



The University of Texas at Austin
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

2018 Military Social Work Conference

Cultivating Diverse
Communities for the Military,
Veterans & Their Families:

Implications for Practice,
Education & Research

September 5 - 6, 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin

6505 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78752

2018 Military Social Work Conference

Cultivating Diverse Communities for the Military Veterans, and
Their Families: Implications for Practice, Education, & Research

September 5-6, 2018

Military Social Work Conference Planning Committee

Conference Chairs:

Elisa V. Borah, MSW, PhD

Associate Research Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Brooke A. Fina, LCSW, BCD

Associate Professor Research, Division of Behavioral Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine,
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Conference Planning Committee Members:

CPT Chelsea Arnold, LCSW, USAF

Doctoral Candidate, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Jose Coll, MSW, PhD

Director, School of Social Work, Texas State University

LTC Lataya Hawkins, LCSW, BCD

Doctoral Candidate, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

COL Nathan Keller, LCSW, PhD

Director, Army-University of Kentucky MSW Program

MAJ Erika L. King, MSW, PhD

Mental Health Flight Commander, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

Tammy Linseisen, LCSW, ACSW

Clinical Associate Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Jeffrey Moe, MA, LCSW

Student Veteran Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students, The University of Texas at Austin

Liz Nowicki, LCSW, ACSW

Director, Professional Development, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Hannah O'Brien, MSSW

Program Coordinator, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

MAJ Chris Paine, MSW, LCSW

Doctoral Candidate, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Molly Platz, LMSW

Program Manager, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Katherine Selber, PhD

Professor, School of Social Work, Texas State University

Jennifer Silva, LCSW-S

Assistant Chief SWS, Tennessee Valley HCS Chair, VACO Social Work Leadership Council

MAJ David Snowden, PhD

Chief of Behavioral Medicine, Eglin Air Force Base

Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, MSW, LCSW

Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Orange County Academic Center, Irvine, CA

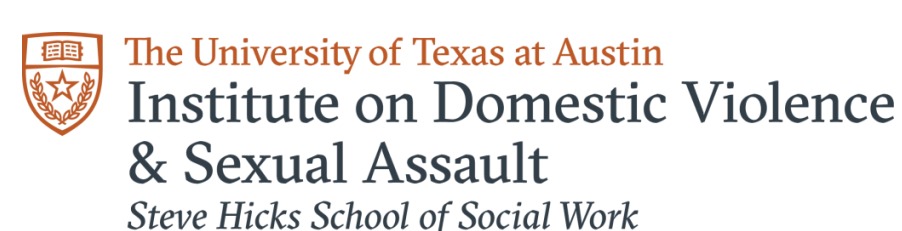
COL Jeffrey Yarvis, PhD, MS

Commander, 1st Medical Brigade (Rear Provisional), 13th ESC & III Corps, Ft. Hood, TX

Luis H. Zayas, PhD

Dean and Robert Lee Sutherland Chair in Mental Health and Social Policy, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Thank you to our conference sponsors



Conference Announcements

Instructions for Continuing Education Credits

In order to receive continuing education credit, please allow the QR code on your name badge to be scanned at the beginning of the conference at the registration desk, and as you enter each individual session. Volunteers with cell phones or iPads will be for scanning. This allows you to be checked in to each session so that you will receive credit. At the end of the conference, you will receive an email with a feedback survey. The survey will have questions about each session you attended, as well as general questions about the whole conference. Once you complete the survey, you will receive another email with a link to download your CEU certificate.

Programs listed are provided in accordance with the criteria and standards of the Texas Board of Social Work Examiners, and have been approved for Texas Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. Please note that 1 hour = 1 CEU. Complaints about this program may be made to TSBSWE, 1100 W. 49thSt., Austin, TX 78756, or 800-232-3162 (Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners:[http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/social work/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/social%20work/)). If licensed for other professions or states, check with your licensing agency for reciprocity and/or approval.Participants can receive up to **14 Social Work, LPC or LMFT CEUs for Wednesday through Thursday attendance.** Those who attend on Friday are eligible for an addition 7.0 CEUs for the *CBT for Insomnia and Nightmares* program, or 3.0 CEUs for the *Integrated Case Management* program.

Conference Resource Fair Phoenix South Ballroom

The resource fair will take place on both Wednesday and Thursday of the conference. Representatives from a variety of organizations will be available to share information and resources:

Auburn University
Book Woman
Cedar Crest Hospital
Choctaw Global Services
Easter Seals Central Texas Veteran Services
Mary Lee Foundation Rehabilitation Center
NAMI Texas
Provo Canyon School
Psychological Health Center of Excellence (PHCoE)
Starlite Recovery Center
Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors
Texas NeuroRehab Center/Texas Star Recovery
University Behavioral Health of Denton

Special Events

Wednesday, Sept. 5th

Film Screening, Austin Revealed: Stories from Vietnam
Phoenix Central | 12:30pm - 1:30pm

This film screening features Central Texans sharing their experiences during the Vietnam War. Through firsthand accounts, audiences will hear from veterans, protestors, immigrants from South Vietnam and others as they recount their lives before, during, and after the war. Their perspectives are as much alike as they are different.

Discussants: Judy Maggio, Editorial Director at KLRU-TV
& Don Dorsey, US Veteran

Poster Presentations & Reception
DoubleTree Lobby Colonnade | 5:00pm - 6:30pm

See listing of poster presentations on p. 22

Thursday, Sept. 6th

Cargiver Panel Presentation
Phoenix Ballroom | 12:30pm - 1:30pm

This panel will feature four caregivers who provide care and support to veterans with physical and psychological health care needs. They will share their experiences in that role and describe the supports they have received from the VA and others, as well as discuss how new programming and supports can improve the care they provide their veterans.

Panelists: Melinda Bean, Holly Provance Doggett, MSML,
Nicole DeTuccio, CNA & Amber Vasquez
Moderator: Jennifer W, Silva, LCSW-S

Schedule at a Glance

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018

7:15 - 8:00 AM | Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 9:00 AM | Keynote Address: Taryn Davis, Founder / CEO, American Widow Project

Full sessions = 90 minutes | Splits sessions = 45 minutes / each

	Clinical		Higher Education	Research
	(Phoenix Central)	(Phoenix North)	(Dewitt)	(Austin)
9:15 - 10:45 AM	Session 1: Outreach and Engagement with Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: Clinical Approaches and Ethical Considerations (Batschelet)	Session 2: Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life: Exploration of Challenges, Role of Comprehensive Assessments & Identification of Evidence Based Interventions (Beasley, Williams)	Session 3: A: Conceptualizing MSW Program Curriculum to Enhance Assessment and Intervention with Women Service Members (Kauppila) B: Civilian-Military Community Connections is Key to Strong Family Support... (Sonethavilay, Shiffer, Hurwitz)	Session 4: A: Zero Suicide Systems Approach to Prevention (Aronson, Perkins, Hawkey Creedon) B: An Analysis of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Socio-economic Status, Educational Achievement, and Delinquency and to Predict Military Enlistment (D. Stone)
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Session 5: Utilizing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in Combat: Research, Best practices and Lessons Learned (Skelton, Millican)	Session 6: Assessing Deployment Related Stressors Through and Attachment Lens (Walther)	Session 7: Bridging the Cultural Gap Between Civilian Social Work Educators and Student Veterans (90 minutes) (Bush, Song, Bringhurst, Cardinal)	Session 8: A: Seeing Her More Clearly Now: Improving the Understanding of Women Veterans' Experience with Homelessness after Military Service (Casura) B: The Life Course of Homeless Female Veterans: A Qualitative Study (Felder)
12:30 - 1:45 PM	Lunch on Your Own Film Screening- Austin Revealed : Stories from Vietnam			
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Session 9: Volunteer In Home Respite: Bridging the Gaps in Rural Settings (Chadduck, Gunkelman)	Session 10: Clinical Application of Art and Music Therapy with Active Duty Service Members at Fort Hood (Buotte, Bronson)	Session 11: A: Supporting Student Veterans on Campus (Skelton) B: Supporting Campus Programs for Student Veterans (Selber)	Session 12: A: Military Family Advocacy in the U.S. Army: Program Service Outcomes and Family Participation (Aronson, Robichaux Cox, Morgan) B: Children with Developmental Disabilities and Their Impact On Marital Satisfaction Among Military Couples (Etheridge, Hisle-Gorman)
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Session 13: Adaptation, Implementation & Evaluation of the Strong Families Moving Forward Program with Veteran Families (Borah, Dondanville, Centola, Devoe, Williams)	Session 14: Minneapolis VAs Intensive Outpatient Program: Screening, Treating, and Tracking Veterans (Bertucci, Welu)	Session 15: A: Embracing the Stories of War: Using Immersive Course Design...(Blaschke-Thompson, Stutzky, Brozovic, Johnson, Thompson) B: Enhancing professional competency: exploring pedagogy...(Salimbeni, Ninan)	Session 16: A: That's what its all about---emotional connection: Sameness among Veterans and civilians to promote reintegration (Kranke) B: Support for Continued Bystander Education among Military Affiliated Students (Arnold, Wood, Kammer-Kerwick)
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Poster Presentations & Reception			

Schedule at a Glance

Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018

7:15 - 8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 8:45 AM | Keynote Address: Meg Kabat, LCSW-C, CCM, National Director, Caregiver Support Program, US Department of Veteran Affairs

Full sessions = 90 minutes | Splits sessions = 45 minutes / each

	Clinical (Phoenix Central) (Phoenix North)		Higher Education (Dewitt)	Research (Austin)
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Session 17: Effective Clinical Strategies When Working with Trauma Avoidance (Hummel, Nason)	Session 18: NAMI Homefront Webinar - Another Way for Caregivers to Access Support (Doggett)	Session 19: A: Teaching Military Mental Health: Errors in Understanding Help Seeking Behavior (F. Stone) B: Military Social Work Education: Beyond the Token Elective (Weiss, Coll)	Session 20: A: Perceived Health Status and Life Satisfaction among Older Veterans: The Moderating Role of Social Support (Chacko) B: Veteran Patient Care at Seton: How does Military Cultural Competence Impact Patient Perceptions of Care? (Borah, Rosen, Paine)
10:45 - 12:15 PM	Session 21: Addressing Moral Injury and Post-traumatic Stress: Exploring a Model That Works (Lipana, Keenan)	Session 22: Treating Combat Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Evidence - Based Practices and Considerations for Recovery-Promoting Care (Greenwald)	Session 23: Male Military Sexual Trauma: Implications for Practice (F. Stone)	Session 24: A: The Lived Experiences of Student Veterans Experiencing Social Anxiety and Avoidance (Trahan, Ausbrooks, Smith, Metsis, Berek) B: Transitioning to Civilian Life Scale (Rubin, Weiss)
12:15 PM	Break - Visit Exhibitors			
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Provided Lunch Caregiver Panel			
1:30 PM	Break - Visit Exhibitors			
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Session 25: Retreat Plus: Marriage Enrichment for OEF/OIF Veteran Couples Program (O'Brien, Paine)	Session 26: The Housing First Model and Working with Veteran Families (Davis, Ogden)	Session 27: A: Community Capacity Building to Support Providers, Service Members and Military Families: The Role of Higher Education (Crocker, Brauner, Cassels, Plein, Mixon) B: From Soldier to Student: The Transition Experiences for Student Veterans in Higher Education (Himes)	Session 28: A: A Mixed-Methods Examination of the Relationship Between the Self and Adaptive Coping in Military Wives, (Page, Ross, Solomon) B: Adverse Childhood Experiences and the US Military - Challenges and Opportunities Towards Improving Force and Family Member Mental Health (Paine)
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Session 29: Beyond Cultural Competence: Intersectionality in the Mental Health Treatment of Military and Veteran Clients and Their Families (Peterson & Palmer)	Session 30: Suicide Prevention for LGB/T Service Members and Veterans (Alschuler)	Session 31: A: Military and Veteran 'Friendliness': Unpacking the Construct and Cultivating Diversity in Higher Education (Canfield & Weiss) B: TRAGIC to Wellbeing: A Novel Data-Driven, Strengths-Based Intervention Framework for Combat-Exposed Veterans (Chacko)	Session 32: A: Psychopathology, Alcohol Use, Deployment History and IPV: The Mediating Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Allostatic Load (Dell) B: The Relationship Between Interpersonal Support and Cognitive Processing TherapyOutcomes for Combat - related PTSD (Nason, Borah)

Keynote Speakers

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018

Taryn Guerrero Davis

Founder & CEO, American Widow Project (AWP)

Taryn Davis is the militantly optimistic, ever-exploring founder of the American Widow Project (AWP), a national organization dedicated to helping military widows reclaim their life after tremendous loss. 11 years of service later and the AWP has served over 2,400 widows with its innovative peer-to-peer, empowerment-based programs.

The American Widow Project was born from a personal story. In 2007, Taryn's husband was killed by multiple roadside bombs. Feeling lost and alone in the new world she'd been thrown into, Taryn began traveling around the country to hear other women's stories of love, tragedy... and overall survival. In hearing their accounts, she hoped to learn more about the title that had been given to her... that of a military widow. What began as her own personal journey, has expanded into a non-profit organization, a documentary film, and a network of healing that has reached thousands. Inspired by the willpower and strength of the women "in her shoes", Taryn has found that true love is eternal, that the lessons her husband shared still run through her veins, that the heart can heal and that she is not alone.

Taryn's passion and work with the AWP has been featured in such places as The TODAY Show, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Forbes and PBS. It's also led to her receiving such accolades as Top 10 CNN Hero, L'Oreal's National Woman of Worth and NEWSWEEK's 150 Women Who Shake the World.



Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018



Meg Kabat, LCSW-C, CCM

National Director, Caregiver Support Program,
US Department of Veteran Affairs

Meg Kabat, LCSW-C, CCM currently serves as the National Director of VA's Caregiver Support Program. In this role, she serves as the principal advisor to senior leaders across VA on caregiving. Ms. Kabat joined the Caregiver Support Program in 2011, serving as its Deputy Director. Throughout her more than 20 years as a Licensed Social Worker, Ms. Kabat has worked with many populations including the elderly, those struggling with mental illness and adopted children. Ms. Kabat began working with America's Wounded Warriors in 2003 and has worked in many different roles both for the United States Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), ensuring the best care for America's Veterans.

Ms. Kabat graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and from the Catholic University of America, where she earned a Masters in Social Work. In 2015, Ms. Kabat received a Special Recognition Award from Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for her work in supporting caregivers of Veterans.

Ms. Kabat is the proud daughter and granddaughter of Veterans who served in World War I, World War II, and Vietnam. She lives outside Washington DC, with her husband and two children and is active with her children's many activities including school, Boy Scouts, religious education, and sports teams.

Full Conference Schedule

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018



Speakers	Session	Location
Taryn Davis, American Widow Project	7:15 - 8:00 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:00 - 9:00 AM Keynote Address	Pre-function Area Phoenix Ballroom
Breakout Sessions: 9:15 - 10:45 AM		
Clinical		
Molly Batschelet, LCSW, LCDC	Session 1: Outreach & Engagement with Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: Clinical and Ethical Considerations (90 min) Focusing on direct practice in working with Veterans experiencing homelessness, specifically Veterans with serious mental illness (SMI), including those with dual substance use disorders. We will discuss the benefit of utilizing a Motivational Interviewing (MI) approach as an effective way to build trust, rapport, and help guide the Veteran toward a willingness to change. We will also explore the use of the harm reduction and housing-first models as a way to improve outcomes for Veterans who may be resistant to services.	Phoenix Central
Donetta Beasley, LCSW & Verna Williams, LCSW	Session 2: Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life: Exploration of the Challenges, Role of Comprehensive Assessments & Evidence Based Interventions (90 min) The premise of this training is to assist social workers with enhancing their knowledge about some of the internal and external struggles faced by Veterans, and assist them with developing skills in the area of comprehensive assessment, and foundational knowledge regarding viable interventions, that may help to curtail some of the distress associated with the transition.	Phoenix North
Higher Education		
Beth-Ann Kauppila, PhD, LCSW, BCD	Session 3A: Reconceptualizing MSW Program Curriculum to Enhance Assessment and Intervention with Women Service Members (45 min) Military women often experience long-lasting effects from stress and trauma resulting from their service. These unique stressors continue to be addressed in practice and research to determine better ways for social workers to help military women. Graduate programs can prepare social work students by grounding education efforts in the CSWE Advanced Social Work Practice in Military Social Work guidelines.	Dewitt
Hisako Sonethavilay, MSW & Jennifer L. Hurwitz, PhD	Session 3B: Civilian-Military Community Connections is Key to Strong Family Support: The Importance of Incorporating a Comprehensive Understanding of Modern Military and Veteran Families into Higher Education Curricula (45 min) When examining the diversity of today's military families, the Blue Star Families' 2017 Military Family Lifestyle Survey found that the mobile lifestyle required of military families means local support networks have to be rebuilt with each move, and as a result, most military families do not feel part of the civilian communities in which they live. The importance of these findings in relation to higher education will be discussed.	Dewitt
Research		
Keith R. Aronson, PhD Daniel F. Perkins, PhD Kyle Hawkey, MEd & LTC Kevin Creedon, PhD	Session 4A: Zero Suicide Systems Approach to Prevention (45 min) Discover the implementation approach, challenges, successes and lessons learned from the Zero Suicide Systems Approach (ZSSA). Post-training, participants reported a high degree of confidence in their ability to screen and assess for suicide. Providers report that they conduct fewer full risk assessments because the new screening approach yields a lower false positive rate.	Austin
MAJ Debra Stone, PhD, LCSW, BCD	Session 4B: An Analysis of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Socio-Economic Status, Educational Achievement, and Delinquency to Predict Military Enlistment (45 min) Learn about the interaction between ACEs, delinquency, educational achievement, and socio-economic status. Research found that the interaction between delinquency & ACEs produced the strongest predictive factor of military enlistment. This knowledge has implications for military recruiting and training, direct medical and mental health practice with service members and their families, and the need for social work education to be better informed about the biopsychosocial history of service members.	Austin



Full Conference Schedule

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
10:45 - 11:00 AM Morning Coffee Break & Resource Fair		Pre-function Area
Breakout Sessions: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM		
	Clinical	
SGT Sarah Skelton, PsyD & LTC Maurice Millican	Session 5: Utilizing Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) in Combat: Research, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned (90 min) This presentation will present a brief overview of quantitative and qualitative data compiled during Operation Inherent Resolve 2016-17. This research indicated an overwhelming positive response to the training and desire to have more conversations about suicide. It indicates a strong case for continued and increased use of the Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST) downrange. It will cover techniques and initiatives to overcome barriers to implementing this program in a combat zone.	Phoenix Central
Elizabeth Walther, LCSW	Session 6: Assessing Deployment Related Stressors Through and Attachment Lens (90 min) The Emotional Cycle of Deployment is a model originally developed for Navy families by Kathleen Vestal Logan in 1987 to increase understanding of the changes in relationships and behavior occurring around the deployment cycle. This session will provide participants with a framework for recognizing and assessing deployment related stressors using a combination of didactic and experiential learning.	Phoenix North
	Higher Education	
Steven A. Bush, EdD, MSW Kaylin S. Song, MSW, DC David L. Bringham, PhD LCSW & Laura M. Cardinal, LICSW	Session 7: Bridging the Cultural Gap Between Civilian Social Work Educators and Student Veterans (90 min) Many military veterans are choosing Social Work as their next “service” career yet there is a gap between how student veterans were trained in the military and how institutions of civilian higher education are trying to educate student veterans in the college classroom. This education gap is an area that both student veterans and civilian educators have been struggling to successfully bridge. Qualitative research on student veteran engagement preferences, and practical strategies to engage, and to be engaged, in a higher education classroom will be presented in this interactive workshop.	Dewitt
	Research	
Lily Casura, BA	Session 8A: Seeing Her More Clearly Now: Improving the Understanding of Women Veterans’ Experience with Homelessness after Military Service (45 min) This presentation will discuss findings from an independent, IRB-approved survey, that asked women veterans about periods of unstable housing after completion of military service. Findings will be presented about the characteristics of the respondents, their experience with homelessness, and risk factors associated with higher reports of homelessness	Austin
LCDR Stephanie Felder, MSW, LCSW, PhD Candidate	Session 8B: The Life Course of Homeless Female Veterans: A Qualitative Study (45 min) This qualitative study examined the life course of female veterans who have experienced homelessness. This presentation will directly address cultivating diverse communities for the military, veterans, and their families. Findings from this in-depth, descriptive study will inform social work service delivery, practice, and future research questions with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness for veterans and their families.	Austin
12:30 - 1:45 PM Lunch on your own OR Film Screening & Panel Discussion (Pre-purchased boxed lunches for film presentation will be available for pickup)		Phoenix Central



Full Conference Schedule

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
Breakout Sessions: 1:45 - 3:15 PM		
Clinical		
Trisha Chadduck, MSW, LICSW & Amy Gunkelman, MSW, LICSW	Session 9: Volunteer in Home Respite: Bridging the Cultural Gaps in Rural Settings (90 min) Many of our Veterans and their loved ones choose to return to or create a life in a rural setting following their military career. A need was identified to develop an in home respite program to fill the gaps home care could not. The program was developed and implemented at a pilot site 70+ miles away from the main VA campus. Its basics are easily duplicated for expansion to other areas. This session will discuss the implementation of this program in a rural setting.	Phoenix Central
Peter J. Buotte, MFA, MPS, LPC-I & Hannah Bronson, MT-BC	Session 10: Clinical Application of Art and Music Therapy with Active Duty Service Members at Fort Hood (90 min) We will share how these creative arts therapies enhance military patient care in an interdisciplinary team setting through case examples and experiential demonstration. The evidence base of current creative arts therapies models for patient care and rehabilitation in the military healthcare system continues to grow. Collecting and reporting data on existing practices through the Creative Forces network will strengthen rationale for inclusion of these services on a continuum of care.	Phoenix North
Higher Education		
SGT Sarah Skelton, PsyD	Session 11A: Supporting Student Veterans on Campus (45 min) This presentation will discuss initiatives, policies, procedure and best practices used to help veterans reach academic success despite unique challenges. Specific topics covered are: diversity within student veteran population, invisible Identity, laws that may impact best practices that are unique to students still currently serving, consultation/ collaboration / competency within campus and the community, PTSD/TBI, military sexual trauma (MST), suicide intervention, prevention and education, and ethical considerations.	Dewitt
Katherine Selber, PhD	Session 11B: Supporting Campus Programs for Student Veterans (45 min) This presentation will cover 10 years of work on this model of services to support student veterans on campus. The lessons-learned will focus on how to merge the educational and service missions of the university, developing training opportunities for social work students, needs assessments of student vets, and the academic, outdoor, mental health, and career programming for student vets and families. Data on diverse student vet populations will be presented as well as needs assessment data from multiple years	Dewitt
Research		
Keith R. Aronson, PhD Daniel F. Perkins, PhD Rene Robichaux, PhD Col Anthony Cox, PhD Nicole Morgan, PhD	Session 12A: Military Family Advocacy in the U.S. Army: Program Service Outcomes and Family Participation (45 min) This study in discussion, examined the implementation of a family advocacy program and the degree to which families engage with the program. The Army Family Advocacy Program was implemented with high quality, established processes and procedures for handling cases were largely followed, and FAP staff responded rapidly and thoroughly to reported abuse. Developing robust approaches to engaging families in programming must be a high priority going forward.	Austin
LTC Liquori Etheridge, LCSW, LCDC, BCD & Elizabeth Hisle-Gorman, LCSW, PhD	Session 12B: Children with Developmental Disabilities & Their Impact on Marital Satisfaction (45 min) This study examines the effects of children with developmental disabilities on marital relationships within the military population. The effect on couples raising children with developmental disabilities varies between having minimal impact, to increasing the risk of divorce. The lack of clarity and inability to produce consistent findings varies based on several factors that will be discussed in further detail.	Austin
3:15 - 3:30 PM Afternoon Break & Resource Fair		Phoenix Central



Full Conference Schedule

Day 1 | Sept. 5, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
Breakout Sessions: 3:30 - 5:00 PM		
	Clinical	
Elisa V. Borah, MSW, PhD Katherine Dodanville, PsyD, ABPP Janet Cohen Centola, LCSW Ellen DeVoe, PhD Amy Williams, PhD	Session 13: Adaptation, Implementation and Evaluation of the Strong Families Moving Forward Program with Veteran Families (45 min) The Strong Families Moving Forward program provides much needed programming for Veteran families related to separation and transition as well as posttraumatic stress and other mental health concerns. An overview of the model will be reviewed, and program evaluation data will be presented to understand how the program can support Veteran family members. The Strong Families program was then implemented with active duty families.	Phoenix Central
Stephanie Bertucci, LICSW & Megan Welu, LGSW	Session 14: Minneapolis VAs Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program: Focused on Enhancing Substance Use Treatment (45 min) The Intensive Outpatient Dual-Diagnosis Program at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center is focused on quick access, evidence-based intervention, and long-term program evaluation. This presentation provides an overview of how we turned our treatment program into a "well-oiled machine", specifically our drop-in screening process along with an easy to understand CBT-based curriculum.	Phoenix North
	Higher Education	
Tina Blaschke-Thompson, LMSW Glenn Stutzky, LMSW SGT Kevin Thompson, LLMSW, USMC (Sep), Emily Brozovic, Keesha Johnson	Session 15A: Embracing the Stories of War: Using Immersive Course Design and Storytelling to Deepen Social Workers Empathy for Combat Veterans (45 min) Combat is a visceral experience in which the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touch are imprinted on the souls of veterans. In order to understand this experience, students are asked to explore difficult and graphic content that was true to veterans’ experiences of war. Embracing the Stories of War was selected for the 2017 SAGE/CSWE Award for Innovative Teaching in Social Work. More than just an innovative class; this represents a new pedagogical approach to teaching and learning that can be applied across social work curriculum.	Dewitt
Marie C. Salimbeni, PhD, LCSW, CAS & Ajus Ninan, LCSW, ACSW, BCD	Session 15B: Enhancing Professional Competency: Exploring Pedagogy with Psychodynamic Group Therapy for Professionals and Paraprofessionals in Military Behavioral Health (45 min) This presentation will discuss the value of a pilot project at a military hospital using psychodynamic theory in a group of social workers and students as the training apparatus. This model will explore the process of the group experience through the multi-dimensional lens of each group participant. We will describe and evaluate the lessons learned and gained from this pilot teaching process and how it can be utilized as a technique in training military BH professionals and paraprofessionals	Dewitt
	Research	
Derrick Kranke, PhD, MA	Session 16A: That’s What It’s All About – Emotional Connection: Sameness Among Veterans and Civilians to Promote Reintegration (45 min) This study identifies how reframing feelings of “differentness” to feelings of “sameness” impact Veterans’ socialization with civilians and belonging in society. The Team Rubicon (TR) experience analyzed by this study was found to benefit Veteran volunteers’ efforts to reintegrate, because the setting facilitated emotional connection among Veterans and civilians. Findings suggest that TR is a program to connect Veterans with individuals in the general population, and enhance feelings of Veteran reintegration and a sense of belonging.	Austin
CPT Chelsea Arnold, LCSW, USAF Leila Wood, PhD, & Matt Kammer-Kerwick, PhD	Session 16B: Support for Continued Bystander Education Among Military Affiliated Students (45 min) This study uses data from eight academic campuses in a Southwestern state to explore bystander attributes and behaviors of military affiliated students in comparison to non-military affiliated students. This study also explores how this population responds to sexual assault awareness and bystander intervention education. This presentation addresses the impact continued bystander intervention education will have on military affiliated students and the IHE community.	Austin
5:00 - 6:30 PM Poster Reception		Lobby Colonnade



Full Conference Schedule

Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
Meg Kabat, LCSW-C, CCM, VA Caregiver Support Program	7:15 - 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast	Phoenix South
	8:00 - 8:45 AM Keynote Address	Phoenix Ballroom
Breakout Sessions: 9:15 - 10:45 AM		
	Clinical	
Venée M. Hummel, LCSW & Erica E. Nason, PhD	Session 17: Effective Strategies When Working with Trauma Avoidance (90 min) This presentation aims to strengthen providers’ conceptualization of avoidance and will discuss practical examples for use in clinical settings. Strategies are rooted in Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Prolonged Exposure for PTSD, and Motivational Interviewing. This presentation will emphasize the intersection of cultural factors and avoidance. Case examples will be used to highlight a variety of behavioral presentations of avoidance symptoms and provide opportunities for attendees to practice clinical skills for addressing avoidance.	Phoenix Central
Donetta Beasley, LCSW & Verna Williams, LCSW	Session 18: NAMI Homefront Webinar: Another Way for Caregivers to Access Support (90 min) This presentation will discuss NAMI Homefront. NAMI is a free, 6-session educational program for families, caregivers and friends of military service members and vets with mental health conditions. The webinar provides important information on crisis management, effective communication, and problem solving; self-care and stress management; providing support in a compassionate manner; identifying and accessing resources and services; research advances; current treatments and therapies.	Phoenix North
	Higher Education	
Fred P. Stone, PhD, LCSW	Session 19A: Teaching Military Mental Health: Errors in Understanding Help Seeking Behavior (45 min) This discussion will examine potential errors in teaching about mental health problems among military members and misunderstandings around barriers to care, particularly stigma. Participants will be able to apply a staged model of help seeking that will explain to students the many levels of help seeking and how to overcome barriers to seeking mental health care for members of the military and veterans.	Dewitt
Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW & Jose E. Coll, PhD	Session 19B: Military Social Work Education: Beyond the Token Elective (45 min) This presentation proposes an integration of military social work across the curricula to increase cultural awareness and self-efficacy amongst all of our students. This study is based on a web based survey that was administered to clinicians and Master’s level social work, psychology and counseling students. This study supports the importance of cultural responsiveness in working with veterans.	Dewitt
	Research	
Thomas P. Chacko, PhD, Candidate, MA, MSW	Session 20A: Perceived Health Status and Life Satisfaction Among Older Veterans: The Moderating Role of Social Support (45 min) This presentation will highlight the importance of adequate social support for older veterans. In the context of aging, families and communities play a vital role in the health and life satisfaction of older veterans. This presentation will discuss older veterans, their families, and communities.	Austin
Elisa V. Borah, MSW, PhD Valerie Rosen, MD & MAJ Chris Paine, US Army, LCSW, BCD	Session 20B: Veteran Patient Care at Seton: How does Military Cultural Competence Impact Patient Perceptions of Care? (45 min) We will present results on how training providers in military cultural competence (MCC) influenced their patients’ health care experiences, including whether providers’ levels of MCC influenced veteran patients’ perceptions of the healthcare they received. Recommendations as to how civilian healthcare systems can improve the care it provides to its military veteran patients will be discussed.	Austin



Full Conference Schedule

Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
10:45 - 11:00 AM Morning Coffee Break & Resource Fair		Phoenix South
Breakout Sessions: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM		
	Clinical	
Melinda Keenan, PhD & Noel Lipana, PhD	Session 21: Addressing Mortal Injury & Posttraumatic Stress: Exploring a Model that Works (90 min) This presentation will describe the California-based, Citrus Heights Vet Center’s and The Center for Post Traumatic Growth approach to treating veterans and their families. This presentation highlights the role of inclusivity in the communalization of grief and reparation. Lastly, we will close with recommendations for future research on similar interventions and the development of standardized screening criteria to assist clinicians in diagnosing moral injury pre and post treatment.	Phoenix Central
Michael T. Greenwald, LCSW	Session 22: Treating Combat Related Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Evidence-Based Practices and Considerations for Recovery- Promoting Care (90 min) This presentation will look at the current evidence-based treatments being used to treat Post-traumatic Stress Disorder within the VA, including Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure along with discussion surrounding the qualities unique to combat-related trauma. Additionally, we will review future considerations and emerging trends in clinical practice related to female Veterans, military sexual trauma, and moral injury.	Phoenix North
Fred P. Stone, Ph.D., LCSW	Session 23: Male Military Sexual Trauma: Implications for Practice (90 min) In this presentation, attendees will examine male military sexual trauma within the context of military culture and US society. The presentation will focus on types of sexual assaults men experience and some of the myths of male rape. It will also address some treatment considerations and areas for future research.	Dewitt
	Research	
Mark H. Trahan, PhD, LCSW Angela Ausbrooks, PhD, LMSW Kenneth Scott Smith, PhD, LCSW Vangelis Metsis, PhD Abigail Berek, MSW Candidate	Session 24A: The Lived Experiences of Student Veterans Experiencing Social Anxiety and Avoidance (45 min) Due to the relationship between combat exposure, PTSD, and Social Anxiety Disorder, an increasing amount of returning combat veterans report maladaptive patterns of social functioning, characterized by distress in social interactions, avoidance of social situations, and impaired interpersonal relationships. In this study, student veterans identified specific situations triggering physiological arousal and inducing social avoidance responses.	Austin
Allen Rubin, PhD & Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW	Session 24B: Transitioning to Civilian Life Scale (45 min) This study conducted an online survey of a sample of 197 veterans to assess the reliability and validity of a scale to measure how well U.S. military service members are transitioning to civilian life. The scale was found to have excellent internal consistency reliability (alpha = .911) as well as criterion validity. An exploratory factor analysis identified three factors (psychosocial well being, economic well being, and physical health). Implications are offered for using the scale for clinical diagnostic and treatment planning purposes as well for outcome evaluations of transition services for veterans at community agencies.	Austin
12:15 - 12:30 PM Break to Visit Exhibitors 12:30 - 1:30 Provided Lunch / Caregiver Panel Presentation 1:30 - 1:45 Break to Visit Exhibitors		Phoenix Ballroom

Full Conference Schedule

Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018



Speakers	Session	Location
Breakout Sessions: 1:45 - 3:15 PM		
Clinical		
Hannah O'Brien, MSSW & MAJ Chris Paine US Army, LCSW, BCD	Session 25: Retreat Plus: Marriage Enrichment for OEF/OIF Veteran Couples Program (90 min) This session will review a novel application of a veteran couples' marriage enrichment program, incorporating elements from Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT) to serve veteran couples in a 21-couple cohort setting in both in-person and virtual environments. The Mastering Your Marriage program, in partnership with the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation, was developed to help OIF/OEF married veteran couples strengthen their marriages.	Phoenix Central
Taryn Davis, LMSW & Aurelia Ogden, LMSW	Session 26: The Housing First Model and Working with Veteran Families (90 min) The aim of our presentation would be to inform the community of the Housing First model and how it is utilized in providing services to veteran families experiencing homelessness in the Austin area. We would discuss current challenges and barriers that clients and service providers face, as well as how this model has been successful. The Housing First model cultivates inclusion by meeting a client where they are, regardless of sobriety, income, or criminality.	Phoenix North
Higher Education		
Andrew Crocker, MS Rachel Brauner, MAG Alicia Cassels, MA Christopher Plein, PhD Kacy Mixon, PhD, LMFT	Session 27A: The Housing First Model and Working with Veteran Families (45 min) This session will provide an overview on the the Housing First model and how it is utilized in providing services to veteran families experiencing homelessness in the Austin area. Also discussed: Current challenges and barriers that clients and service providers face, as well as how this model has been successful. The Housing First model cultivates inclusion by meeting a client where they are, regardless of sobriety, income, or criminality.	Dewitt
Monica Himes, LCSW, CADC	Session 27B: From Soldier to Student: The Transition Experiences for Student Veterans in Higher Education (45 min) This presentation will highlight the findings of a systematic review of the literature surrounding the transition of military service members and veterans into academia and the issues that impact their ability to function in this new and different environment. Themes emerging from the review that the presentation will delineate are: mental health concerns, physical health concerns, battling invisible wounds, and bridging the military-civilian divide, as well as strengths of student veterans and the use of campus support services.	Dewitt
Research		
Amy Preston Page, LCSW Abigail Ross, PhD, MSW, MPH Phyllis Solomon, PhD	Session 28A: A Mixed-Methods Examination of the Relationship Between the Self and Adaptive Coping in Military Wives (45 min) The aim of this mixed-methods study was to examine the extent to which identity status, self-concept clarity, self-monitoring, role conflict, and mastery predicted military wives' use of problem-focused and emotion-focused coping. Qualitative findings indicated that participants who rely on themselves in wide-ranging circumstances but do not struggle with conflicting expectations may fare better.	Austin
MAJ Chris Paine, US Army, LCSW, BCD	Session 28B: Adverse Childhood Experiences and the US Military: Challenges and Opportunities Towards Improving Force and Family Member Mental Health (45 min) This presentation will discuss how the long term negative health outcomes linked to adversity in childhood (ACE), disproportionally effect military populations, when compared to the general population. Research on ACEs has provided strong evidence for the negative effects of early trauma on the developing brain and health across the lifespan. Compounded by the trauma-associated risks for military populations, those entering service with ACE have an increased high future health risk of developing disorders such as anxiety, depression, suicide, PTSD and alcohol use.	Austin
3:15 - 3:30 PM Afternoon Break & Resource Fair		Phoenix South



Full Conference Schedule

Day 2 | Sept. 6, 2018

Speakers	Session	Location
Breakout Sessions: 3:30 - 5:00 PM		
	Clinical	
Chandra Peterson LMSW & Jill Palmer, LCSW	Session 29: Beyond Cultural Competence: Intersectionality in the Mental Health Treatment of Military and Veteran Clients and Their Families (90 min) In this presentation, we highlight how intersectional identities, especially race, sexual orientation, and disability, impact experience, symptoms, and willingness to engage in mental health care, especially with providers who do not share the same intersectional identities. We provide guidance and suggestions for honoring intersectionality and the necessity to employ a staff representative of the intersectional identities present in the clients seeking services.	Phoenix Central
Mari Alschuler, PhD, LISW-S, ACSW	Session 30: The Housing First Model and Working with Veteran Families Suicide Prevention for LGB/T Service Members and Veterans (90 min) This practice presentation will provide an overview of risk and resiliency features relevant to developing affirmative, culturally-competent suicide prevention strategies for use with gender and sexual minority military personnel and veterans. The need for culturally-sensitive care at VHA facilities is indicated by pressing behavioral health issues among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming	Phoenix North
Higher Education		
Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW & Julie Canfield	Session 31A: Military and Veteran 'Friendliness': Unpacking the Construct and Cultivating Diversity in Higher Education (45 min) This presentation aims to raise awareness and poses the question of whether student Veterans are receiving the appropriate amount or type of academic supports and/or accommodations necessary to complete their educational goals in a timely manner. Many institutions of higher learning identify as "Military and Veteran-Friendly," and although this projects a welcoming environment for student veterans, how does this concept translate into day-to-day practices across campuses and college classrooms?	Dewitt
	Research	
Thomas P. Chacko, MA, MSW	Session 31B: TRAGIC to Wellbeing: A Novel Data-Driven, Strengths-Based Intervention Framework for Combat-Exposed Veterans (45 min) This presentation will introduce a new treatment framework as an alternative to existing framework such as trauma-informed care. Despite growing evidence on the presence of positive psychological outcomes of traumatic exposures, traditional approaches to therapy have exclusively focused on the negative outcomes of trauma. Clinicians can incorporate resilience and PTG into their practice of healing trauma. Social work with its focus on micro, mezzo and other levels of human interactions is uniquely poised to integrate the TRAGIC to Wellbeing framework into clinical interventions and organizational planning.	Dewitt
MAJ Peter Dell, PhD, LCSW, BCD	Session 32A: Psychopathology, Alcohol Use, Deployment History and IPV: The Mediating Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Allostatic Load (45 min) This study explored factors correlated with intimate partner violence (IPV) risk for Soldiers and their families who had experienced at least one act of relationship violence in the past. Using structural equation modeling (SEM) a probable causal model was developed to assess the direct and indirect effects of adverse childhood experiences and psychosocial stressors (current) on previously validated correlates (deployment experience, psychopathology, substance abuse) associated with IPV risk. Allostatic load and PTS symptoms were found to have both direct and indirect effects on IPV risk.	Austin
Erica E. Nason, PhD & Elisa V. Borah, MSW, PhD	Session 32B: The Relationship Between Interpersonal Support and Cognitive Processing Therapy Outcomes for Combat-related PTSD (45 min) In this current study, 332 active duty service members with PTSD were randomly assigned to complete either group or individual Cognitive Processing Therapy. Service members completed the PTSD Checklist and Interpersonal Support Evaluation at baseline and after completing treatment. Results indicated that social support at pre-treatment did not predict later PTSD. However, lower PTSD scores at baseline were associated with higher social support at post-treatment.	Austin
END OF CONFERENCE		

Beyond the Conference:

Friday Events | Sept. 7, 2018

8:00 - 8:45 AM | Registration & Continental Breakfast | Magnolia Room

VA Integrated Case Management: Transforming into One Team, One Mission

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Austin Room



Integrated Case Management (ICM) is a specialized, collaborative practice among multiple healthcare professions. ICM provides structure and standards to support inter-professional collaboration throughout the continuum of care and optimal utilization of healthcare resources. ICM addresses both physical and mental health to enhance Veterans' wellness, level of functioning, and quality of life. The aim is to provide effective, safe, efficient and cost-effective interventions that improve access to care, reduce duplication and fragmentation of services, ensure adherence to professional standards of practice, and support staff in their work.

Meet your Facilitators...

Rachele Misiti, LCSW is the Assistant Chief of Social Work at Central Texas VA Healthcare System. After years of providing case management to Seriously Injured Combat Veterans, she moved into a leadership as the Transition and Care Management Program Manager for Central Texas. Additionally, Ms. Misiti provides oversight to the rapidly expanding Veteran to Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) and social work site lead for Integrated Case Management. In partnership with Ms. Sanders in Nursing, Ms. Misiti developed the innovative Integrated Case Management Model which has served as the gold standard and led the push for implementing an integrated approach to case management efforts nationally. Ms. Misiti has a Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Studio Art from Bloomsburg University (2001), Bloomsburg, PA and a Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin (2004).

Dorothy A. Sanders, BSN, RN is the Nurse Manager, Integrated Case Management & Home Telehealth Program at Central Texas Veterans Health Care System in Temple, Texas. She began her nursing career with the VA shortly upon graduating from University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in June 2004, where she cared for Veterans admitted on the Acute Medicine/Telemetry inpatient ward. Ms. Sanders has recently been detailed to VA Central Office: Office of Nursing Service Clinical Program Manager for Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management Initiative where she is responsible for all phases and sites of ICM Implementation.

Clinical Training Full Day Workshop: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia & Nightmares

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Magnolia Room

[Pre Registration Required - WORKSHOP FILLED]

Nightmares and sleep disturbances are commonly reported following trauma and are considered the hallmark of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Research indicates that sleep disturbances are more than just PTSD symptoms. In fact, sleep disturbances often remain even after successful treatment of PTSD and are uniquely related to suicidality, depression, and substance use. This clinical workshop is designed to teach assessment and psychological treatment for sleep disorders. Within the day-long training, attendees will learn how to implement a six-session treatment protocol for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia and Nightmares. The workshop will provide recommended assessment strategies, measures, and implications for various sleep disorders including insomnia, sleep apnea, nightmares, shift work related sleep problems, and hypersomnia. Clinical teaching of a 6-session treatment protocol for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia and Nightmares that includes techniques for sleep restriction, stimulus control, sleep hygiene, relaxation training, nightmare exposure and prescription, and relapse prevention will also be discussed.



Meet your Facilitators...

Brooke A. Fina, MSW, LCSW, BCD, is an Associate Professor and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker within the Division of Behavioral Medicine and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She specializes in Prolonged Exposure (PE) Therapy for combat-related PTSD, has extensive training and is nationally certified as a Master Clinician and Clinical Supervisor in PE. Additionally, she completed national certification programs in Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT) for PTSD, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBTi), and in the assessment and diagnosis of PTSD.

Brittany Hall-Clark, PhD is a Texas-licensed psychologist with a cognitive-behavioral approach. She obtained her Clinical Psychology PhD at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). Her clinical specialties include trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder nightmares, insomnia, sleep, and anxiety (e.g. social, phobia, obsessive-compulsive, generalized, panic).

Presenter Biographies

(A - Br)

LTC Andréa Chaves Albuquerque is a Lieutenant Commander in the Ministry of Defense from Brazil. LTC Albuquerque is the Coordinator at the Department of Health and Social Assistance Division of Social Assistance at the Ministry of Defense in Brazil.

Mari Alschuler, PhD, LISW-S, ACSW is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Youngstown State University. She teaches in the MSW program and is also in private practice. Dr. Alschuler received her doctorate in Leadership and Education from Barry University in 2012 and her MSW from Fordham University in 1990. Her research focuses on the intersections between sexuality and society, student veteran success, and mindfulness practice for social work students and clients.

CPT Chelsea Arnold, LCSW, USAF is currently serving as an active duty PhD student at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Master's in Social Work and commissioned as officer in the Air Force in 2012. Through her work as a clinical social worker in the military, Capt. Arnold has developed a passion for research in the study area of sexual assault treatment and prevention in the military and veteran population.

Keith R. Aronson, PhD is associate director of the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State. His work focuses on the health and well-being of military families, evidence-based program implementation and evaluation, and PTSD treatment. He has received funding from DoD, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, as well as NIH, NSF, USDA.

Angela Ausbrooks, LMSW, PhD is an associate professor at Texas State University. Dr. Ausbrooks teaching areas include child welfare, work with minorities, research, practice and human behavior and social environment. Dr. Ausbrooks is the MSW Coordinator for the School. She has more than 15 years of experience in child welfare as a front-line worker and a coordinator of a Title IV-E program. She is interested in researching child welfare, resilience, juvenile justice, and diversity. She teaches both online and on campus.

Molly Batschelet, LCSW, LCDC is the program coordinator for Safe Haven, a low-demand shelter for veterans experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness. Ms. Batschelet has been with the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program for 10 years and prior to this worked in state psychiatric services and community homeless services. She is a strong proponent of the Housing First model as a way to end homelessness in our community.

Melinda Bean lives in San Antonio and is the spouse of a veteran who served over 12 years in the Marine Corps. She has been a caregiver for him for 5 years.

Donetta Beasley, LCSW earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Social Work from Bowie State University. Mrs. Beasley has over 11 years of experience providing an array of services within the field of Social Work, to include case management, investigations, clinical supervision and psychotherapy. Mrs. Beasley has been trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance Commitment Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy.

Abigail Berek is a student at Texas State University, currently working towards a Master's degree at the School of Social Work.

Stephanie Bertucci, LICSW has been working in the field of addiction treatment since 2007. She has provided clinical services at multiple levels of care: inpatient, outpatient, and detoxification. In her current position as the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Coordinator at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center she has focused on making program improvements.

Tina Blaschke-Thompson, LMSW is a Senior Clinical Instructor and MSW Program Coordinator for the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. Tina is also the Coordinator of the School's Social Work with combat veterans Certificate Program for MSW students throughout the state of Michigan.

Elisa V. Borah, MSW, PhD is a research associate professor at The University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work. She conducts research and evaluation aimed at improving health care and supportive programming for veterans, spouses and their families.

Rachel Brauner, MAg is the Program Coordinator for the Military Program at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Rachel works closely with military professionals across the nation in assessing caregiver needs and providing the necessary education and resources to alleviate the stress that comes with caring for individuals with special needs or wounded service members. Rachel is also responsible for providing prevention education programs for the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at Joint Base San Antonio – Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

David L. Bringham, PhD, LCSW is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. Prior to joining the academic community Dr. Bringham spent 21 years as an active duty military social worker including working as the Chief of the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program and the Chief of Air Force Family Research. Dr. Bringham currently teaches clinical and military social work practice courses for the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Virtual Academic Center.

Hannah Bronson, MT-BC currently provides music therapy services at Intrepid Spirit Center, Fort Hood and previously at Intrepid Spirit Center, Fort Belvoir for active duty service members and their families supported by Creative Forces, the National Endowment for the Arts Military Healing Arts Network. Prior to joining Creative Forces in 2015, Hannah was employed at Resounding Joy Inc., a non-profit serving the San Diego community, as the Director of the Semper Sound Military Music Therapy Program.

Presenter Biographies

(Br - Da)

Emily Brozovic, Instructional Designer, is a designer in a variety of ways – visual, graphical, instructional, experiential. Her passion is designing, creating and building things that matter. Her favorite aspect of working on this project is the challenge of translating veteran experiences into impactful learning experiences for students.

Peter J. Buotte, MFA, MPS, LPC-I is the Healing Arts Therapy Program Coordinator at the Fort Hood National Center of Excellence Trauma Clinic. For the past 35 years, Peter is an active artist who trained in New York and at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris. In June 2015, he was featured in a group show at the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, and a nationwide juried veterans art exhibit in Aspen, Colorado in August 2017.

Steven A. Bush, EdD, MSW is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak - Peck School of Social Work. In 2014 Bush began teaching in the USC Suzanne Dworak - Peck School of Social Work Virtual Academic Center where he teaches social work practice and leadership in the social work profession. In 2017 Bush earned his Doctorate in Education from the USC Rossier School of Education completing his doctoral dissertation titled: Engaging Military Veterans in Synchronous Online Learning.

Julie Canfield, Ph.D., LICSW, works as a clinical instructor at Boston College University. Dr. Canfield specializes in the treatment of child post-traumatic stress disorder, military families and veterans, domestic violence, and family therapy among other treatment areas. Dr. Canfield graduated in 2001 from the Smith College School for Social Work.

Laura M. Cardinal, LICSW is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Field Department at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. She joined the USC Faculty in 2014 as part of the Virtual Academic Center where she teaches field seminar courses, serves as a Field Liaison, and is part of the Northwest Regional Field Faculty.

Alicia Cassels, MA is the Program Development and Evaluation Specialist with the Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) at Auburn University. Alicia served for 15 years as a youth and family mental health therapist, developing, implementing and supervising programs in school, community and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) settings. She also serves as a member of the MFLN Military Caregiving team, with an emphasis in special needs programming.

Lily Casura, BA is a graduate student in the social work program at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). A longtime journalist, she is engaged in IRB-approved research on female veteran homelessness. She has presented her research on female veteran homelessness at the American Public Health Association's national conference (2017) and many others.

Janet Cohen Centola, LCSW is with the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic. She holds a Masters degree in Social Work and Diplomate in Clinical Social Work and has practiced in a variety of settings with both active duty military and veterans. She has worked with adults, children and families for over 30 years. In addition to direct clinical work she has trained other professionals and served as adjunct faculty in the Texas A&M Commerce Masters of Social Work program.

Thomas P. Chacko, MA, MSW is a PhD candidate in Social Work at the State University of New York at Buffalo. His research interests include posttraumatic stress disorder, posttraumatic growth, and resilience among older veterans. He also studies the intersection of PTSD with obesity and sleep disorders. Over the past four years, he has interacted with and studied hundreds of Vietnam veterans that has uniquely shaped his research interests.

Trisha Chadduck, MSW, LICSW has worked for the Fargo VA Health Care System since 2010. During that time she has worked in the primary care, oncology, inpatient medical and hospice/palliative care areas. Trisha currently serves as a co-coordinator of the Caregiver Support Program. Trisha received her Certificate in End of Life Care through Smith College in 2013.

Jose E. Coll, PhD is Director and Professor of the School of Social Work, Texas State University. Dr. Coll's research interests have been predominantly on worldview development and counseling veterans, with a focus on veteran transition. Dr. Coll is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Executive Leadership Academy (ELA), Harvard University Institute for Management Development Program (MDP), and American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program.

COL Anthony Cox, PhD is chief, Department of Behavioral Health Sciences U.S. AMEDD Center & School at Fort Sam Houston. He has held a number of roles throughout his career and has focused his work on abuse prevention and more recently suicide prevention.

LTC Kevin Creedon, PhD is chief of the mental health branch at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA). He is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. He is broadly responsible for policy and program development in support of the mental health of service members and their family members.

Andrew Crocker, MS is an Extension Program Specialist in Gerontology and Health at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Andy's main role is to support the County Extension Agents for Family and Community Health (FCH) in their outreach efforts to older adults, caregivers and professionals who serve them. He is part of a national Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) team of faculty from land-grant universities to provide professional development opportunities to military helping professionals.

Taryn Davis, LMSW is the Program Manager for the Front Steps Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) rapid re-housing program. She has been working on this grant for three years and is passionate about assisting veterans experiencing homelessness. She studied Military Social Work and veteran families for her MSW from the University of Southern California and has personal connection to this population.

Presenter Biographies

(De - Ha)

MAJ Peter Dell, PhD, LCSW, BCD is the Director of Training for Winn Community Hospital in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Nicole DeTuccio, CNA is the caregiver and spouse of a US Army veteran. Her spouse served in the Army for three years and Nicole has served as her spouse's caregiver for eight years. Nicole currently resides in Liberty Hill, Texas, working as a nursing assistant.

Ellen DeVoe, PhD received a Ph.D. in Social Work and Psychology from the University of Michigan. DeVoe has been a professor at the Boston University School of Social work since 2005. DeVoe teaches courses in the doctoral program and is the founding director of a Trauma Certification program to help social workers be prepared to work with families and children who have experienced trauma.

Holly Provance Doggett, MSML is the executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas. She has worked in the nonprofit field for over 30 years, serving in a variety of positions include direct service, fundraising, and management. As the executive director, she has worked to strengthen the support that NAMI Texas provides to the 30 NAMI Affiliates across the state. She is a NAMI Homefront instructor, NAMI Family Support Group facilitator, and NAMI Smarts teacher.

Katherine Dondanville, PsyD, ABPP is an Assistant Professor and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist within the Division of Behavioral Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Dondanville is the Director of Research for the Fort Hood Site of the STRONG STAR Consortium and the Consortium to Alleviate Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (CAP).

LTC Liquori Etheridge, LCSW, LCDC, BCD is a Behavioral Health Officer in the US Army. He is an operationally adaptive leader who has served in various capacities from medical plans and operations in Kosovo, Honduras and Iraq to clinical and administrative leadership positions within the Army behavioral health service line. LTC Etheridge is currently serving as a Fellow in Child and Family practice through the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center located in Bethesda, MD.

LCDR Stephanie Felder, MSW, LCSW, PhD Candidate is a United States Public Health Services Commissioned Corp Officer stationed in the Department of Health and Human Services. Lcdr Felder is a doctoral candidate in the National Catholic School of Social Service at The Catholic University of America. As the HCHV Coordinator, Lcdr Felder was chosen to serve as national representative for HCHV and provided national and local homeless veteran statistics.

Dan Field, LCSW serves as Adjunct Associate Professor at the USC Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and maintains a private practice in Los Angeles. He has worked extensively with veterans at the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration Homeless Screening Clinic, Salvation Army Residential Treatment Program and New Directions for Veterans. His clinical interests include post-traumatic growth, relational-based psychotherapy and mindfulness.

Kari L. Fletcher, MSW, Ph.D., LICSW, is an associate professor, MSW program director, and coordinator of the Area of Emphasis in Military Practice at the St. Catherine University-University of St. Thomas School of Social Work. Her scholarship agenda focuses primarily around working with military-connected populations.

Maggie Graham, MSW Candidate, is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work Program at the University of St. Thomas / St. Catherine University. She is expected to graduate in May, 2018 and will pursue her interests in clinical social work to become a trauma therapist with an emphasis on somatic-based and movement therapies.

Michael T. Greenwald, LCSW has ten years of experience working in the field of veterans mental health. Since 2009 he has worked specifically with combat veterans diagnosed with PTSD, and is currently the OEF/OIF/OND Senior Social Work on the Mental Health Trauma Team at the Dallas VA Medical Center. Michael also holds a Bachelor's of Art in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin.

Amy Gunkelman, MSW, LICSW co-coordinates the Caregiver Support Program at the Fargo VA Health Care System. She has worked at the Fargo VAHCS since 2006. Prior to joining the Caregiver Support Program, she worked in Post 9/11 Transition and Care Management and also the Community Living Center.

Kyle Hawkey, MEd is research and evaluation associate at the Clearinghouse. His work focuses on suicide prevention and the implementation of evidence-based programs to enhance health and well-being of service members and families.

Johna Hansen, Ph.D., LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who works with people who are experiencing anxiety, depression, eating disorders, trauma, and anger. Dr. Hansen sees children, adolescents, adults, and couples. She also sees parents of children with special needs and children with special needs.

Aprill Harmon, LCSW, MBA, CFEI, Ph.D., is certified in Financial Social Work as well as a Financial Education Instruction. She is currently employed in the VA Supported Housing Program where she assists homeless Veterans with permanent housing and achieving self sufficiency. She piloted a Financial Recovery Support Group at City Walk Apartments in downtown Dallas using the 12 Step Recovery Model.

Presenter Biographies

(Ha - Mi)

Willie C. Harmon Jr., Doctoral Student, MSW, currently attends Texas A&M University and is pursuing his doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in urban education. He holds an AM (MSW) in Social Work from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. He has ten years' experience working with youth (K-16) in schools and community based organizations.

Monica Himes, LCSW, CADC completed her BASW at the University of Kentucky and her MSSW at the University of Louisville. She is currently a doctoral student in the University of Kentucky College of Social Work with a research focus on military and veteran's issues. She currently teaches social work courses at Morehead State University and coordinates the Chemical Dependency Counseling minor. She also developed and teaches a military social work course at MSU.

Elizabeth Hisle-Gorman, LCSW, PhD began her career as a social worker working in neighborhood development efforts to support and strengthen families to prevent family violence and overcome hardship. Dr. Hisle-Gorman has significant experience working with the Military Health System Data Repository and conducting retrospective research studies on military children using the MDR.

Venée M. Hummel, LCSW is a Social Worker and Clinician at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors in Killeen, Texas. She provides clinical services to veterans and military family members, with a specialty focus on trauma and evidence-based treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder. Ms. Hummel is also an Instructor at Baylor University's Garland School of Social Work.

Jennifer L. Hurwitz, PhD is a Research and Policy Analyst for Blue Star Families. As a military spouse for the past nineteen years, she has volunteered and worked in a variety of roles that help to support military families. Jennifer holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has worked as a speech-language pathologist, teacher, university professor, and researcher.

Keesa Johnson, Instructional Designer, has dedicated her life to arts and new paradigms of learning. "My goal in life is to make visions happen. I humbly wake up every day to collaborate with creatives, designers, programmers, educators and university policy makers to make nontraditional methods of learning come to life."

Matt Kammer-Kerwick, PhD is a Research Scientist at the Bureau of Business Research, IC² Institute, The University of Texas at Austin. He is currently using mixed-methods research for problems in the domains of sexual assault prevalence, the economic impact of human trafficking, and consumer preferences in mobile advertising. He is also founder and president of Visionary Research, Inc., a research and strategy consultancy.

Beth-Ann Kauppila, PhD, LCSW, BCD is a Commander in the US Navy Medical Service Corps assigned as Clinical Associate Professor at the Army-Fayetteville State University MSW program teaching active duty students across the graduate curriculum. Her research interests focus on gender and clinical practice, coping, and issues related to military service. Dr. Kauppila has presented at national conferences and published in these areas.

Melinda Keenan, PhD has worked in various positions throughout the VA for over twenty years. She developed a group therapy approach to PTS and moral injury that includes interpersonal reconnection through letter writing. Dr. Keenan is the lead clinician at the Citrus Heights Vet Center and the Executive Director for The Center for Post Traumatic Growth on the L.A. veteran's Campus.

Derrick Kranke, PhD, MA is a Health Science Specialist at the Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center (VEMEC), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a qualitative researcher who focuses on aspects of differentness among individuals across the lifespan. Dr. Kranke's recent research on veterans and student veterans examines factors that mitigate stigma for help-seeking. Derrick is also an Adjunct Lecturer with the USC Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

Dana Larson, M.A. is a Masters candidate at the Steve Hick's School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and currently works full time doing research for STRONG STAR, a research consortium based in Fort Hood treating PTSD and Insomnia in active duty military members

Noel Lipana, PhD earned his Doctor of Social Work from the University of Southern California where he also performed work-study at their Center for Innovation and Research on veterans and military families. Noël is an Air Force Academy graduate and earned his M.A. from the Naval Postgraduate School. Noël's twenty-year service includes assignments from the strategic to tactical levels including a deployment to Afghanistan as a counter-IED officer. Noël is a founding member of The Center for Post Traumatic Growth.

Vangelis Metsis, PhD is an assistant professor at the Department of Computer Science at Texas State University. Dr. Metsis research interests span the areas of Machine Learning, Data Mining and Computer Vision with focus in applications of Smart Health and Wellbeing, Assisted Living and Bioinformatics. He is currently working on researching virtual reality technology for social avoidance with veterans.

LTC Maurice Millican served as the Brigade Chaplain for 176th Engineer soldiers during Operation Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield 2016-17. He has numerous combat deployments and has provided many suicide interventions while serving. He currently serves as a division Chaplain. He is a Master ASIST trainer.

Kacy Mixon, PhD, LMFT is an Assistant Professor in the Psychology, Counseling & Family Therapy Department at Valdosta State University and Project Director for the Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) Family Development team. As a licensed marriage and family therapist, Kacy has worked with families from all walks of life. Her trainings, presentations and courses, however, focus primarily on family violence, trauma and moral injury, military families, and foster-care transitions.

Presenter Biographies

(Mo - Ri)

Nicole R. Morgan, PhD is a Research and Evaluation Scientist for the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at The Pennsylvania State University. She received her B.A. from the University of North Dakota in Psychology and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Penn State in Human Development and Family Studies. Her training includes prevention science, program evaluation, and several advanced statistics and methodology courses.

Dhru Mukherjee, Ph.D., LCSW serves as an Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work, College of Health and Public Services, University of North Texas. Dr. Mukherjee's research includes addressing challenges to develop the trauma-informed clinical workforce, impact of trauma on children, adolescent and transitional youth and military population, post-traumatic growth, suicidal ideation, and technology solution to trauma-informed clinical practice.

Erica E. Nason, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Texas State University. Her primary research and clinical expertise is in trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder. One of her primary research focuses is examining factors that contribute to resiliency following a trauma and that are associated with better outcomes following treatment for posttraumatic stress disorder (e.g. social support, premorbid functioning).

CPT Ajus Ninan, LCSW, ACSW, BCD is a Behavioral Health Officer in the US Army. He is an operationally adaptive leader who has served in various capacities from combat behavioral medicine in Afghanistan to navigating complex strategic environments in the hospital arena. He is serving as a Fellow in Child and Family practice at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Hannah O'Brien, MSSW serves as the Program Coordinator for both the Texas Veteran Spouse Network and Mastering Your Marriage Programs at the University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work. Hannah received her Masters of Science in Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Social Work in 2017.

Aurelia Ogden, LMSW is a case manager for the Front Steps Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. She was awarded the Stand Up for Veterans grant as an MSW at Texas State University and has studied military culture for seven years. Ms. Ogden's brother and uncle both served in the U.S. military. Since their passing, she has been dedicated to serving the veteran population.

Amy Preston Page, LCSW is a doctoral candidate in the DSW program at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice. She has nearly a decade of direct practice experience.

MAJ Chris Paine, LCSW, BCD is a 2nd year doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Social Work. He holds a master's in social work (obtained while part of the inaugural cohort of the Army – Fayetteville State University Master's of Social Work Program taught at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Chris is also an active duty Army officer of fourteen years with three combat deployments.

Jill E. Palmer, MSW, serves as Clinic Director at Steven A Cohen Military Clinic at Endeavors - San Antonio. Palmer, a Navy Veteran, is a doctoral candidate at the University of Tennessee with a research focus on Veterans, suicide prevention and quality of life measurements for Veterans. Palmer has eight years of leadership experience through both the Navy and the private sector. With over 15 years of experience as a licensed clinical social worker, she is experienced in treating trauma in children, families, Veterans, and active duty populations.

Daniel F. Perkins, PhD is principle scientist and founding director of the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State. He is professor of youth and family resilience and policy. His work focuses on the health and well-being of military families with a focus on implementation and evaluation science. His work has been funded by the DoD, each of the services branches, USDA, and private foundations .

Chandra Peterson, LMSW is the Intake Coordinator for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors. She has worked as part of the Family Advocacy Program for eight years and Texas Army National Guard's State Behavioral Health Program for over a year. The culmination of work experience, personal experiences, and her own intersectionality has reinforced the commitment to recognize and acknowledge the importance these factors will have on clients served, and specifically the veteran population.

Christopher Plein, PhD is a Professor of Public Administration and Eberly Family Professor for Outstanding Public Service at West Virginia University. Dr. Plein has been involved in program evaluation studies undertaken for the State of West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources in such areas as Medicaid and welfare reform. He is current part of the Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) – Military Caregiving concentration, specifically surrounding work around individuals with special healthcare needs.

Andrew S. Qualy, MSW, is an injured combat veteran of the Iraq War. Following his military service, he co-founded the Minnesota Warriors Hockey Program, a nonprofit organization that uses the game of ice hockey to help veterans transition from military to civilian life. He is a graduate of the Master of Social Work program at the University of St Thomas in St Paul, MN, where his area of emphasis was in practice with military and veterans.

Michael Rainey, M.S., holds an M.S. in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.S. in engineering management from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as an assistant professor in the Department of Systems Engineering (DSE) at the U.S. Military Academy as well as a research associate for the C4I Center at George Mason University.

Patrícia Helena Ribeiro de Souza Chagas is a Commander in the Ministry of Defense from Brazil. Commander Ribeiro de Souza Chagas is the Manager at the Department of Health and Social Assistance Division of Social Assistance for the Ministry of Defense in Brazil.

Presenter Biographies

(Ro - St)

Rene Robichaux, PhD is a retired U.S. Army Col and has been nationally recognized for his contributions to military social work, particularly in family violence prevention.

Valerie Rosen, MD is Director of the Restore program at Seton Mind Institute and an Assistant Clinical Professor at UT Dell Medical School Department of Psychiatry where she teaches residents medication management and psychotherapy for treatment of PTSD. Dr. Rosen received her undergraduate degrees in Business and Psychology from UT Austin. She received her M.D. from U.T. Houston Medical School and completed her Residency at Yale.

Abigail Ross, PhD, MSW, MPH is an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Social Service at Fordham University. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame; she earned Masters degrees in Social Work and Public Health and a joint doctorate in Social Work & Sociology from Boston University.

Allen Rubin, PhD is the Kantambu Latting College Professorship for Leadership and Change at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work. He is the author of a number of best-selling titles in social work research and he currently serves as Chair of the Evidence-Based Practice track for the Council on Social Work Education. Dr. Rubin led an international symposium on Improving Teaching of EBP.

Marie C. Salimbeni, PhD, LCSW, CAS Service Chief, Education, Training & Research and Program Director, NCC SW Fellowship in Child & Family Practice, with over 30 years of experience working with military service members and teaching masters and doctoral students in civilian and military programs.

Katherine Selber, PhD has led the development of Texas State's Veterans Initiative that is now ranked nationally among four-year colleges for veteran-friendly practices. She also teaches a social work elective course on Helping Troops and Veterans Transition Back to Families & Community and provides leadership for a faculty-based field unit of social work students training to work with this population. Dr. Selber has a son in the military who has had five combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jennifer W. Silva, LCSW-S, serves as the Assistant Chief of Social Work Services at the Department of Affairs, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to her current role, she was the Assistant Chief of Social work at the Central Veterans Healthcare System (VA). Silva's main areas of focus include issues related to assessment and treatment of behavioral health, suicide prevention and medical social work in the veteran population. She has spent her career in multiple clinical arenas including CPS, Medical Social Work and Crisis Intervention.

Sarah Skelton, PsyD has served in the United States National Guard for 13 years and is still currently serving. She is a Behavioral Health Technician and regularly conducts training's, provides consultation, and conducts assessments on suicide prevention and intervention, PTSD/PTS and TBI, Sexual Assault, drug and alcohol abuse, resiliency and overall wellness with soldiers still currently serving. She is a combat veteran and provided behavioral health care to 2,500 soldiers in Kuwait and Iraq.

Scott Smith, PhD, LCSW is the Director of the Virtual Reality and Technology Lab and an associate professor at Texas State University. Dr. Smith's research interests are in psychometrics and scale development, research methods and statistics, and developing technological approaches to behavior change. Dr. Smith is currently working on researching virtual reality for social avoidance with veterans and has been recently awarded the U.S. Ignite Smart Cities award to research augmented / virtual reality technologies for mass casualty disaster scenarios.

Phyllis Solomon, PhD is Professor in the School of Social Policy & Practice and Professor of Social Work in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. She is internationally known for her research on clinical services and service system issues related to adults with severe mental illness and their families that includes research on psychiatric rehabilitation programs and intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system.

Hisako Sonethavilay, MSW is the Research and Policy Manager at Blue Star Families and supports the management of key legislative policy work and research including its annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey. Hisako's interest in BSF's legislative policy work and research stems from her own experiences as a Marine Corps spouse and passion for advocating on behalf of military families. Hisako holds a Master's of Social Work from George Mason University and has experience in social work practice and community research.

Kaylin S. Song, MSW, DC is a graduate from the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. She completed her Masters Degree in Social Work while she was serving as an Active Guard Reservist (AGR) in the Army Reserve. After Song received her commission in 2008 as an Army Ordnance officer, she was deployed to Iraq, conducted joint operations overseas, and has served in command and staff officer positions.

MAJ Debra Stone, PhD, LCSW, BCD earned her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, MA in 1999 and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 2017. MAJ Stone has deployed to both Iraq (2008 - 2009) and Afghanistan (2010 - 2011) and now serves as a faculty member at the Army Medical Department Center and School, at the Graduate School Master of Social Work program in San Antonio, TX.

Fred P. Stone, PhD, LCSW is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. He served in the United States Air Force for almost 29 years and retired at the rank of Colonel. He is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in working with military members, veterans, and their families.

Glenn Stutzky, LMSW is a Senior Clinical Instructor for the School of Social Work at Michigan State University. He has worked extensively with educators, law enforcement, and community members on issues related to domestic violence and school violence for over 20 years. He is now turning this experience towards better equipping those who serve combat veterans to effectively meet their unique needs.

Presenter Biographies

(T - W)

SGT Kevin Thompson, LLMSW, USMC (Sep.)

is a veteran consultant for Embracing the Stories of War. He is a mental health therapist with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mark Trahan, PhD, LCSW is an assistant professor of Social Work at Texas State University. Dr. Trahan's research includes the use of technology, specifically virtual / augmented reality, to assist in promoting confidence through design, prototyping and implementation of VR/AR applications for social and behavioral problems. Dr. Trahan is currently working on VR/360 Video applications paired with a clinical therapeutic intervention for decreasing social avoidance symptoms in returning combat veterans.

Rachel Linsner Uveges, MS, is a pre-doctoral research assistant and fellow at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, studying military spouses and military families. She is also a doctoral candidate in Human Development & Family Science at Syracuse University.

Amber Vasquez has been a full-time caregiver to her US Army veteran husband and young daughter since 2003, when he was injured and she was diagnosed with a disability. Currently, Amber is pursuing a degree in physics from UT Austin. Amber and her spouse are currently raising their four children together in Round Rock, TX.

LTC Janet Vaughn, PhD is a Medical Service Officer with a specialty in Social Work and is the Commander of the 85th Medical Detachment of 1st Medical Brigade, at Fort Hood, Texas. She has worked with Family Advocacy Program doing assessment of allegation of child and spouse abuse. She provided individual, family, marital therapy for military service members and their dependents.

Elizabeth Walther, LCSW has worked with Navy families for over 7 years and currently is the Chief of Clinical Services at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island. She oversees the Counseling division, the Family Advocacy Program which addresses abuse in Navy Families and the SAIL program which provides care coordination for Sailors with suicidal ideation. Prior to coming to Whidbey, Elizabeth was the Clinical Supervisor at Naval Air Station, Sigonella in Sicily, Italy.

Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW is Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California. She is the mental health concentration coordinator for the Virtual Academic Center (VAC) foundation practice sequence lead and co-coordinator of the military social work sub concentration for the VAC, as well as the lead instructor for the Social Work Practice with Military Families class in the VAC. She is also a certified drug and alcohol counselor and trained in the use of eye movement desensitization reprocessing (EMDR) therapy.

Megan Welu, LGSW is a social worker at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in Addictions Recovery Services. Megan believes in a whole health approach when assisting her clients in identifying their goals. Megan is trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Use Disorders and is currently seeking certification in Trauma Studies through the University of Minnesota. She holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Minnesota.

Amy Williams, PhD is the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic director and a licensed clinical psychologist. Dr. Williams' specialization is in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of posttraumatic stress, depression and anxiety. As a national trainer in cognitive processing therapy, she has consulted with numerous organizations in the research of and training therapists in effective treatments for PTSD in veteran / military and civilian populations.

Verna Williams, LCSW earned a Master of Social Work from The University of Michigan and Bachelor of Social Work from Clark Atlanta University. In the past 6 years Ms. Williams has worked diligently on enhancing her clinical and supervision skills by obtaining training in evidenced based psychotherapies and serving as a board certified clinical supervisor for the state of Texas. Ms. Williams specializes in trauma focused therapy, chronic pain, depression, and issues related to grief and loss.



Leila Wood PhD is a research assistant professor at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin and a member of the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, where she is responsible for CLASE, a multiyear study on sexual assaults, dating violence, stalking and sexual harassment at 12 of The University of Texas System college and medical campuses.

Poster Presentation Reception

Lieutenant Commander Andréa Chaves Albuquerque & Patricia Helena Ribeiro de S Chagas, Ministry of Defense – Brazil
Normative Historical Path of Social Assistance in the Ministry of Defense

Thomas P. Chacko, Ph.D. Candidate, MA, MSW, State University of New York at Buffalo
Co-occurrence of PTSD, Sleep Disorders, and Obesity among Veterans: Preliminary Findings from a Systematic Review

Joey Hendrix, Former Captain of the U.S. Army & **Dan Field, LCSW**, University of South California
Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) in Combat and Non-Combat Veterans: A Qualitative Study

Kari L. Fletcher, MSW, PhD, LICSW, University of St. Thomas
Depression Prevalence and Geographic Distribution in United States Military Women: Results from the 2017 Service Women's Action Network Needs Assessment

Maggie Graham, MSW Candidate, University of St. Thomas/St. Catherine University
The Role of Somatic Psychotherapy in Treating First Responders: Providers Perspectives

Johna Hansen, PhD, LCSW, NYC Psychotherapy
Toward the Development of a Typology of IPV for Army Active Duty Males Married to Civilian Females in the U.S. Military

Aprill Harmon, LCSW, MBA, CFEI, PhD, VA Supported Housing Program
Culturally Relevant Financial Empowerment

Willie 'C.J.' Harmon, Jr., Doctoral Student, MSW, Texas A&M University
Military Connected Students of Color: A Systematic Literature Review

Dana Larson, MA, University of Texas at Austin
Using Tele-health and Web Based Applications to Implement a Veteran Marriage Enrichment Program

Dhru Mukherjee, PhD, LCSW, University of North Texas
Social work practice with Vietnam era veterans exposed to Agent Orange

CPT Ajus Ninan, LCSW, ACSW, BCD, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Development and Implementation of a mentoring and training program for Behavioral Health (BH) Technicians at a Joint Military Treatment Facility

Veronika Ospina-Kammerer, PhD, MSW, MFT, RN, St. Leo University
Social Worker and Veteran Skill Development & Self Care

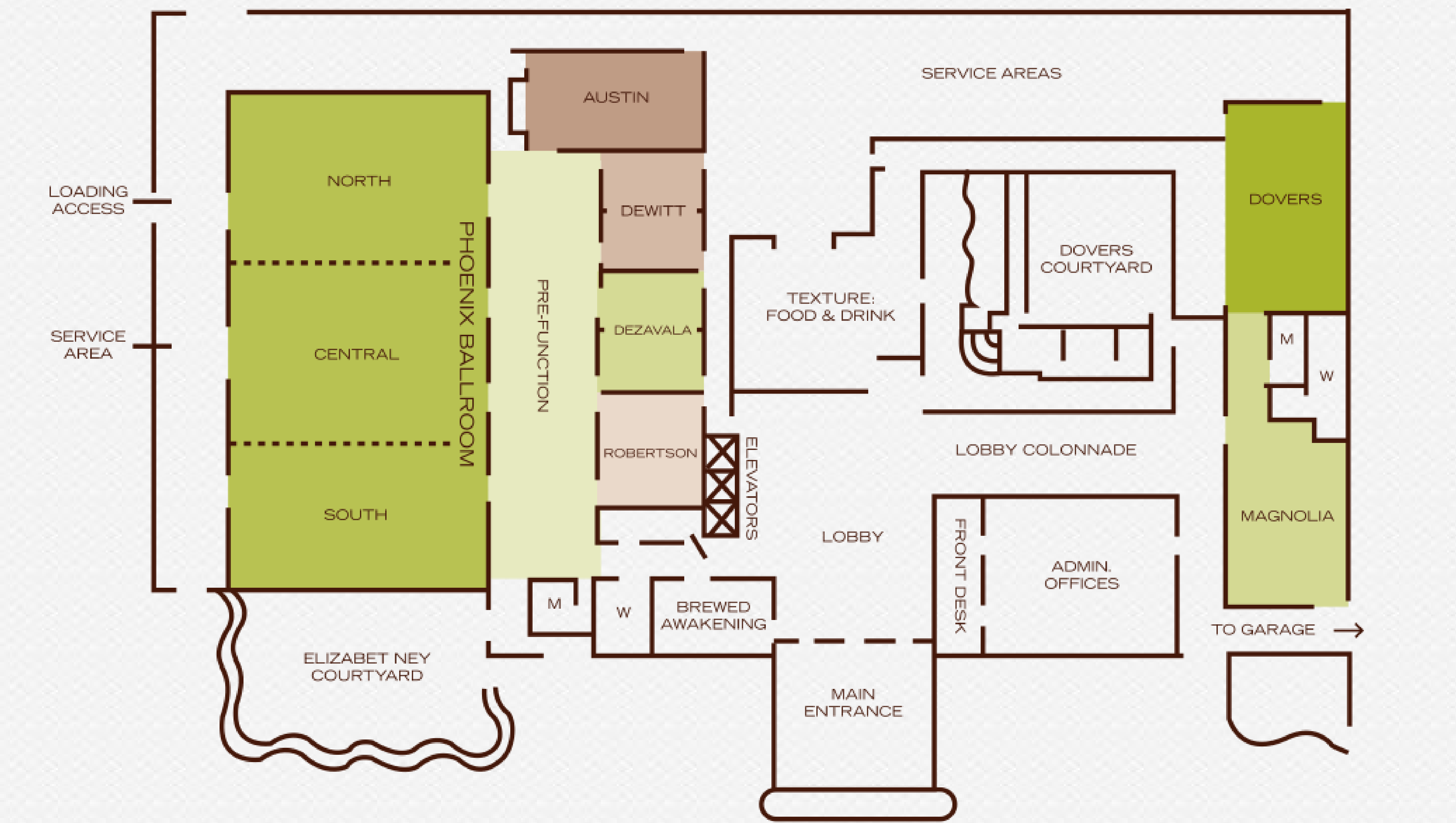
Andrew Qualy, MSW, St. Thomas University
The Impact of Minnesota Warriors Hockey on Post-Military Service Reintegration: A Pilot Study

Michael Rainey, M.S., Marc Kruse, PhD., Russ Burnham, US Army, Cody Flowers, MBA, Front Line Behavioral Health
The Lasting Impact of Periodic Behavioral Health Assessments: Front Line Behavioral Health

Rachel Linsner Uveges, MS, Institute for Veteran and Military Families
Predictors of Depression and Stress in Spouses of Active Duty Service Members

LTC Janet Vaughn, PhD, LCSW, BCD, US Army
Distressed Living: How to Live Distressed in a Stressful Environment

Event Floor Plan



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin

6505 North I-35, Austin, Texas 78752
512-454-3737
855-610-TREE