



**VA PSYCHOLOGY**  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual VA Psychology Leadership Conference**  
**“Better Together: Envisioning Our Future in VA Psychology”**  
 Co-Sponsored by the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL), the American Psychological Association (APA), and APA Division 18 - Psychologists in Public Service

**May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**The Westin Riverwalk**  
 420 W. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205  
 Phone: 210.224.6500

**Pre-Conference: Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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| <b>4:45 pm – 5:15 pm</b> | <b>New Attendee Welcome Reception</b>   | <b>Navarro Lobby</b> |
| <b>5:15 pm – 6:30 pm</b> | <b>All Attendee Registration and Reception</b>  | <b>Navarro Lobby</b> |
| <b>6:30 pm – 8:30 pm</b> | <b><u>Optional Evening Activity:</u></b><br>Mix & Match Dinner - Meet at Registration Table | <b>Navarro Lobby</b> |

**Conference Day 1: Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

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| <b>7:00 am – 7:45 am</b> | <b><u>Registration and Welcome</u></b>  | <b>Navarro Lobby</b>                |
|                          | <b><u>Continental Breakfast</u></b>   | <b>Navarro Lobby &amp; Ballroom</b> |
|                          | <b><u>New Attendee Welcome Breakfast</u></b><br><i>Please get your breakfast &amp; join us!</i>   | <b>Zapata (Ballroom Level)</b>      |
| <b>8:00 am – 8:15 am</b> | <b><u>Welcome and Overview</u></b><br><b>Kaily Clark, PsyD</b><br>Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br><br><b><u>Recognizing Sponsoring Organizations:</u></b><br><b>Association of VA Psychologist Leaders</b><br><b>Mike Martin, PhD</b><br>President, AVAPL<br><br><b>American Psychological Association</b><br><b>Division 18 Psychologists in Public Service</b><br><b>Edgar Villarreal, PhD</b><br>Chair, VA Section for APA Division 18,<br>Psychologists in Public Service<br><br><b>American Psychological Association</b><br><b>Arthur Evans Jr, PhD</b><br>Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Executive Vice<br>President of APA (*Video Presentation) | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>             |

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| <b>8:15 am – 9:00 am</b>   | <p><b><u>Morning Keynote Address</u></b><br/> <b><i>The Audacity to Be</i></b></p> <p><b>Shari N. Dade, PhD</b><br/> Senior Organization Development Psychologist,<br/> National Center of Organization Development, VHA<br/> Key Consultant &amp; Director, Everyday Psychology, LLC</p>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>                   |
| <b>9:00 am – 9:45 am</b>   | <p><b><u>Plenary Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>Leading in Challenging Times</i></b></p> <p><b>John McQuaid, PhD</b><br/> Chief of Psychology, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System<br/> Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry and<br/> Behavioral Science, Weill Institute of Neuroscience,<br/> University of California, San Francisco</p>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>                   |
| <b>9:45 am – 10:30 am</b>  | <p><b><u>APA Presidential Address</u></b><br/> <b><i>Psychology’s Path Forward: Trauma-<br/> Informed and Liberation Oriented Care</i></b></p> <p><b>Thema Bryant, PhD</b><br/> President, American Psychological Association<br/> Graduate School of Education and Psychology at<br/> Pepperdine University</p>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>                   |
| <b>10:30 am – 10:45 am</b>   | <p><b><u>Morning Break and Transition to Breakouts</u></b></p>  | <b>Refreshments in<br/> Navarro Lobby</b> |
| <b>10:45 am – 11:45 am</b><br><br><b>Breakout Sessions<br/> Continue Next Page</b> | <p><b><u>Breakout Sessions</u></b><br/> <b><i>1. Leaders Supporting Leaders in Moving<br/> Toward Work-Life Balance</i></b></p> <p><b>Theresa Schmitz, PhD</b><br/> National Director of Family Services,<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> <p><b>Christopher Watson, PhD</b><br/> VA Chief MH Officer, VISN 19</p> <p><b>Claire Collie, PhD</b><br/> National Mental Health Director for Quality<br/> Assurance and Improvement<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> <p><b>Monique Hunter, PhD</b><br/> Section Chief, Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services<br/> Atlanta VA HCS</p> | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>                   |

**Breakout Sessions  
Continued****2. VA Suicide Risk Identification Strategy and  
the Role of Psychology Leaders****Zapata  
(Ballroom Level)****Bridget B. Matarazzo, PsyD**Director of Clinical Services,  
Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention,  
Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC (Denver, CO)**Suzanne McGarity, PhD**Clinical Psychologist,  
Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention,  
Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC (Denver, CO)**3. Leadership 202 for Psychologists &  
Students: Interactive Learning Session****Camino Real  
(Lobby Level)****Jared Skillings, PhD**Chief of Professional Practice,  
American Psychological Association**4. APA Division 18 Updates****Encino  
(Lobby Level)****Edgar Villarreal, PhD**VA Section Chair, APA Division 18,  
Psychologists in Public Service  
National Clinical Director for Suicide Prevention,  
VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**Gayle Iwamasa, PhD, HSPP**Past VA Section Chair, APA Division 18,  
Psychologists in Public Service  
National Director Inpatient Mental Health Services,  
VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**Josh Rinker, PsyD**Secretary/Treasurer, APA Division 18,  
Psychologists in Public Service  
Clinical Psychologist, VA Portland Healthcare System**5. Why We Need Mentors: The Survival of  
Black Women in Psychology****Sabino  
(Lobby Level)****Josephine Ridley, PhD**Assistant Chief, Psychology Service,  
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System**Zina Peters, PsyD, MPH**Health Behavior Coordinator & Clinical Psychologist,  
Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (Houston, TX)

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| <b>11:45 am – 12:45 pm</b> | <p><b><u>Networking Lunches</u></b></p> <p><b>1. General/Telehealth/Domiciliary Providers</b><br/> <b>2. Training Directors</b></p> <p><b>3. Psychologists in Public Service,<br/> APA Division 18</b></p> <p><b>4. Early Career</b></p> <p><b>5. Mid-Career</b></p>   | <p><b>Navarro Ballroom<br/> Zapata<br/> (Ballroom Level)</b></p> <p><b>Camino Real<br/> (Lobby Level)</b></p> <p><b>Encino<br/> (Lobby Level)</b></p> <p><b>Sabino<br/> (Lobby Level)</b></p> |
| <b>12:45 pm – 1:00 pm</b>  | <b><u>Transition to VA Secretary Address</u></b>   |   |
| <b>1:00 pm – 1:45 pm</b>   | <p><b><u>Afternoon Keynote Address</u></b><br/> <b>The Honorable Denis R. McDonough</b><br/> Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs</p>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>   |
| <b>1:45 pm – 2:30 pm</b>   | <p><b><u>Plenary Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>Better Together: Updates from VHA Office of<br/> Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</i></b></p> <p><b>Tamara M. Campbell, MD, PsyD, DFAPA</b><br/> Executive Director,<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> <p><b>Stacey Pollack, PhD</b><br/> National Director of Program Policy Implementation,<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> <p><b>Jay L. Cohen, PhD</b><br/> Chief of Staff to the Executive Director,<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>   |
| <b>2:30 pm – 2:45 pm</b>   | <b><u>Afternoon Break</u></b>  | <b>Refreshments in<br/> Navarro Lobby</b>   |
| <b>2:45 pm – 3:30 pm</b>   | <p><b><u>Plenary Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>Bringing Suicide Prevention to Life</i></b></p> <p><b>Jesse Burgard, PsyD</b><br/> National VA Senior Consultant for Suicide Prevention<br/> VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>   |

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| <b>3:30 pm – 4:30 pm</b> | <p><b><u>Plenary Panel Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Strong Practices</i></b><br/> <b>Arnold H. James, MPH, PhD</b><br/> Clinical Psychologist, Home Based Primary Care<br/> Southeastern Louisiana Veterans Health Care System</p> <p><b>Kaela Joseph, PhD</b><br/> Comprehensive Gender Affirming Care Center<br/> Director and Women Veterans Program Manager,<br/> San Francisco VA Health Care System</p> <p><b>Katharine E. Mocchiola, PsyD</b><br/> Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Champion, VISN 1<br/> Assistant Chief, Mental Health Service, and<br/> Interim PCMHI Program Manager<br/> VA Maine Healthcare System</p> <p><b>Annie Y. Tang, PhD</b><br/> Clinical Psychologist, Trauma Services Program<br/> Hines VA Psychology Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion<br/> (DEI) Coordinator; Co-Chair, Hines Psychology DEI<br/> Committee; Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital (Hines,<br/> IL); OMHSP DEI Consultant for the Justice Equity<br/> Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Consultation Program</p> | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>             |
| <b>4:30 pm – 5:00 pm</b> | <p><b><u>Presentation of the Russell B. Lemle<br/>and Patrick DeLeon Awards</u></b><br/> <b>Kaily Clark, PsyD</b><br/> Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/> VISN 19 SP 2.0 Clinical Telehealth Supervisor<br/> Clinical Resource Hub (CRH)</p>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>             |
| <b>5:00 pm – 5:15 pm</b> | <p><b><u>Closing Remarks &amp; Transition to Social Hour</u></b><br/> <b>Kaily Clark, PsyD</b><br/> Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/> VISN 19 SP 2.0 Clinical Telehealth Supervisor<br/> Clinical Resource Hub (CRH)</p>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>             |
| <b>5:25 pm – 7:00 pm</b> | <p><b><u>Social Hour &amp; Poster Session with<br/>Raffle to Support Soldiers Angels</u></b></p>  | <b>Hidalgo<br/>(Ballroom Level)</b> |

## Conference Day 2: Thursday, June 1, 2023

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| 7:00 am – 7:45 am   | <b><u>Continental Breakfast</u></b>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>        |
| 7:00 am – 7:45 am   | <p><b><u>New Job Breakfast: VA Jobs Nationally</u></b><br/> <i>Please get your breakfast and join us!</i></p> <p><b>Kaki M. York-Ward, PhD, ABPP</b><br/> Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology<br/> Past President, AVAPL<br/> Deputy Clinical Executive, MHCL<br/> Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (Houston, TX)</p>   | <b>Zapata (Ballroom Level)</b> |
| 8:00 am – 8:15 am   | <p><b><u>Welcome and Housekeeping</u></b><br/> <b>Kaily Clark, PsyD</b><br/> Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/> VA Suicide Prevention 2.0 Clinical Telehealth (SP 2.0) VISN 19 Clinical Resource Hub</p>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>        |
| 8:15 am – 9:00 am   | <p><b><u>Keynote Address</u></b><br/> <b><i>Emerging Trends in Psychology: How They Impact VA Psychology and the Veterans We Serve</i></b></p> <p><b>Jared Skillings, PhD</b><br/> Chief of Professional Practice,<br/> American Psychological Association</p> <p><b>Katherine B. McGuire, MSc</b><br/> Chief Advocacy Officer,<br/> American Psychological Association</p>  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>        |
| 9:00 am – 10:00 am  | <p><b><u>Plenary Panel Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>Reconnection to the Mission &amp; Serving as “Change Agents” in Our Important Work, Together: Veteran Service Organizations</i></b></p> <p><b>Joy Ilem, BA</b><br/> National Legislative Director<br/> Disabled American Veterans (DAV)<br/> National Service &amp; Legislative Headquarters</p> <p><b>Steve Schwab</b><br/> CEO, Elizabeth Dole Foundation</p> <p><b>Kelly B. Hruska, MPA</b><br/> Director of Government Relations,<br/> National Military Family Association</p> | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>        |
| 10:00 am – 10:30 am | <p><b><u>Plenary Presentation</u></b><br/> <b><i>APA Updates From the Hill</i></b></p>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b>        |

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|   | <p><b>K. Conwell Smith, BA</b><br/>                 Senior Dir. of Congressional &amp; Federal Relations,<br/>                 Military and Veterans Policy,<br/>                 American Psychological Association</p>  |  |
| <p><b>10:30 am – 10:45 am</b></p>   | <p><b><u>Morning Break and Transition to Breakouts</u></b></p>  | <p><b>Refreshments<br/>                 in Navarro<br/>                 Lobby</b></p>  |
| <p><b>10:45 am – 11:45 am</b></p> <p><b>Breakout Sessions<br/>                 Continue Next Page</b></p> | <p><b><u>Breakout Sessions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>1. OMHSP's QIIC Team - The Swiss Army Knife of OMHSP</i></b></p> <p><b>Claire Collie, PhD</b><br/>                 National Mental Health Director for Quality Assurance<br/>                 and Improvement,<br/>                 VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention</p> <p><b>VA Mental Health Quality Improvement and<br/>                 Implementation Consultants:</b><br/>                 Tanya Aaen, PhD<br/>                 Nate Aserklund, DNP, APRN<br/>                 Kathleen Darchuk, PhD<br/>                 Malinda Fairbanks, LCSW<br/>                 John Klocek, PhD<br/>                 Matt Moore, PhD<br/>                 Carla Nappi, PhD</p> <p><b><i>2. Women's Health</i></b></p> <p><b>Kaela Joseph, PhD</b><br/>                 Trans Health Clinic Director and<br/>                 Women Veterans Program Manager,<br/>                 San Francisco VA Health Care System</p> <p><b><i>3. Recruitment and Retention of VHA Clinicians<br/>                 from Diverse Backgrounds</i></b></p> <p><b>Christopher Watson, PhD</b><br/>                 Chief MH Officer, VISN19</p> | <p><b>Navarro<br/>                 Ballroom</b></p> <p><b>Camino Real<br/>                 (Lobby Level)</b></p> <p><b>Encino<br/>                 (Lobby Level)</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Breakout Sessions Continued</b></p> | <p><b>4. Advocacy In Action: An update from AVAPL Mid-Winter Meetings in D.C.</b></p> <p><b>Mike Martin, PhD</b><br/>President, AVAPL<br/>Psychology Executive, Atlanta VA HCS</p> <p><b>Megan McCarthy, PhD</b><br/>President-Elect, AVAPL<br/>Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health, Birmingham VAMC</p> <p><b>Kaki M York-Ward, PhD, ABPP</b><br/>Past President, AVAPL<br/>Deputy Clinical Executive for MHCL, Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (Houston, TX)</p> <p><b>Jennifer Presnall-Shvorin, PhD</b><br/>Secretary, AVAPL<br/>Assistant Chief MH&amp;BSS<br/>C.W. Bill Young VAMC (Bay Pines, FL)</p> <p><b>Nicole A. Shiber, PsyD</b><br/>Treasurer, AVAPL<br/>Program Manager: Recovery, Research, &amp; Outreach<br/>James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (Tampa, FL)</p> | <p><b>Sabino (Lobby Level)</b></p>   |
| <p><b>11:45 am – 12:55 pm</b></p>         | <p><b><u>Networking Lunches</u></b></p> <p><b>1. General / Compensation &amp; Pension / Residential Treatment Providers</b></p> <p><b>2. Advocacy in Action</b></p> <p><b>3. Women in Leadership</b></p> <p><b>4. Psychologists of Color and Allies</b></p> <p><b>5. LGBTQ+</b></p>   | <p><b>Navarro Ballroom</b></p> <p><b>Zapata (Ballroom Level)</b></p> <p><b>Camino Real (Lobby Level)</b></p> <p><b>Encino (Lobby Level)</b></p> <p><b>Sabino (Lobby Level)</b></p> |
| <p><b>12:55 pm – 1:00 pm</b></p>          | <p><b><u>Quick Transition to Breakout Sessions</u></b></p>  |  |



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| <p><b>1:00 pm – 2:00 pm</b></p>                        | <p><b><u>Breakout Sessions</u></b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Breakout Sessions<br/>Continue Next Page</b></p> | <p><b>1. <i>Women in Leadership &amp; Leadership Journeys: Varying Strategies for Professional Growth and Advancement</i></b></p> <p><b>Maggie Chartier, PsyD, MPH</b><br/>VA Director of Program Operations,<br/>Specialty Care Program Office (11SPEC) VHACO</p> <p><b>Mary T. Dorritie, PhD</b><br/>Veteran, U.S. Army; Women’s Mental Health<br/>Co-Champion HJ Heinz/CBOC BHIP Program Mgr.,<br/>Pittsburgh VAMC</p> <p><b>Lisa K. Kearney, PhD, ABPP</b><br/>Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology<br/>Senior Advisor on Health, Office of the Secretary,<br/>Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p><b>Charlotte McCloskey, PhD</b><br/>VA Local Recovery Coordinator,<br/>Kansas City VA Medical Center<br/>Co-Chair and Subject Matter Expert for OMHSP DEI<br/>Sharepoint and Committee Member OMHSP Justice,<br/>Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion (JEDI)</p> <p><b>Nicole A. Shiber, PsyD</b><br/>Treasurer, AVAPL<br/>Psychology Program Mgr: Recovery, Research, &amp; Outreach<br/>James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital Tampa, FL</p> <p><b>Jennifer L. Smith, PsyD</b><br/>Gero/Neuro Psychology Program Manager<br/>Atlanta VA HCS</p> <p><b>Kaki M. York-Ward, PhD, ABPP</b><br/>Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology<br/>Past President, AVAPL<br/>Deputy Clinical Executive, MHCL<br/>Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (Houston, TX)</p> | <p><b>Camino Real<br/>(Lobby Level)</b></p> |



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| 2:50 pm – 3:00 pm | <b><u>Afternoon Break</u></b>  | <b>Refreshments<br/>in Navarro<br/>Lobby</b>                          |
| 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm | <p><b><u>Open Plenary Presentations:</u></b></p> <p><b><i>1. Psychology Leadership in Innovating and Forging Connections for Enhanced Mental Health Care of Older Adult Veterans</i></b></p> <p>Rebecca Melrose, PhD, Jennifer Smith, PsyD, Chanda Corbett, PhD, Joanna McCormick, PhD &amp; Michele J. Karel, PhD</p> <p><b><i>2. Leading Transformational Change: Two Generations of VA Training Directors' Efforts to Improve DEI</i></b></p> <p>Sarra Nazem, PhD &amp; Katrina Speed, PhD</p> <p><b><i>3. Beyond the Leaky Pipeline: Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Leaders through Early Leadership Development</i></b></p> <p>Mary A. Fernandes, PhD, Savana M. Naini, MA, Leah E. Squires, PhD &amp; Cheryl Lowman, PhD</p> | <b>Navarro<br/>Ballroom</b><br><br><b>13 Minute<br/>Presentations</b> |
| 3:50 pm – 4:20 pm | <p><b><i>Making a Difference for Veterans in Your Sphere of Influence</i></b></p> <p><b>Lisa K. Kearney, PhD, ABPP</b><br/>Senior Advisor on Health, Office of the Secretary,<br/>Department of Veterans Affairs</p>   | <b>Navarro<br/>Ballroom</b>   |
| 4:20 pm – 4:45 pm | <p><b><u>Conference Closing Remarks &amp; Passing the Torch</u></b><br/><b>Kaily Clark, PsyD</b><br/>Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/>VA Suicide Prevention 2.0 Clinical Telehealth<br/>(SP 2.0) VISN 19 Clinical Resource Hub</p> <p><b>Laura L. Eaton, PhD</b><br/>Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/>Home Based Primary Care Geropsychologist,<br/>Cheyenne VA Healthcare System</p>  | <b>Navarro<br/>Ballroom</b>   |
| 4:45 pm – 6:00 pm | <p><b><u>Open Discussion</u></b><br/><b>Laura L. Eaton, PhD</b><br/>Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference<br/>Home Based Primary Care Geropsychologist,<br/>Cheyenne VA Healthcare System</p>   | <b>Navarro<br/>Ballroom</b>   |

**CE Workshop: Friday, June 2, 2023**

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| <b>7:00 am – 7:45 am</b>   | <b><u>Continental Breakfast</u></b>   | <b>Navarro Lobby</b>    |
| <b>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</b>  | <b><u>Continuing Education (CE) Workshop:<br/>Professional Ethics</u></b>   | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b> |
| <b>8:00 am – 9:55 am</b>   | <b><i>Transformational Ethics: A Substantive Discussion of the APA Ethics Code Revisions</i></b><br><br><b>Lindsay Childress-Beatty, JD, PhD, CAE</b><br>Interim Ethics Director,<br>American Psychological Association | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b> |
| <b>9:55 am – 10:05 am</b>  | <b>Break</b>  | <b>Navarro Lobby</b>    |
| <b>10:05 am – 12:00 pm</b> | <b><i>VHA Healthcare Ethics &amp; Professional Boundaries in Rural Communities</i></b><br><br><b>Robert Sebesta, LCSW, HEC-C</b><br>Healthcare Ethicist, West Ethics Team<br>National Center for Ethics in Health Care  | <b>Navarro Ballroom</b> |