical Center. Dr. Cohen began his VA career as a Local Recovery Coordinator at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit, MI. Dr. Cohen earned his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Wayne State University in 2006. He is a member of APA (Div. 18), AVAPL, and the American College of Healthcare Executives, has published more than 20 scholarly articles in academic and professional journals and is a licensed clinical psychologist in the State of Michigan. Dr. Cohen loves to watch and play sports, practice kung fu, sing karaoke, and cite movie quotes.

Claire Collie, PhD

Dr. Collie is the National Mental Health Director for Quality Assurance and Improvement, leading the Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant team and the OMHSP Implementation Team. She joined OMHSP in 2012 as a QIIC and the Director of the EBP Coordinator Program. She joined VA in 2002 at the Durham VA Medical Center. Dr. Collie's interests include implementation of EBPs, clinical practice guidelines, and evidence-based practice. She chairs the Advisory Steering Committee overseeing development of the American Psychological Association's Clinical Practice Guidelines and has served on the update workgroups for the VA/DoD CPGs for Major Depressive Disorder and PTSD.

Chanda Corbett, PhD

Dr. Corbett has served as a Clinical Psychologist at the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Community Living Center providing individual, couples, and family culturally responsive counseling services, training, and supervision since 2014. Dr. Corbett is the DC VA MC Mental Health Service Line Diversity Committee Chair, and member of the VISN 5 Dementia Committee representative, VISN 5 Integrated Clinical Community - Mental Health Team, VISN 5 Geriatric and Extended Care Community of Practice, and since 2019 VISN 5 Geriatric Mental Health Champion. She graduated from the 2022 Supervisor Ready program and VISN 5 Leadership Development Institute in 2016.

Kathleen Darchuk, PhD, ABPP

Dr. Darchuk is a board-certified Clinical Health Psychologist serving as a National Mental Health Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant. Prior to her role with OMHSP, Dr. Darchuk served as a Supervisory Psychologist at the Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia, MO, where she oversaw program management of Behavioral Medicine Services, Primary Care Mental Health Integration, and Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Programs. Throughout her career, she has pursued interests in program development and quality improvement within healthcare systems. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio University in 2007 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in 2009.

Dominick DePhilippis, PhD

Dr. DePhilippis is a licensed clinical psychologist with more than 30 years of experience as a clinician, researcher, and educator, predominantly, in the field of addictions treatment. He earned his Ph.D in Clinical Psychology in 1992 from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, PA. He serves as the Deputy National Mental Health Director for Substance Use Disorders (SUD) in the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He has particular interests and expertise in expanding access to evidence-based SUD treatment and measurement-based SUD care. He is a nationally recognized subject matter expert in Contingency Management (CM) whose work in implementing CM has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and featured in media reports in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Scientific American, and National Public Radio. He is a trainer in Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders. Dr. DePhilippis also is a Member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers.

Mary T. Dorritie, PhD

Dr. Dorritie is currently a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) Manager, Women's Mental Health Champion, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy National Consultant at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Previous positions include Acting Team Lead of the PTSD program, Chief of the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans Program, and CBOC Mental Health Program Manager, at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, FL. She completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Buffalo. She served as an Active Duty Army psychologist from 2002-2008, including a combat deployment to Iraq.

Maurice Endsley, Jr., PhD

Dr. Endsley obtained a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Missouri – St. Louis with an emphasis in Behavioral Medicine. He has specialized training in health psychology in primary care settings and psycho-oncology. He is currently serving as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program Manager for VA Northern California. His interests include multicultural psychology with a focus on the impact of coping with race-based stress on mental and physical health. He was co-lead for a VA Innovation and VA Office of Health Equity supported project to spread a race-based stress and trauma group based intervention

to support Veterans of Color. He has provided numerous trainings and talks on the impact of racism on mental and physical health, including interventions to improve health equity.

Malinda Fairbanks, LCSW

Malinda Fairbanks, LCSW, earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Social Work from the University of Wyoming. Ranging from direct care provider to Sheridan's first LCSW in the ACOS for Mental Health role, Ms. Fairbanks has enjoyed working in the clinical and administrative domains, growing the strength and complexity of mental health services offered in the VA for over 14 years. In 2021, Ms. Fairbanks transitioned to OMHSP, and became the first LCSW to join the Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant team. Malinda lives with her family on their ranch outside Sheridan Wyoming overlooking the Bighorn Mountains.

Mary A. Fernandes, PhD

Dr. Fernandes is a Clinical Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow at the Washington D.C. VAMC. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Georgia State University. Mary has served in several professional leadership roles, including as Past-Chair of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students, member of the APA Council of Representatives, Council Leadership Team, and Board of Directors. She also served as an Executive Committee Member for the APA Summit on the Future of Practice and Education. Mary has a strong interest in mental health policy. Her contributions to this presentation are from positions of privilege and historical marginalization.

Rani Hoff, PhD, MPH

Dr. Hoff received both her MPH in chronic disease epidemiology and her PhD in mental health services research and psychiatric epidemiology from Yale University School of Public Health. Dr. Hoff serves as Director of the Northeast Program Evaluation Center (NEPEC), responsible for national program evaluation of mental health services in the Department of Veterans Affairs nationally. NEPEC is located within the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Department of Veterans Affairs and also oversees several national clinical and quality improvement initiatives in VA, including the Psychotropic Drug Safety Initiative and the Measurement Based Care Initiative. She is also the Director of the Evaluation Division of the National Center for PTSD.

At the national level, Dr. Hoff advises senior leadership within the VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and other areas of VA Central Office regarding VA performance with respect to mental health services and programming. As Director of NEPEC she directly or indirectly oversees program evaluation for acute inpatient and residential treatment programs, vocational services for Veterans with serious mental illness, intensive community mental health care and day programs, specialized PTSD services, team-based care in outpatient settings, community-based interventions for suicide prevention, tele-mental health services for suicide prevention and services provided to women Veterans. As part of evaluation, she is responsible for overseeing the collection and analyses of data, construction of performance monitoring and performance measures, data-based decision making tools for

leadership at all levels of VA and partnering with QI experts to identify and improve mental health services at all VA facilities. She has also served on several advisory committees to the VA on the mental health needs of female veterans, with particular attention to military sexual trauma. She also co-chaired and is now a member the Behavioral Health Council for the VA transition to the Oracle/Cerner electronic medical record, a group that ensures that the medical record is built and functions well for VA mental health providers and programs.

Some of her recent work has focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. As a member of the OMHSP DEI Steering Committee (DEISC) she contributes to the extensive efforts of the Office in the DEI space. She also co-chairs the Data and Disparities sub-committee of the DEISC, which focuses on the development of guidance, tools and data identifying disparities in access to, and utilization of, mental health services; consultation for local facilities charged with identifying disparities and addressing them; and providing support for programs needing to meet the January 2023 Joint Commission guidelines on social determinants of health and health disparities.

Kelly B. Hruska, MPA

Kelly became in the Government Relations Director of the National Military Family Association in 2015. In this role, she leads the Association's advocacy for the families of the eight Uniformed Services and monitors the range of issues relevant to their quality of life. She began her work with the Association in 2007 as a Government Relations Deputy Director and served as Outreach Coordinator in 2014. Kelly has represented military families on several committees and task forces for offices and agencies of the Department of Defense (DoD) and military services. She serves as the Families/Survivors Vice President of The Military Coalition (TMC), an organization of 35 military-related associations. She is also co-chair of TMC's Survivor and Membership and Nomination Committees. In 2008-2011, she represented NMFA on the first DoD Military Family Readiness Council.

Prior to joining NMFA, Kelly worked to develop the next generation of entrepreneurs as the chief of staff of CONNECT and the chief of staff of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. A Navy spouse for 29 years, Ms. Hruska has served in various volunteer leadership positions in civilian and military community organizations including COMPASS mentor, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, The Girl Scouts, and various Navy Spouses Clubs. She was also appointed to the City Commission on Children and Youth by the Corpus Christi City Council. Kelly is a recipient of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in recognition of her work on behalf of service members and their families at Navy Region Center Singapore. She was also named to the 2019 HillVets 100 for her work to eliminate the Widow's Tax. A Pennsylvania native, Kelly earned her B.A. in Political Science from La Salle University and a Master of Public Administration from Shippensburg University. Ms. Hruska and her husband, Captain Jim Hruska, USN (Ret) reside in Annandale, Virginia with their daughter, Emily.

About the National Military Family Association: The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit dedicated to serving all military families. Since 1969, NMFA has worked

to strengthen and protect millions of families through its advocacy and programs. They provide spouse scholarships, camps for military kids, and retreats for families reconnecting after deployment and for the families of the wounded, ill, or injured. NMFA serves the families of the currently serving, veteran, retired, wounded or fallen members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the USPHS and NOAA. To get involved or to learn more, visit www.MilitaryFamily.org.

Asale Hubbard, PhD

Dr. Hubbard is the Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the San Francisco VA Health Care System. Dr. Hubbard earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Georgia. She completed her clinical internship at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas where she focused on substance use disorders treatment, inpatient/outpatient evidence-based trauma focused treatment, and general outpatient psychology. Dr. Hubbard completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the San Francisco VA in the substance use and co-occurring disorders treatment emphasis area. Upon completion of fellowship, Dr. Hubbard served as a staff psychologist and African American specialist at the Stanford University-Vaden Health Center. She is the PI on a qualitative research study on racial trauma and black veterans funded by the Heart and Armor Foundation. Dr. Hubbard serves as a national consultant on racial trauma groups for racial/ethnic minority Veterans.

Monique Hunter, PhD

Dr. Hunter is a licensed clinical psychologist and Section Chief of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services at the Atlanta VA Health Care System. In this role, she oversees operations of the Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, Mental Health Intensive Case Management, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center. Her work with these programs allows her to pursue her professional interests, which include ensuring that individuals belonging to marginalized groups have access to high-quality care that promotes their overall health and wellbeing. Dr. Hunter has been with the Atlanta VA since 2007, when she joined the team as a psychologist working in the General Mental Health outpatient clinics. Since then, she has served in multiple administrative and leadership roles, including Local Recovery Coordinator, Deputy Chief of Mental Health Service Line, Acting Program Manager of Whole Health System, and recently completing a 7-month detail as Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health. Throughout each of these experiences, Dr. Hunter has been actively engaged in quality and performance improvement, external accreditation, and optimizing outcomes for Veterans. She is also an administrative surveyor for CARF, International and maintains faculty appointments as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at both Emory School of Medicine and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Hunter is engaged in numerous professional development pursuits to strengthen her contributions to the VA health care system and beyond. For instance, she has completed VHA Behavioral Health Leadership Training and is participating in the Emory School of Medicine New Clinical Leaders program. She is also a participant leader of the APA

Leadership Institute for Women Psychologists. Dr. Hunter currently serves as co-chair of APA Division 18 Education and Training Committee.

Joy Ilem

Joy Ilem, a service-disabled Army veteran, serves as the national legislative director of DAV. She has been a member of DAV's legislative team for over 25 years and works at the organization's National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C. In her role as legislative director, Ms. Ilem is the principal advocate and spokesperson for DAV before Congress on behalf of the more than 1 million member organization and leads the advancement of DAV's policy objectives to promote and defend reasonable and responsible legislation to assist service-disabled veterans, their families and caregivers nationwide.

Gayle Y. Iwamasa, PhD, HSPP

Dr. Iwamasa is National Director, Inpatient Mental Health Services, VA Central Office, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP), Department of Veterans Affairs. In this role, she serves as VHA's subject matter expert on inpatient mental health services. Dr. Iwamasa recently served as Lead, Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee, for the Department of Defense (DoD). This important Committee made 127 recommendations to the DoD to improve suicide prevention services for our nation's warriors. Dr. Iwamasa co-leads OMHSP's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts and serves on VHA's DEI Committee. She has received numerous awards and honors including the Distinguished Contribution Award from the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA), the Emerging Professional Award from American Psychological Association (APA) Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues), and has Fellow status in APA Divisions 12, 18 and 45, and the AAPA. She received the VA Secretary's Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Award in May 2020.

Dr. Iwamasa has held multiple leadership positions including President of the AAPA, chair of APA's Board of Convention Affairs, vice chair of APA's Committee on Women in Psychology, co-founder of the Association of VA Psychology Leader's Psychologists of Color and Allies Special Interest Group and is currently faculty for APA's Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology. She is Past Chair, VA Section of APA's Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service. Dr. Iwamasa is a national and international presenter. She has numerous peer reviewed journal publications and has co-edited several books including, *Culturally Responsive Cognitive Behavior Therapy: Practice and Supervision, 2nd Edition*, with her colleague Dr. Pam Hays. She has been a licensed clinical psychologist for 30 years and continues to provide clinical services when time allows.

Arnold H. James, PhD

Dr. James is a Clinical Psychologist in Home Base Primary Care at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) in New Orleans. He received his education from The University of South Carolina: a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master of Public Health in Health Education and Promotion, and his Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical-Community Psychology. He was affiliated with the Tulane School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral

Sciences for over 20 years as an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, in the Psychology Section. Dr. James has completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy from the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. James has recently been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar for the 2020-2023 cohort.

Kaela Joseph, PhD

Dr. Joseph (they/she) a Staff Psychologist, Women Veterans Program Manager, Advanced Psychology Research Fellowships Training Director, and Director and Co-Founder of the Trans Health Clinic in the San Francisco VA Health Care System. Nationally, within VA, Dr. Joseph serves as the Co-Lead for the Policy and Guidelines Workstream of the Transgender Care Coordination (TCC) Integrated Project Team (IPT) and Directs the LGBTQ+ Community of Practice ECHO under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention ECHO. In 2022, Dr. Joseph was a recipient of the 10th Annual VA Secretary's Diversity Equity & Inclusion Award. Outside of VA, Dr. Joseph supervises part-time, and is serving as an interim Co-Director, at the Gronowski Center Sexual and Gender Identities Clinic. Dr. Joseph recently published a book, *Fandom Acts of Kindness: A Heroic Guide to Activism, Advocacy, and Doing Chaotic Good*, which details ways to engage in activism and social movements through popular culture fandom. Dr. Joseph regular presents on fan activism and the psychology of fandoms at comic-cons and other venues. Dr. Joseph personally identifies as queer and nonbinary, and as a person with disabilities.

Lisa K. Kearney, Ph.D., ABPP

Dr. Kearney serves as the Secretary's Senior Advisor for Health, ensuring implementation of VA's top priorities in healthcare through coordination across the enterprise and work with other federal agencies and the White House. Dr. Kearney previously served as the Executive Director of the Veterans Crisis Line, where she oversaw the largest national crisis line in the United States, led the successful launch of 988 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and shared responsibility for the day-to-day operations of VA's Suicide Prevention Program, implementing VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018) and the White House Strategy for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide (2021) as part of a full public health approach. Dr. Kearney previously served as the Associate Director of Education at the VA Center for Integrated Healthcare and served as part of the executive team in the VA Office of Mental Health Operations (OMHO) as the Senior Consultant for Technical Assistance, overseeing mental health policy implementation through quality improvement site visits across the VA system.

At the local level, Dr. Kearney served as the Chief of Psychology, Assistant Chief, Director of Training, and Director of Primary Care Mental Health Integration at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Dr. Kearney is also a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health San Antonio and Editor for *Psychological Services*. She has received the following recent national awards: the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL) Antonette Zeiss Distinguished Leadership Award (2021), American Psychological Association (APA) Excellence in Clinical Health Psychology Award (2020), and Association of Psychologists

in Academic Health Centers Outstanding Mid-Career Professional Contributions Award (2019). She has over 40 publications in the areas of integrated primary care, suicide prevention, mental health business operations, and training of mental health providers. Dr. Kearney is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a PhD in Counseling Psychology and is board certified in Clinical Health Psychology.

John W. Klocek, PhD

Dr. Klocek is a licensed clinical psychologist and has served as a National Mental Health Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant (QIIC) in OMHSP since 2016. Prior to OMHSP, he held various roles in the Central Texas VA including Staff Psychologist, Lead Psychologist, and Core Leader of the Treatment Development and Outcomes Core and Acting Deputy Director at the VISN 17 Center of Excellence. John was detailed as the Acting Director of Field Operations for the Suicide Prevention Program from 3/20 - 11/20. He also held full-time faculty positions at the University of Montana (1997-2005) and Baylor University (2013-2016).

Cheryl Lowman, PhD

Dr. Lowman currently serves as the Chief Mental Health Officer in Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 5 where she oversees mental health operations for VA Medical Centers throughout West Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia. Dr. Lowman received her Undergraduate and Doctorate Degree from the University of Delaware and State University of New York at Albany, and completed her internship at Baltimore VA. She joined the VA as a Clinical Psychologist in 1991 and has continued at VA, motivated by a longstanding desire and dedication to improve access to high-quality mental health care for Veterans. She enjoys shaping public health policy and serves as a mentor and fellowship supervisor in Healthcare Administration and Leadership in her VISN. She contributes actively to the profession of psychology within VA through her membership with the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders. Dr. Lowman has published several overviews of the VA Mental Health Care System, and presents regularly on Mental Health Topics.

Mike Martin, PhD

Dr. Martin is the acting Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health at the Atlanta VA Health Care System. He has been the Psychology Executive at the Atlanta VA Healthcare System since 2014 and is an Assistant Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Emory University School of Medicine. He previously served as a General Mental Health Program Manager, Director of Psychology Training, and first Director of the PCMHI program at the Atlanta VA, among other duties. He holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from Auburn University and completed his internship in 1998-1999 at the Central Alabama Veterans Healthcare System in Tuskegee, Alabama. He holds a BA in Psychology from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He returned to the VA system in 2007 after having worked as a rehabilitation and neuropsychologist in a state rehabilitation hospital and working as the clinical director of a residential crisis unit in community mental health. He Chaired the VA Psychology Leadership Conference Planning Committee in 2018 and 2019. He is active with AVAPL as a mentor and he is a member of the Mentorship Committee. He is

also a member of the Advocacy Special Interest Group. Dr. Martin is passionate about advancing the field of psychology in the VA and especially about increasing representation among psychologists from traditionally under-represented groups.

Bridget B. Matarazzo, PsyD

Dr. Matarazzo is the Director of Clinical Services at VA's Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention. She is Co-Director of VA's Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program and leads a team that provides implementation support for multiple national VA suicide prevention programs, such as the VA Suicide Risk Identification Strategy. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, School of Medicine.

Megan McCarthy, PhD

Dr. McCarthy serves the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Health Care System and its Veterans as the Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health. Previously she has served as Deputy Director, National Care Coordination and Field Operations at the Veteran Crisis Line, and the National Deputy Director of VA's Suicide Prevention Program, where she focused on the development of VA's evidence-based public health approach to Suicide Prevention, including lethal means safety interventions. Dr. McCarthy completed her B.A. at Stanford University, her Ph.D. in psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and her fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

Charlotte M. McCloskey, PhD

Dr. McCloskey is a Local Recovery Coordinator for Mental Health and a Staff Psychologist at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. She recently assisted with national efforts for Suicide Prevention for Native American Veterans. She is the daughter, granddaughter, niece, and cousin of many Native American (Lakota) Veterans and is personally and professionally grateful to give back to those who have served.

Joanna Legerski McCormick, PhD

Dr. McCormick is the Program Manager of Psychology Training Programs, Staff Psychologist in Outpatient Geriatric Mental Health, and Deputy Chief of Psychology for Montana VA Health Care System. Dr. McCormick received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Child, Adolescent, and Family from the University of Montana, Missoula in 2010. By October 2012, she joined Montana VA as a staff psychologist at the Kalispell CBOC. Through VA and Office of Rural Health funding for the VA Geriatric Scholars program, she re-specialized in Geropsychology. Dr. McCormick currently provides individual, family, and group psychotherapy; psychological assessment; and professional consultation at Fort Harrison Medical Center. She is the program coordinator for the Montana VA Geriatric Mental Health Clinic offering geropsychology services and interdisciplinary care consultation. In addition, Dr. McCormick also leads the accredited psychology internship training program for Montana VA and is actively involved in supporting clinical training of social work, professional counselors, and nurse practitioners within Behavioral Health. She is passionate about advocating for and teaching professionals on rural mental health issues, individual and

family trauma, PTSD, family adjustment to life changes, geriatric mental health, and evidence-based therapies.

Hon. Denis R. McDonough

The Honorable Denis Richard McDonough was nominated by President Biden to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. McDonough's nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate on February 8th, 2021, and he was sworn in the following day as the 11th Secretary of Veterans Affairs. On January 27, 2021, during his confirmation hearing, Secretary McDonough testified to Congress, "I will work tirelessly to build and restore VA's trust as the premier agency for ensuring the well-being of America's Veterans. After all, there is no more sacred obligation nor noble undertaking than to uphold our promises to our Veterans, whether they came home decades ago or days ago."

Secretary McDonough served in the Obama Administration as the 26th White House Chief of Staff from February 2013 to January 2017. In that role, Mr. McDonough managed the White House staff and worked across the cabinet to advance the Obama-Biden agenda, confronted management issues facing the federal government, and devised and enforced goals, plans, and performance standards to preserve the Obama-Biden Administration's reputation for effective, ethical operations. Prior to his role as Chief of Staff, Mr. McDonough was Principal Deputy National Security Advisor from October 2010 to January 2013. He also served as the Chief of Staff of the National Security Staff and as the Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications. He chaired the National Security Council's Deputies Committee, leading the multiagency team to address complex challenges including crisis management and national security policymaking. And throughout his service in the White House, Secretary McDonough helped lead the Obama-Biden administration's work on behalf of military families and Veterans.

Before his eight-year tenure in the White House, Secretary McDonough served in senior leadership and policymaking positions in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Professional Staff Member on the International Relations Committee and in the U.S. Senate for Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Senator Ken Salazar. Since his White House tenure, Secretary McDonough was Professor of the Practice of Public Policy at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, Senior Advisor and Senior Principal at the Markle Foundation, and on the board of directors of the National Democratic Institute, the Tent Partnership for Refugees, and the SAFE Project, a national nonprofit working to end the nation's catastrophic addiction epidemic. Secretary McDonough grew up in Minnesota in a family of 11 children, graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and earned his master's degree from Georgetown University. Secretary McDonough and his wife, Kari, have three children.

Suzanne McGarity, PhD

Dr. McGarity is a Clinical Psychologist in the Rocky Mountain MIRECC where she serves multiple roles. She provides technical assistance as a member of the VA Risk ID and SPED implementation team and consultation services for the Rocky Mountain MIRECC's local and

national Suicide Risk Management consultation program. She is also a consultant and subject matter expert in the area of Safety Planning and supervises postdoctoral fellows in group-based safety planning services on the Rocky Mountain Regional VA's inpatient psychiatric unit.

Katherine B. McGuire, MSc

Katherine B. McGuire is APA's first Chief Advocacy Officer, responsible for leading a seasoned team of policy and government relations experts with responsibility for the association's public policy agenda and regulatory engagement on a range of priorities. With a sophisticated integrated advocacy approach that is multipronged and includes local, federal and state strategies, she directs cross-functional teams driving evidence-based solutions addressing health equity, increasing access to mental and behavioral health services, strengthening the psychology workforce, and building federal investments in behavioral research. She also chairs the Psychology PAC.

John McQuaid, PhD

Dr. McQuaid is the Chief of Psychology at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Oregon, and his internship and postdoctoral fellowship at UCSF. Previous roles included serving as the Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Health Equity and ACOS for Mental Health at the San Francisco VA Health Care System. He also serves as a Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (DPBS), Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California, San Francisco.

Rebecca Melrose, PhD

Dr. Melrose is the Deputy Division Chief for subspecialty care at the Greater Los Angeles VA, responsible for supervising the Geriatric Mental Health and Neuropsychology Sections. She provides geropsychology and neuropsychology services to Veterans in the West LA GeriPACT and the WLA Memory & Neurobehavior Clinic. She is an active member of the WLA Geropsychology Training Program. She has worked to increase the number of geriatric mental health providers at the facility serving both inpatient and outpatient settings, with the goal of enhancing access to subspecialty care at all touch points that serve older Veterans.

Katharine Mocchiola, PsyD

Dr. Mocchiola (she/her) has worked in VA Health Care for 16+ years, and currently serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Champion for VISN 1, Deputy Chief of Mental Health at VA Maine, and Interim Program Manager for PCMH at VA Maine. She received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology/Human Development from Connecticut College, a Master's degree in Clinical/Community Psychology from Norfolk State University, and a Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the Virginia Consortium Program. She specializes in trauma and recovery, evidence-based treatments, mindfulness, and insomnia, and her work centers around promoting resiliency, building community, and advocating for the underrepresented.

Matt Moore, PhD

Dr. Moore is a Clinical Psychologist who has spent his career in a variety of clinical and administrative positions at VA. He earned his PhD from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. From his early days at VA working in the clinical frontlines, his focus has consistently been on improving mental health care for Veterans. Taking on a variety of roles in support of that desire by advancing to the management of VA outpatient clinics and overseeing facility wide mental health services. In 2015, he joined OMHSP as a National MH QIIC.

Savana M. Naini, MA

Savana Naini is a doctoral candidate at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is completing her psychology doctoral internship at the APA-Accredited Psychology Training Program at the Washington DC VA Medical Center with an emphasis in clinical neuropsychology. Having developed an interest in leadership during graduate school, her dissertation research focused on the experiences of Women of Color psychologists in leadership positions, examining the relationship between identity and leadership development. Savana identifies as a biracial, Iranian American, second-generation immigrant, cisgender, able-bodied, woman. She aspires to contribute the diversification, representation, and advancement of women in leadership to create a more equitable future.

Carla Nappi, PhD

Dr. Nappi joined the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) as a Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant (QIIC) in March 2022. Dr. Nappi is a clinical psychologist with a career focus on data-informed process improvement, implementation of evidenced-based interventions, and program development. Dr. Nappi's clinical expertise is in the treatment of suicidal behavior and disorders of severe emotion dysregulation. Dr. Nappi trained at the VA as a psychology intern in 2007 and a postdoctoral fellow in 2008. She has held a variety of roles across her VA career, including front line clinician, program manager, research investigator, training director and, most recently, Chief of Mental Health Service at a rural VA facility.

Sarra Nazem, PhD

Dr. Nazem is the Deputy Director at the National Center for PTSD Dissemination & Training Division. Dr. Nazem completed internship at the VA Palo Alto, earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University, and completed a two-year advanced fellowship at the Rocky Mountain MIRECC. Dr. Nazem previously served as the Psychology Training Director at the Charlie Norwood VAMC and was a Clinical Investigator at the Rocky Mountain MIRECC. Dr. Nazem has been involved with several national committees/workgroups, including the VAPTC Administrative Committee, and currently provides mentorship for AVAPL early career psychologists.

Zina V. Peters, PsyD, MPH

Dr. Peters is a full-time licensed clinical psychologist serving Veterans in the role of Health Behavior Coordinator at the Michael E. DeBakey VAMC in Houston, TX. In her role, she leads trainings for PACT clinicians including Motivational Interviewing and TEACH for Success,

supports the MOVE! program and leads the behavioral counseling tobacco cessation program. At the VA, she serves on and chairs multiple committees including Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Committee, Career Development and Psychology Recognitions Committee, and the Veteran Health Education and Information Committee.

She is a graduate of Howard University where she earned a bachelor of Science degree in the area of Biology, a graduate of The George Washington University where she earned her first masters in Public Health. She later obtained her second masters and a doctorate from Midwestern University in Psychology. She has trained and worked in the field of public health at some of the nation's premier health organizations including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Her clinical area of interest includes health psychology, health equity and social justice, community and vicarious trauma, and behavioral health change.

Stacey Pollack, PhD

Dr. Pollack is a clinical psychologist and is the National Mental Health Director of Program Policy Implementation in OMHSP at VACO. She is part of the OMHSP Executive Leadership Team and has worked in the office for approximately twelve years, and in VA for 23 years. Dr. Pollack works in the areas of PTSD, Disability Evaluations, Mental Health training and serves as the Lead Psychologist. Prior to coming to VACO, Dr. Pollack worked as the Director of the Trauma Services Program at the DC VAMC. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maryland and her Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia.

Stacy Pommer, LMSW

Stacy Pommer, LMSW currently serves as a National Affiliations Officer for the Associated Health Education (AHE) section of Veterans Health Administration's Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). Since 2013 she has held multiple roles in OAA, including Health System Specialist (Medical/Dental), National Affiliations Officer, Acting Team Lead, and Associate Director (AHE) overseeing clinical training programs for over 60 health professions. She holds a Master's of Science in Social Work from Columbia University and completed her social work clinical training at NY Harbor Healthcare System (Manhattan VAMC). Between 2007 and 2013 Ms. Pommer served in clinical roles at the Manhattan VAMC in both the Primary Care Mental Health Integration and in the Visual Impairment Services Team programs (she is legally blind herself).

Jennifer Presnall-Shvorin, PhD

Dr. Presnall-Shvorin is the Assistant Chief of Mental Health at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. She also currently serves as the chair of the Disruptive Behavior Committee and of the Multicultural Diversity Subcommittee of the Bay Pines VA Psychology Training Committee. She holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Kentucky, where her research focused on assessment of personality disorders from the Five-Factor Model perspective. She completed her clinical internship in the PTSD track at VA Connecticut, West

Haven. During her postdoctoral fellowship with the War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) at VA New Jersey HCS (East Orange, NJ) she contributed to a clinical research study of Problem Solving Treatment for Gulf War Illness. She was previously the president of the Early Career division of the New York State Psychological Association and the chair of AVAPL Early Career Psychologists SIG, and is currently serving as the Secretary of AVAPL.

Josephine Ridley, PhD

Dr. Ridley is a licensed clinical psychologist, and currently serves as Assistant Chief of Psychology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and owner of Ridley Behavioral Health, LLC private practice. Dr. Ridley Co-Chairs the Cleveland VA Institutional Review Board (IRB) and is Co-Editor of the international *British Journal of Guidance and Counselling*. She serves as Co-Chair of the Cleveland VA's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access Advisory Board to the Executive Leadership Team. In addition, she is Program Director for the Cleveland VA's Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Residency, founding chair of the Cleveland VA's Psychology Service Diversity Committee, Co-Lead of the Mentoring Subcommittee for the AVAPL Psychologists of Color & Allies SIG, and Vice President of the Association of Black Psychologists, Greater Cleveland Chapter. She is a consultant for the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and is certified by the Zero Suicide Institute as a Master Trainer of Trainers in Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk Workshop. Dr. Ridley is certified as a Psychological Autopsy Investigator by the American Association of Suicidology.

Dr. Ridley has conducted workshops and seminars nationally for a variety of organizations and conferences. She is published in peer-reviewed journals in the areas of suicide, depression, and anxiety, has co-authored book chapters on suicide and mood disorders, and is active in research on depression and suicide. She is a nationally sought after diversity subject matter expert who has presented nationally in VAs and external academic and health care settings.

Josh Rinker, PsyD

Dr. Rinker graduated from The Adler School of Professional Psychology and went coast-to-coast for his psychology training, completing internship at VA SORCC and postdoc in the PTSD Clinic of the Stratton VA in Albany, NY. He went on to treat Veterans in PCMHI and PTSD specialist roles at the Fairview CBOC of VA Portland HCS, and last year moved into a supervisory role for this team's BHIP. Dr. Rinker previously served as Early Career Psychologist representative for the VA Section of Division 18 and is currently Secretary/Treasurer. He has also been an active contributor to AVAPL and in recent years has chaired their Mentoring Program workgroup.

Theresa Schmitz, PhD

Dr. Schmitz is a licensed clinical psychologist with a career focus on evidenced-based interventions and program development, in the areas of family services, trauma, intimate partner violence, and resilience. She joined the VA as a trainee and has held a variety of clinical and administrative roles across her career, including MIRECC Fellow, front line

clinician, program lead, and National Mental Health Quality Improvement and Implementation Consultant (MH QIIC). Dr. Schmitz currently serves as the National Mental Health Program Director for Family Services within the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in VA Central Office. She dedicates time to numerous professional service activities aligned with her professional passions, including a recent appointment to co-chair APA's Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, serving as past co-lead of the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders mentorship workgroup, active involvement in numerous workgroups within VA, and mentoring leaders inside and outside of VA. Dr. Schmitz has over a decade of leadership in mental health, working collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders, key program offices, VISN and facility leaders, and staff at all organizational levels. Dr. Schmitz collaborates with leaders to implement Family Services policy guidance across the mental health continuum and promote the application of performance metrics into effective process improvement and service delivery.

Steve Schwab CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation

Steve Schwab is a national leader and voice for the nation's millions of military and veteran caregivers, and their families. He has closely advised senior leaders in every sector, addressed audiences across the country, and testified before Congress about the challenges faced by America's military families while advocating for legislative and regulatory solutions to support them. As CEO of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Steve spearheads the country's preeminent organization empowering, supporting, and honoring military and veteran caregivers. He has grown the Foundation's programs, staff, development, and partnerships over the past eight years, managed the launch of the Hidden Heroes campaign, established the Hidden Heroes Cities program, and successfully championed the expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to caregivers of every war era. In 2021, Steve oversaw the launch of the Hidden Helpers Coalition, bringing together the White House and over 60 public and private organizations with the intent of supporting children in military and veteran caregiving families. In 2022, the Foundation expanded its no-cost national respite program and launched a new critical financial assistance program for caregivers. Since 2018, Steve has led the Foundation's successful signature fundraising event, Heroes and History Makers, raising tens of millions of dollars for the organization's mission.

Last year, Steve was nominated by United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dennis McDonough to serve on the Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Federal Advisory Committee. Steve is also an Executive Producer of both Sky Blossom and Hidden Wounds, two Academy Award qualifying films that provide a raw, uplifting window into 24.5 million children and millennials stepping forward as frontline heroes caring for a family member or veteran at home. Steve serves on the Board of Prisoner Visitation and Support which offers people incarcerated in federal prison regular, face-to-face contact with the world outside to help them cope with prison life and prepare for a successful re-entry into society. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of PsychArmor, the nation's premier non-profit for providing free education and support for all Americans to engage effectively with the military community. Currently, Steve is also chairing the 50th Anniversary Committee for Whitman-

Walker Health, whose mission is to offer affirming community-based health and wellness services to all with a special expertise in LGBTQ and HIV care. Previously, Steve was head of external affairs for the National Cathedral, overseeing fundraising, marketing, and communications.

Steve came to the Washington, DC area after serving in three senior leadership roles in his hometown of Rochester, NY. He was Vice President for Development at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra after serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to Rochester, NY Mayor Robert J. Duffy and just prior as head of corporate development and relations for Rochester Institute of Technology. Steve started his career in New York City where he first worked in politics and then served subsequently as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Development for the New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce.

Robert Sebesta, LCSW, HEC-C

Robert Sebesta, LCSW, HEC-C, is a healthcare ethicist with the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Ethics in Health Care (NCEHC). He worked at Central Texas Veterans Health Care System for nine years, where he divided his time serving as the IntegratedEthics® Program Officer and providing evidence-based psychotherapy for combat veterans with PTSD. Robert worked for nine years at Austin State Hospital, a public psychiatric facility, where he also chaired the ethics committee. He has practiced clinical social work for twenty years and has worked in healthcare ethics for the last sixteen years. Robert has a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin and completed a joint ethics fellowship at NCEHC and the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

Nicole A. Shiber, PsyD

Dr. Shiber is the Psychology Program Manager for Recovery, Research, and Outreach and Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida. She has been in the LRC role since 2007 and continues to lead within the national LRC community as a LRC Community Executive Liaison, coordinator of the LRC Mentoring Program, and faculty for the annual LRC Boot Camp. She holds a PsyD in Clinical Psychology from Indiana State University and completed her predoctoral internship in 2002-2003 at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas.

Jared Skillings, PhD

Dr. Skillings is a Senior Healthcare and Association Executive with a strong legacy of impact in both fast-paced and deliberative organizational cultures. He is a visionary leader, courageous advocate, and he is recognized as someone who can influence public perceptions.

Dr. Skillings' track record includes developing and leading high-performing interprofessional teams toward strategic and data-driven decisions. He fosters diverse, inclusive workplace cultures and values strategic partnerships. Dr. Skillings currently serves as the Chief of Professional Practice for the American Psychological Association and leads psychology's

110,000-person workforce. In this role he sets national strategies to improve population health especially for underserved people and communities. Dr. Skillings has grown national prominence through public media engagements, inspirational public speaking, and strategic coalition-building. As an advisor to the White House and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), he has contributed to solving some of society's most pressing needs. He has amassed over 2 Billion media impressions through interviews with the NY Times, CNN, FOX, US Today, and others.

On a personal note, Dr. Skillings has been married to his wonderful wife, Julie, for 23 years. They have five adopted children (ages 10-15) who bring joy to their life.

Jennifer L. Smith, PsyD

Dr. Smith currently works at the Atlanta VA where she is the Gero/Neuro Mental Health Program Manager. She is the VISN & Gero MH Champion. She trains providers in the use of ACT. Dr. Smith is on the Caregiver Support and Dementia Committees in Atlanta, as well as the Psychology Training Committee. She is a graduate of the APA LIWP. Dr. Smith is a former President of GPA and a current Board Member of GPA. She is the Georgia Representative for the APA Council of Representatives. She believes being a psychologist is the best job in the world.

K. Conwell Smith, BA

K. Conwell Smith, Senior Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs for Military and Veterans Policy, joined the American Psychological Association in May. Prior to APA, she served as Chief External Affairs Officer and Chief Government Affairs Officer for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI). Ms. Smith has over twenty-five years of experience in Washington, DC. During that time, she worked on sweeping health care legislation from the Balanced Budget Act to the Patients' Bill of Rights to the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining RCI, she was founder of Inside Pitch Government Affairs LLC, a consulting firm committed to the policy development and project management. Ms. Smith also served as Vice President of Legislation and Political Affairs for the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) and Senior Health Policy Advisor for the Senate Budget Committee, where she was an advisor to the Chairman on private health insurance, market-based reforms, medical liability reform, medical cost and quality initiatives, and access to health care and the uninsured. Early in her career, she worked in various policy and advocacy positions for several Congressional offices, the American Medical Association, the National Retail Federation, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Katrina Speed, PhD

Dr. Speed is the Psychology Training Director at the Charlie Norwood VAMC. She completed internship at the Canandaigua VAMC, earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Mississippi State University, and completed 1 year of advanced fellowship training at the Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention. Dr. Speed has previously developed grants and research targeting improved access to care and currently provides VA and community clinical services. She serves several national committees including the Health Professionals Scholarship

Program Review Committee and the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine Membership Committee with focus on building programming to retain diverse individuals.

Leah E. Squires, PhD

Dr. Squires is the Chief of the Psychology Service at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. She previously served as the Director of Psychology Training Programs. She is also a health psychologist and served for several years as the National Coordinator for the HIV/ Liver Disease Psychology Fellowship Program. Her clinical and research interests focus on HIV care engagement and addressing the mental health needs of Veterans living with HIV. Dr. Squires continues to provide clinical services to Veterans with HIV through the Infectious Disease Clinic at the Washington DC VAMC.

Annie Y. Tang, PhD

Dr. Tang (she/her) is a clinical psychologist working in the Trauma Services Program and serves as the Psychology Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. She is currently also the co-chair of the Hines VA Psychology Diversity & Inclusion Committee and serves as a subject matter expert and DEI consultant for OMHSP. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and East Asian Studies from New York University. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Hofstra University in New York. Her interests include trauma, evidence-based treatments, social justice advocacy, DEI, Asian American issues, and training/supervision.

Edgar Villarreal, PhD

Dr. Villarreal graduated from Texas A&M University. He began his VA career at the Central Texas VHCS as the Program Manager for outpatient mental health. He later went on to serve as the Suicide Prevention Program Manager at VA Eastern Colorado HCS. Most recently he served as the Director for Education & Training at the Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention. He currently serves as the National Clinical Director for Suicide Prevention for VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP). He is also the Chair for the VA Section of APA's Division-18 Psychologists in Public Service.

Christopher Watson, PhD

Dr. Watson started his detail as the Acting Chief Mental Health Officer on June 6, 2021 and officially began in this role on February 13, 2022. He is a psychologist who began his VA career in 1993. He has worked in many clinical settings (inpatient, outpatient, and residential), has had varied and diverse assignments (e.g., Clinical Consultant for the Greensboro Vet Center, Acting Executive Assistant to the Associate Director, Interim Customer Service Manager, Acting Group Practice Manager, Acting Chief of PM&R, etc.), and has served in supervisory roles with increasing complexity (e.g., Psychology Product Manager, Interim ACOS for BH at two sites, ACOS for BH, and, most recently, Deputy ACOS for BH). He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Division 18 (Public Practice section) of the American Psychological Association, and the VA Psychology Leaders group. He also regularly provides coaching and mentoring to mental health leaders across the

organization. He has an absolute passion for issues pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion. He has particularly demonstrated leadership in addressing systemic racism on the local and national level in VHA, providing numerous presentations and trainings related to diversity and inclusion, and is highly sought-after for his excellent facilitation skills.

In the personal realm, he hails from North Carolina, enjoys watching and attending Pennsylvania sports (favorite teams: Pittsburgh Steelers and Penguins + Penn State University football and hockey), is an avid bowler; and loves to travel, cook, and exercise. He also has a wicked sense of humor.

Kendra Weaver, PsyD

Dr. Weaver is the Senior Consultant for Clinical Operations in the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration. She is an active member of the Executive Leadership Team and provides consultation and leadership for multiple, systems-focused, national initiatives including team-based care, leadership training, and telemental health. In her 20+ years with VA, Dr. Weaver has served in several leadership positions at the facility, network, and national levels. She received her Doctorate from Baylor University, and she is a graduate of Leadership VA, Health Care Leadership Institute, Executive Career Field Development, and Federal Executive Institute.

Kaki York-Ward, PhD, ABPP

Dr. York-Ward is the Deputy Clinical Executive for Mental Health at the Houston VA. She is Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. She obtained her Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006, completed Internship at Temple University Health Sciences Center in Philadelphia in 2005 and her post doc in Cardiovascular Psychophysiology at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Dr. York's interest include psychophysiology of heart disease, psychological presurgical evaluations including transplant, chronic pain and mindfulness based approaches to wellness.