Update on Psychology Education

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Topics for today

• VA Training Impact on Psychology
• Psychology Educational Enhancement
• Associated Health Supervision Handbook
• Web Migration
• Affiliation Agreements
• Uniform Notification Date
Nationally, 35.5% of psychologists have had some VA training.
(estimated from numbers who had VA training and number who passed EPPP in 2006)

74% of new VA Psychologist hires have had VA training.
(informal survey of all VA facilities in 2007)
Psychology Educational Enhancement

• Took effect this year (2008-2009)
  – 167 new positions in 79 programs
  – 4 New Internship Programs
  – 26 New Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs
• Lots of demand for more, but ???

Trainee Allocations AY 2009-2010

- Interns – 435
- Postdoctoral Fellows – 210
- Total: 645 positions (7 more than last yr)
Internship Training, the Last Decade
Postdoctoral Training, the Last Decade
What’s Next?

• Hopeing for modest increments in Training Positions

• May need to be more focused

• APA Model Licensing Act
Associated Health Supervision Handbook

- Published September 2, 2008
- Link is posted on OAA website
  [http://vaww.va.gov/oaa](http://vaww.va.gov/oaa)
- Monitoring Supervision Documentation
Associated Health Supervision Handbook

• Each trainee must have an identified supervisor for each patient
• Supervisor has clinical and legal responsibility
• Supervisor is the Primary Provider
  (VHA Directive 2006-026, Patient Care Data Capture)
• Level & type of supervision must be consistent with assigned level of responsibility
Graduated Levels of Responsibility

- Trainees earn progressive responsibilities
- Levels of responsibility must be formally assigned and documented
- At highest levels of responsibility, the minimal standard is that supervisor must be in the facility, immediately available, and able to be physically present as needed.
- Other levels require closer supervision
3 Types of Supervision

1. **ROOM.** Physically present in the same room
2. **AREA.** In the same physical area and immediately available
3. **AVAILABLE.** Supervisor not in the immediate area, but in facility and able to be present if needed

Type must be consistent with Handbook, level of training, and Graduated Level of Responsibility.
3 Types of Documentation

1. Separate progress note
2. Addendum
3. Co-signature implies full concurrence with the trainee note
Billing Concerns

- VA follows CMS rules
- CMS rules do not allow billing for any student-provided services
- Only services provided by a credentialed provider may be billed
- Only documentation by the credentialed provider may be used for billing purposes

Per Chief Business Office
Web Migration

- All Training Web Sites are housed in VA domain
- Some are housed on OAA server, others housed on local server
- Accessible through OAA web site,
  http://vaww.va.gov/oaa/ (Intranet),
  http://www.va.gov/oaa/ (Internet),
  or Directly at
  http://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/
Virginia provides Internships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Practicum Training in many sites across the U.S. With about 430 internship positions and 200 postdoctoral fellowship positions funded each year, VA is the largest provider of training in Psychology in the nation.

We have continued to expand our training opportunities and have added 160 additional positions for the 2008-2009 academic year. These positions include new internship programs in Anchorage AK, Asheville NC, Iowa City IA, and Richmond VA. While these programs do not yet have APA accreditation, given their newness, graduates of these programs will be eligible for employment as psychologists within the Department of Veterans Affairs just as are graduates from accredited programs. All existing VA Internship and many Postdoctoral Psychology training programs hold APA accreditation status.
Psychology Training

Training Programs

Psychology

Nationwide Opportunities
VA Fellowships & Internships

Internships | Postdoctoral Fellowships | Practicum Training | Advanced Fellowships

INTERNISHIPS

Alabama:
Birmingham - Birmingham VA Medical Center Consortium
Tuskegee - Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System

Alaska:
Anchorage - Alaska VA Healthcare System & Regional Office

Arizona:
Phoenix - Phoenix VA Health Care System
Tucson - Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

Arkansas:
Little Rock - Central Arkansas Veterans Health Care System
Affiliation Agreements

- For VA Internship Programs, Affiliation Agreements with the interns’ graduate programs are required.
- Affiliation Agreements do not expire.
- For Postdoctoral Fellowships, they are not required. The Fellow, having already received the degree, is no longer associated with the graduate program.
National Affiliation Agreements

• For VA Internship Programs only, we are moving to development of National Affiliation Agreements
  – Simplified Format
  – Each school will need to complete only one
  – Training Directors will no longer need to develop them
  – They will be in place before the Match
  – Prerequisite for application to a VA internship
National Affiliation Agreements

• Maintained by OAA
• List of Schools with Affiliation Agreements on OAA website
• Training Directors are helping develop this first round
• Gerald Darnell and Treven Pickett will assist in development of the remainder
National Affiliation Agreements

Once in place,

• No expiration date, unless school insists on one
• Will check against APA list of accredited graduate programs 1-2 times a year
• Few additional ones needed each year
Uniform Notification Date for Fellowships

• Russell Lemle Update
The Future?

• Anticipate a few more good years at least
• Modest increments in training positions
• Big VACO emphasis on Rural Needs
• Educational Innovations
Thank You -

Questions?
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