2022 VA CFBNP Virtual Summit
Connect with a Veteran
May 17, 2022
Conrad Washington

Director

Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Conrad Washington serves as the Director with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships nationwide with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness of VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA.

Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active-duty service to include an infantry battalion combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.
Chaplain Matthew A. Cassady

National Program Manager
Community Clergy Training and Chaplain Virtual Education
National VA Chaplain Service
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Chaplain Cassady is entrusted with the sacred honor of developing relationships with rural community clergy partners and providing virtual education for onboarding chaplains. These programs ensure the spiritual well-being of our Nation’s Veterans from transition from service through end-of-life care.

Chaplain Cassady received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the Military Chaplains Association. Chaplain Cassady co-created both the orientation and advanced virtual chaplain education courses.

Chaplain Cassady is an RV’er and avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, hunting, and glamping.
Denis R. McDonough

Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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

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

Executive Director
White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
Senior Director, Faith and Public Policy
White House Domestic Policy Council

Ms. Rogers previously served in the Obama Administration, as Visiting Professor at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, as Executive Director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, as General Counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Ms. Rogers is a graduate of Baylor University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.
Kayla Williams

Assistant Secretary
Office Of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Kayla M. Williams assumed the duties of the Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA) on January 20, 2021, at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Prior to that, she was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) focused on issues facing Veterans, military readiness, and civil-military relations. Ms. Williams provides executive level oversight and direction to OPIA’s team of up to 95 employees who help to build and maintain public confidence in VA by developing, routinely updating and communicating the Department’s key messages to many audiences through media relations, public affairs, intergovernmental affairs, outreach and Veteran engagement to reach Veterans and their families, and other stakeholders.

Ms. Williams has a distinguished career as a leader focusing on policies, programs, and support related to Veterans and their families. Previously, Ms. Williams served as the Director of the Center for Women Veterans at VA, where she was the primary adviser to the Secretary on department policies, programs, and legislation affecting women Veterans. Ms. Williams was enlisted for five years as an Arabic linguist, serving in a Military Intelligence company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). She is the author of the memoirs Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army and Plenty of Time When We Get Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War about her military service and her family's journey from war trauma to healing. She is the former chair of the Department of Labor Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach; a former member of the Army Education Advisory Committee and VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans; and recipient of recognitions including 2013 White House Woman Veteran Champion of Change and 2017 We Are the Mighty 25 Veterans to Watch.
Jay Dalrymple was named Director of the National Cemetery Scheduling Office and Deputy Director of Field Programs, effective October 13, 2019. He is responsible for all scheduling and eligibility activities, including Pre-Need determinations for Veterans and family members.

Prior to joining NCA, he held several positions with Interior Business Center (IBC) from 2004 – 2018. As Chief, Customer Support Office, he was responsible for managing personnel and payroll help desk services to 36 federal agencies. As a Program Manager, he was responsible for the oversight and implementation of an agency wide initiative to improve customer service through technology standardization, implementing best practices, and the consolidation of help desk services.

Prior to IBC, Mr. Dalrymple joined the Defense Information Systems Agency serving as a Computer Operator, Lead Network Analyst, and Data Center Manager until 1998. Mr. Dalrymple is a Air Force Veteran serving from 1987 to 1993 and served during Operation Desert Storm/Shield for the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado.
National Cemetery Administration

Jay Dalrymple
Director,
National Cemetery Scheduling Office

www.cem.va.gov
Agenda

• About NCA
• Connecting with Veterans
• Burial Services Provided
• VA Burial Benefits
• Links to resources available
About NCA

- Operates and maintains 155 national cemeteries across the US, to include Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.
- NCA maintains 34 Soldiers’ lots and monument sites in 42 states.
- VA Cemetery Grant program supports 119 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan.
- Rural initiatives were established to provide access to VA burial benefits for Veterans who reside in rural areas.
- Nearly 5 million people—including 4 million Veterans from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried in a NCA national cemetery.
- More than 22,000 acres from Hawaii to Maine, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico are devoted to memorializing those who served this nation.
- FY21 There were 150,168 interments in VA national cemeteries. For FY22, NCA has interred 90,418 Veterans and eligible family members as of May 10, 2022.
Connecting with Veterans

- NCA goal: Provide 95% of Veterans access to a national or grant funded state or tribal cemetery within 75 miles.
- NCA partners with local Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.
- Partner with VA counterparts for customer outreach events
  - Cemetery outreach activities in the local communities
  - National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) partners with VA CFBNP team for scheduled events to discuss Pre-Need application information
- NCA partnering with VA to improve processes to support Unclaimed Veterans to ensure they receive proper burials and honors they deserve.
Services Provided

• Burial services in VA national cemeteries
  – Assist Veterans and families who do not have discharge documents
  – Coordinate the scheduling of the final service at the cemetery
  – Provide the family contact information for military honors
  – Coordination of services at the cemetery
  – Inscription and ordering of the headstone (with EOB and inscription)
  – Care of the gravesite in perpetuity

• Veteran support for private cemetery burials
  – VA issued headstone or marker, or a medallion for private headstone

• Pre-Need eligibility determinations for planning your legacy
VA Burial Benefits

• Burial allowance for burial and funeral costs
• VA plot or interment allowance for the cost of the gravesite or interment
• VA transportation reimbursement for the cost of transporting the Veteran’s remains to the final resting place
• Casket/Urn reimbursement is available for funeral homes or individuals who provide vessels for unclaimed Veterans

NOTE: You will need to pay for these services or other costs first before you apply for an allowance*

* Burial benefits depend on Veteran’s eligibility
Helpful Links

• NCA Website:  www.cem.va.gov
  – Before You Call Checklist
  – Find a Cemetery (va.gov)
  – Planning Your Legacy VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit - January 2018

• Presidential Memorial Certificates
  – https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-40-0247

• Burial Flags:
Helpful Links

• VA Burial Allowances:
  – How To Apply For A Veterans Burial Allowance | Veterans Affairs (va.gov)

• NCA Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility:
  – https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-40-10007
Chaplain Constance G. Arthur, M.Div., CCC

Chaplain / LGBTQ Veterans Care Coordinator,
Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia
Veterans Health Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Chaplain Constance G. Arthur, M.Div., BCC, earned a BS from Temple University and a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology. Completed the National Capital Semester for Seminarians through Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. For her, the church was a vehicle for social and political change. She studied with Harvard Divinity School’s Executive Education Program, “Religious Recourses for Living Through Crisis”, 2020 and 2021.

She is a Board-Certified Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin Georgia. She is a certified member of the first cohort of the VA and DOD Mental Health Integration with Chaplain Service program. In Dublin, she has established the Chaplain Service Mental Health Outpatient Clinic which provides pastoral care and counseling to Veterans with PTSD and Moral Injury. She has accepted the medical center’s director appointment as LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator. Serves on Programming Committee for the annual National Virtual Veterans Administration LGBTQ+ Pride during June. She provided the opening and closing prayers. She introduced Dublin Georgia to the spiritual use of the Labyrinth. 2020 became a Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator. Established Chaplain Service Mental Health Outpatient Clinic for Veterans suffering from PTS, and Moral Injury etc. She attends to the psychosocial and spiritual needs of our Veterans here in the state of Georgia.
Mr. Dennis May was assigned as Deputy Director, Center for Minority Veterans in October 2017. He previously served as Director, Veterans Employment Coordination Service, Deputy Director, Veteran Employment Services Office and Deputy Director, Central Office Human Resources Service. Mr. May came to VA after a successful career in the U.S. Air Force, where he retired in the grade of Colonel in 2007. He was commissioned in 1981 as a graduate of the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Arkansas, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration. He later earned a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in Human Resources Management from Strayer University. Mr. May is also a 2013 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute’s Leadership for a Democratic Society. While on active duty, Mr. May held a variety of key assignments in administration, manpower and personnel career fields. He served on the Air Staff, at Joint Commands and at Major Command levels. He commanded the 17th Mission Support Squadron, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, which was twice named best mission support squadron in Air Education and Training Command. He served in the Pentagon as Director of the Headquarters Air Force Executive Secretariat, as well as Chief of Personnel Issues for the Secretary of the Air Force’s Executive Issues Team.

Mr. May’s military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He also earned “Best in the Air Force” recognition as Air Force Senior Personnel Manager of the year for 2000. Mr. May is a Life Member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He’s also the recipient of the 2013 University of Arkansas Distinguished Alumni Citation. He and his wife, Teresa are the parents of three adult daughters.
Center for Minority Veterans (CMV)

Dennis O. May
Deputy Director
Background

- November 1994, Public Law 103-446 required SECVA to create Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) and established the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV).

- CMV serves as principal advisor to SECVA on adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority Veterans.

- CMV serves: African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians), Pacific Islanders, and women Veterans who are minority group members.
What We Do

- Educate Veterans, their families and survivors through targeted outreach and effective advocacy.

- Promote the use of VA programs, benefits, and services for minority Veterans.

- Disseminate information and provide culturally relevant programs that enhance Veteran-centric services to minority Veterans.
Outreach to Minority Veterans

• Staff/Minority Veteran Liaisons collaboration with internal/external organizations and other closely aligned non-government minority organizations (CMV)

• Minority Veterans Program Coordinators (MVPC)

• Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV)
Minority Veterans Program Coordinators (MVPC)

- Interdepartmental program (~276 coordinators collaterally assigned within VHA, VBA, and NCA)
- Support and initiate activities that educate and sensitize internal staff to the unique needs of minority veterans
- Participate in outreach activities and educational forums utilizing community networks
- Assist the CMV in disseminating information
Advise the Secretary on VA’s administration of benefits and provision of health care benefits and services to minority Veterans

Provide Bi-annual report to the Secretary outlining recommendations, concerns, and observations on VA’s delivery of services to minority Veterans

Meet with VA officials, Veteran Service Organizations and stakeholders to assess the VA’s efforts in providing benefits and services to minority Veterans

Make periodic site visits and hold Veterans Town Hall meetings
CMV Strategies

1. National Minority Veterans Summit

2. Initiatives/ Campaigns- Million Veteran Program/Crisis Line

3. Collaborate on Research Projects with Office of Health Equity, Center for Health Equity, and Research Promotions

4. Host Lunch and Learn Sessions – Federal Agencies

5. Collaborate with Veteran Service Organizations and partners to reach more minority Veterans

6. Develop MOUs with national organizations (i.e. NAACP, Women Veterans Interactive, Veterans Employment Service Office etc.)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Minority Veterans

James Albino, Director
Dennis O. May, Deputy Director

(202) 461-6191
www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans
Thomas Klobucar, PhD

Executive Director
Office of Rural Health (ORH)
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Thomas F. Klobucar has led the Office of Rural Health since December 2016, managing a broad portfolio of partnerships with clinical program offices, research initiatives, and a strong innovation program that has produced no fewer than 20 rural promising practices and 50 Enterprise-wide Initiatives that have been disseminated across VHA to increase access to care for hundreds of thousands of rural Veterans. Exercising oversight of the rural health initiative annual budget of $300 million, Dr. Klobucar also oversees the activities of five Veterans Rural Health Resource Centers across the country that serve as hubs of rural health care research, innovation and dissemination.

Before he came to VA, Dr. Klobucar worked in commercial research and academe, and has held faculty appointments at The University of Iowa College of Public Health and The Iowa State University Department of Political Science. A retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant, Dr. Klobucar spent his military career first as a Cryptologic Russian Linguist and then as an Arms Control Inspector/Interpreter working on execution of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty of 1987 and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of 1990.

Dr. Klobucar is published in the fields of rural health, home telehealth, political science, Soviet studies, sociology and research methods.
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

VA Office of Rural Health (ORH)
Programs and Partnerships to Support Rural Veterans

Presentation for: CFBNP Virtual Summit
Presented by: Dr. Thomas Klobucar, Executive Director, VA Office of Rural Health
Date of briefing: May 17, 2022
Today’s PRESENTATION

- Office of Rural Health Overview
- Rural Community Clergy Training Program (RCCTP)
- VA Community Provider Toolkit: Native Veterans
- Rural Black Women Veterans: Assessment of Service Utilization and Needs
- VA Farming and Recovery Mental Health (FARMS) Program (pilot program)
- Closing/Q&A
RURAL HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES

- Provider Shortages
- Geographic & Distance Barriers
- Social Determinants of Health: Housing, Education, Employment, Transportation
- Limited Broadband Coverage
SNAPSHOT OF RURAL VETERANS

RURAL VETERANS
4.7 Million
24% of All Veterans

ENROLLED RURAL VETERANS
2.7 Million
(58% of Rural Veterans)

RURAL VETERANS DEMOGRAPHICS
- 8% Women
- 44% earn less than $35,000/year
- 55% are 65 years or older

ALL VETERANS
19.4 Million

ALL ENROLLED VETERANS
8.4 Million
(43% of All Veterans)

ALL VETERAN DEMOGRAPHICS
- 10% Women
- 39% earn less than $35,000/year
- 48% are 65 years or older

URBAN VETERANS
14.8 Million
76% of All Veterans

ENROLLED URBAN VETERANS
5.6 Million
(38% of Urban Veterans)

URBAN VETERANS DEMOGRAPHICS
- 11% Women
- 37% earn less than $35,000/year
- 46% are 65 years or older

Data are FY 2020-21 VA Internal Data Sources, US Census Bureau and VHA Survey of Enrollees
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

38 US CODE § 7308

RURAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

In cooperation with the medical, rehabilitation, health services and cooperative studies research programs of the Veterans Health Administration, assist the VA Under Secretary for Health to conduct, coordinate, promote and disseminate research into issues affecting Veterans who reside in rural communities.

Develop, refine and promulgate policies, best practices, lessons learned, and innovative and successful programs to increase access to care for rural Veterans.
VETERANS RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

PUBLIC LAW 109-461 (AS AMENDED)

- Improve understanding of the challenges rural Veterans face
- Identify disparities in the availability of health care to rural Veterans
- Formulate practices and programs to deliver health care to rural Veterans
- Develop special practices and products for the benefit of rural Veterans system-wide
ORH AND ITS SATELLITE VETERANS RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTERS

VRHRC, Iowa City, Iowa
Clinical Director: Carolyn Turvey, PhD
Operations Director: Samantha Solimeo, PhD

VRHRC, Gainesville, Florida
Clinical Director: Keith Myers, DPT
Operations Director: Sergio Romero, PhD

VRHRC, Portland, Oregon
Clinical Director: Travis I. Lovejoy PhD
Operations Director: Sarah Ono, PhD

VRHRC, Salt Lake City, Utah
Clinical Director: Byron Bair, MD
Operations Director: Nancy Dailey, MSN, RN

VRHRC, White River Junction, Vermont
Clinical Director: Bradley “Vince” Watts, MD
Operations Director: Matthew Vincenti, PhD

Office of Rural Health Headquarters
Executive Director: Thomas F. Klobucar, PhD
Deputy Director: Sheila R. Robinson, DHA

March 2022
ORH VISION, MISSION & STRATEGIC GOALS

VISION
America’s Veterans thrive in rural communities

MISSION
Improve the health and well-being of rural Veterans through research, innovation, and the dissemination of best practices

OBJECTIVES
- Promote federal and community care solutions for rural Veterans
- Reduce rural health care workforce disparities
- Enrich rural Veteran health research and innovation

Federated Objectives
- Unite relationships within VA and the federal government to exchange rural-centered information
- Collaborate with non-governmental organizations that support rural Veterans’ health and well-being
- Expand ORH’s partnership and program reach
- Increase rural Veteran health research
- Innovate new models of care for Veterans who live in rural communities
- Build recognition of VA’s rural research, innovations and outcomes
ORH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2022 PORTFOLIO INCLUDES:
36 national access initiatives adopted at
99 percent of VA health systems

INNOVATION
Rural Promising Practices, such as:
- Home-Based Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Advanced Comprehensive Diabetes Care
- Geriatric Scholars Program

ACCESS
Enterprise-Wide Initiatives, such as:
- Clinical Resource Hubs
- Home Based Primary Care
- Veteran Transportation Services
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

- $300M total annual budget
- FY 2022 portfolio includes 36 Enterprise-Wide Initiatives adopted at 99% of VA medical centers across the country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORH Enterprise-Wide Initiatives</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2018</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2019</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2020</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Served</td>
<td>2.5M</td>
<td>2.85M</td>
<td>4.9M</td>
<td>5.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHA Sites Served</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>1,841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Rural Promising Practice
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Background and Rural Health Significance

- Of 734 rural counties in the US
  - 4% percent have five or more licensed psychologists
  - 3% have one to four licensed psychologists
  - 93% percent have no licensed psychologists

- One-fourth of individuals who seek help for a mental health problem do so from clergy, a rate significantly higher than those seeking help from psychiatrists or primary care doctors (16.7%)
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Model of Care

- Initiated in 2010, increases rural clergy’s ability to **identify and support** rural Veterans with mental health issues.

- Extension of the **National VA Chaplain Center Veterans Community Outreach Initiative**.

- **Two-hour virtual workshops** educate rural clergy on various topics, including:
  - Moral injury
  - Mental health services & referrals
  - Suicide prevention in local communities
  - Building community partnerships

- Participants may request **individual consultation** from local Chaplain Services and attend **free webinars** that expand on the training curriculum.
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Course Descriptions

VA S.A.V.E. Training for Community Clergy
- Builds upon clergy gifts and abilities to actively listen with care and compassion, this training recognizes there are no quick answers, but there is a path to meaningful help and community enrichment

Moral Injury
- An extension of the VA Building Spiritual Strengths model of care, this training specifically addresses the roots of moral injury, as well as ability to address moral injury in services and small groups within the local faith community
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

2022 Sites in Nearly 40 States

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)
Since 2010, more than 8,200 clergy, chaplains, behavioral health professionals and others who support rural Veterans have completed the training.

- More than 95% would recommend the training.
- 97% reported an increased understanding of potential assistance needs among those returning from war.
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Clinical Effectiveness, Veterans and Staff Satisfaction

- Changes in clergy behavior in the year following workshop participation
  - Increased interactions with VA chaplains and mental health providers
  - Increased Veteran referrals to VA mental health services
  - Increased Veteran referrals to local behavioral health services
  - Increased involvement in community ministries for Veterans and military personnel
RURAL COMMUNITY CLERGY TRAINING PROGRAM (RCCTP)

Participant Feedback

“The training provided an excellent overview that I believe will stick with me for years to come.”

“[The RCCTP training] helped me to understand what was available to Veterans through VA. It opened my eyes for things to look for, especially with the family members of Veterans with PTSD. It helped me to better understand one of our parishioners who has PTSD from the Korean War.”

“I have used this training as a door-opener to [understand] Veterans’ needs and gain their trust.”

“The training provided an excellent overview that I believe will stick with me for years to come.”
VA COMMUNITY PROVIDER TOOLKIT

Native Veterans
VA COMMUNITY PROVIDER TOOLKIT - NATIVE VETERANS

- **VA Community Provider Toolkit** is a website designed to support community-based behavioral care providers who care for Veterans

- **Goal:** To create a widely accessible tool that behavioral health care providers – inside and outside VA – can use to deliver high quality care to American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans
  - Improve providers’ cultural awareness
  - Centralize vetted resources to facilitate access to care
  - Disseminate content to target audiences
  - Explore opportunities for workforce development
Subject matter experts from ORH partnered with the VA Community Provider Toolkit leadership to develop a new section about Rural Native American Veterans, now live:

VA CPT - American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans | VA Community Provider Toolkit
RURAL BLACK WOMEN VETERANS

Assessment of Service Utilization and Needs
RURAL BLACK WOMEN VETERANS: ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE UTILIZATION AND NEEDS

- Project led by Veterans Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC) in Salt Lake City, UT

- While the number of rural black women Veterans has increased in recent years, little data exists within VA on services and outreach efforts to this sub population

- Gaining further insight into the healthcare and service needs of minority women is important as these Veterans often suffer from disparities in accessing health care
RURAL BLACK WOMEN VETERANS: ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE UTILIZATION AND NEEDS

- This project addresses the services and outreach efforts being extended to racially and ethnically diverse women Veterans living in rural settings in the Southern US

- Through focus groups and interviews, this project will
  - Investigate Rural Black Women Veterans’ health care needs
  - Explore their level of awareness of services VA offers in their communities
  - Determine where they obtain care and services if not through VA
  - Address their preferences for accessing VA care

- The study portion of this project will occur in FY22 & FY23
VA FARMING AND RECOVERY MENTAL HEALTH (FARMS)

Pilot Program
VA FARMING AND RECOVERY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (VA FARMS) PILOT PROGRAM

- The 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act [Omnibus] directs the VA Secretary to:
  - “Create a pilot program to train Veterans in agricultural vocations while also tending to behavioral and mental health needs with behavioral healthcare services and treatments from licensed providers.”
- In response, ORH collaborated with the following departments to develop VA FARMS:
  - VA Nutrition and Food Services (NFS)
  - VA Office of Care Management and Social Work (CM/SW)
  - VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Therapeutic and Supported Employment Service (TSES)
VA FARMS PILOT PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

› Offers a range of health and wellness services and educational/vocational training programming
› Helps Veterans to gain a sense of purpose, grow their skills, and find new opportunities for employment
› Encourages Veterans to increase physical activity, socialization, and community integration
Veterans who participated in VA FARMS reported learning:

- **Technical agriculture and gardening skills** such as plant identification, propagation, harvesting, soil amendments, and sustainable agricultural practices
- **Business skills** related to agricultural endeavors including marketing agricultural products and developing business plans focusing on selling produce and other agricultural products at local farmers markets
- **Life skills** such as time management, organization, and healthy cooking and nutrition
- **Therapeutic skills** to aid in recovery and transition to civilian life
VA FARMS PILOT PROGRAM SITES

- VA Maryland Health Care System, Maryland
- Canandaigua VA Medical Center, New York
- VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, New York*
- VA Portland Health Care System, Oregon
- VA Caribbean Health Care System, Puerto Rico
- VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Washington
- Huntington VA Medical Center, West Virginia
- William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Wisconsin

*Site will become inactive in FY23
VA FARMS PILOT PROGRAM - OUTCOMES

- Nearly **800** Veterans enrolled
- Reached over **6,000** Veterans through demonstrations, informational presentations, and town-hall discussions
- Reached over **11,000** community members and **4,000** VA employees through outreach events and partnerships
- Helped **250** Veterans gain an agricultural vocation
VA FARMS PILOT PROGRAM - TESTIMONIALS

"Participating in this program gave me a reason to live…it helped me reboot my life."

“Gardening provided a way to recover and reconnect.”

“I wanted to connect with other Veterans…my military experience made me want to produce life and help people live.”

“The experience was very meaningful and rewarding. On the job training was very hands-on. Overall, the program changed my life for the better.”

“I wanted to reconnect with nature and plants and find peace.”

“Gardening is relaxing and therapeutic, I found peace. The program was stress free and full of positive energy.”
Kevin Weaver

President & CEO
The Warrior’s Journey

Kevin serves as President/CEO and Co-Founder of The Warrior’s Journey and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. He served in the USAF Security Forces at the 24th SPS and in the Office of Special Investigations at U.S. Southern Command in the Republic of Panama from 1983-1987. Leveraging his 30 years of pastoral leadership experience, he utilizes his skills to help develop and advance the vision of The Warrior’s Journey.

Kevin and his wife KyAnne have three sons; Kaleb and his wife Michaelah and twin daughters, Norah and Charis, staff Pastors at Abundant Life Church, Lee’s Summit, MO; Keith, Capt. U.S. Army Special Forces, Ft. Bragg, NC. along with his wife Kelli and their children, Thomas and Taylor; and Klay, 1st LT U.S. Army Armor officer, 101st Airborne, Ft Campbell, KY., and his wife, Amanda.
HEALING INVISIBLE WOUNDS
There are currently 18 million U.S. Veterans. Roughly 7% of the U.S. population. There are currently 1.3 million warriors in active duty.
Alcohol  Opioids  Domestic Violence  Divorce
17 warriors die of suicide per day.
EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL
RESILIENCE
HEALING INVISIBLE WOUND
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deep Loss</th>
<th>Deployment</th>
<th>Family Brokenness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>Financial Difficulty</td>
<td>Hardship of Separation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helplessness</td>
<td>Insignificance</td>
<td>Isolation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Identity</td>
<td>Moral Injury</td>
<td>Post Traumatic Stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
190,000 WARRIORS
“The efforts of ‘The Warrior’s Journey’ are having a profound effect on building, and even rebuilding, the lives of our Warriors…”

GEN STANLEY MCCRYSTAL
INTERVENTION
24 HOURS A DAY
CRISIS INTERVENTION
HOW IT WORKS

1. Contact
2. Matching
3. Crisis Triage
4. Personalized Plan
5. Follow Up
“The Warrior’s Journey organization has dedicated themselves, and their resources, to assist every member of every branch of our military…”

LT. GEN. WILLAM BOYKIN
HEALING INVISIBLE WOUNDS

1. PREVENTION
2. INTERVENTION
7,057 WARRIORS DIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD
30,000+ HAVE DIED BY SUICIDE
Chaplain Matthew A. Cassady

National Program Manager
Community Clergy Training and Chaplain Virtual Education
Veterans Affairs Chaplain Service
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Chaplain Cassady is entrusted with the sacred honor of developing relationships with rural community clergy partners and providing virtual education for onboarding chaplains. These programs ensure the spiritual well-being of our Nation’s Veterans from transition from service through end-of-life care.

Chaplain Cassady received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the Military Chaplains Association. Chaplain Cassady co-created both the orientation and advanced virtual chaplain education courses.

Chaplain Cassady is an RV’er and avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, hunting, and glamping.
Serving the Spiritual Needs of our Veterans

May the 17th, 2022

Chaplain Matt Cassady, M.Div., BCC-MH
National Program Director, Transitional Care and Chaplain Education
VA Chaplain Service
(202) 873-5244
matthew.cassady@va.gov
MISSION STATEMENT

• VA Chaplain Service provides meaningful spiritual care for Veterans family members, and caregivers, as well as provides bereavement care for families after the death of Veterans.

• VA Chaplain Service develops innovative chaplain and spiritual care policy, provides inspirational chaplain education and training, implements effective and diverse spiritual care programming, and gathers and reports reliable spiritual care data about Veterans.
Profile of a VA Chaplain:

- A VA Chaplain is someone who has a call within a call.
- A VA Chaplain is someone who has a strong foundational faith – endorsement.
- A VA Chaplain is called to ministry to people of all faith traditions and backgrounds.
- A VA Chaplain is someone who serves as a clinical provider in a healthcare setting.
- A VA Chaplain is not a lone ranger and serves on an interdisciplinary treatment team.
- A VA Chaplain is someone who hears the Veterans’ story.
- A VA Chaplain is someone who honors the faith of the Veteran.
Concentric Circles of Care

- Veteran
- Spouse and Family
- VA - Interdisciplinary Team
- Community - Churches

Support at any level ripples back to Veteran, and throughout the community.
Training events include:

- Suicide Prevention Training
- Pastoral Care with Veterans and their Families
- Building Spiritual Strengths

“One suicide is too many, especially when that one is your loved one. Because Veteran suicide impacted my life, I’ll do what I can to mitigate the suicide rate. Pastors need to be reminded that troubled Veterans need support and community.”

— Stated by Female Pastor at recent RCCTP Event.
Background of Moral Injury

Da Costa Syndrome – Following Civil War, term used by Dr. Da Costa who discovered unexplainable heart palpitations in some Veterans.

Soldier’s Heart – Another term for the Da Costa Syndrome.

Shell Shock – Following World War I, term given to describe hopeless panic and confusion present in some Veterans.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – Flashbacks, Hyper-arousal, Avoidance

Moral Injury - Happens when we transgress our basic moral beliefs and expectations. It can occur when we’ve done our best in impossible circumstances or when we’ve simply failed.

Confession and Restoration of King David – Psalm 51

4Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.”
This injury is brought about by bearing witness to perceived immoral acts, failure to stop such actions, or perpetration of immoral acts, especially those that are inhumane, cruel, depraved, or violent, bringing about pain, suffering, or death of others. - R. Brock & G. Lettini, *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War*.

“Many traumatized persons have felt the bonds and connections of life tragically severed. Trauma made them feel cut off from God, from others, and from themselves.” - J. McBride, *Spiritual Crisis*

“Crisis no matter what its source – emotional, physical, economic, political - is always in some way a spiritual crisis. Crisis always involves the destruction of meaning.” - A. Boisen, *Religion in Crisis and Custom*
Spiritual Reactions to Moral Injury

1. Confusion about God
2. Loss of community
3. Altered sense of meaning in/of life
4. Loss of previously sustained beliefs
5. Confusion about core ethical beliefs
6. Confusion about morality
7. Grief/loss of relationship with God and others
8. Questions of Theodicy
9. Feeling dirty and unworthy
10. Feeling permanently damaged
11. Feeling angry at self – blaming self
12. Feelings of guilt
Needs of a Person in Spiritual Distress

1. A safe presence with whom to lament.

2. A journey of meaning making and discovery.

3. A supportive network to “hold them up” during difficult times of painful struggle.
“Man’s search for meaning is the primary motivation in his life, it is not a secondary rationalization of instinctual drives.”

– Victor Frankl

What is needed on the journey?
• Sitting in spiritual pain and struggle, when there are no answers.
• Conversations which are honest and straightforward.
• Conversations about difficult subjects, especially the mystery of life and death.

Consider a **Meaning Triangle**:

- Attitudes: Stances Toward Life
- Creativity: Given to Life
- Experiences: Received From Life
1. Rituals evoke a sense of “sameness” and continuity.

2. Rituals renew our commitment to culture, faith, and family.

3. Rituals reaffirm meaning.

4. Rituals set boundaries that allow a freedom and safe environment within which to express conflicting emotions.

5. Rituals symbolize an encounter with the transcendent.
The American Veteran is God’s gift to us. Freedom is their gift to the world.
Dr. Sabrina C. Clark

Director
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Clark was appointed Director of VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) on September 23, 2013. As the largest integrated volunteer program in the Federal government, with more than 7,400 national and community organizations, Dr. Clark leads a dynamic corps of Volunteer Resource Professionals, who managed approximately 46,000 volunteers, serving approximately 4.4 million hours and donations totaling more than $119 million in 2020.

Leading one of the largest transformations in the 75-year history of VAVS, the organization has changed its name to become the VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE), expanding awareness of its scope to include philanthropic engagement and strategic partnership development. COVID-19 reflected this broadening as CDCE brought in more than $30M dollars in donations directly related to COVID-relief efforts, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tablets to connect patients to loved ones, and meal donations for frontline workers. Volunteer engagement branched out to virtual assignments, including the development of the Compassionate Contact Corps, connecting Veterans to community volunteers via telephone and video support. This program was recently recognized as a best practice by Beryl Institute for Innovation in Patient Experience. Additionally, community volunteers are now serving in roles to assist with telehealth training, peer support to Veterans enrolled in tele-oncology, as well as leveraging partnership efforts to support VHA’s vaccination clinics nationwide.
Purposeful Connections

Sabrina C. Clark, Ph.D. | Director, VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement
Office of the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations
Veterans Health Administration
Connecting with Our Mission:
75 years of VAVS

In January 2021, VA Voluntary Service evolved to become the VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement.

- **Center**: Enterprise-Wide Scope
- **Development**: Fundraising (General Post Funds), Expanded Partnerships, Services, Opportunities
- **Civic**: Community Empowerment, Embracing Diversity, Responsive to the Needs of Veterans
- **Engagement**: Communication, Communal, Collaborative

### 3 Business Lines

1. **Voluntary Service**: Our Foundation
2. **Philanthropic Engagement**: Our Relationships
3. **Partnership Solutions**: Our Impact—‘Better Together”
Impact: Enhancing Connections for Veterans

- Greater understanding of the VAVS role
- Growing awareness of the capacity-building potential
- Increased internal & external communication
- Greater collaboration
- Increased program development
- Expanded role in civic engagement
- Greater appreciation for Volunteer Engagement Professionals

Civic Engagement helps to level the playing field. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard in the decisions that impact their health.
Choose a narrative of connectedness, oneness, & similarity over a narrative of individuality, conflict, & misunderstanding.
Connecting with Purpose

“I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued: when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.”

- Brene’ Brown
VETSERVE VIDEO

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Volunteer Recognition Week
Town Hall Event
Let’s CONNECT!

Sabrina C. Clark, Ph.D.
Director, VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

E-mail: Sabrina.Clark@va.gov
Phone: (202) 536-8603
CDCE Mail Group: VHA15CDCEStaff@va.gov
Website: www.volunteer.va.gov
Mary L. Tobin
Senior Advisor
Wounded Warrior, Veteran, and Military Family Initiatives
AmeriCorps

Ms. Tobin has over 18 years of leader development, project management, community engagement, public speaking experience and she currently serves in the Biden-Harris administration as the Senior Advisor for Wounded Warrior, Veteran, and Military Family Initiatives at AmeriCorps. Ms. Tobin is extremely passionate about addressing the social justice issues that negatively affect underserved communities and is committed to working with globally minded leaders and organizations to develop solutions that will positively impact underserved cities and communities. Ms. Tobin is very active in the world of advocacy and activism as she focuses on addressing poverty through collective impact and race and gender biases in the military and the society at large.

Mary is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the New York Institute of Technology. She is a proud combat Veteran, having served 10 years in the United States Army as a communications officer, including two combat tours in Iraq. Her previous roles include Senior Project Manager for the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a President’s Management Council fellow in the US Department of Treasury, a Chief Operations Officer for the City of Jacksonville, FL, and most recently the Executive Director, East Region - The Mission Continues. In her spare time, Mary serves as the Vice President of the West Point Women Alumni Organization, Committee member for the West Point Alumni Organization’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Co-Founder of the West Point African-American Alumni Association. She is a proud Godmother and an avid sports fan.

Her personal motto is a quote from the late Muhammad Ali, “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”
AmeriCorps

*Bring Out The Best in America Through National Service and Volunteerism*

Presenter: Mary L. Tobin

*Senior Advisor for Wounded Warrior, Veteran, and Military Family Initiatives*
Agenda

• Mission
• Who Are We?
• Model of Change
• Focus Areas
• Partners
• Programs
• WHY You Should Partner With AmeriCorps
• Q&A
The mission of AmeriCorps is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.
National service is an opportunity to serve your country and community. Through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors, over 270,000 individuals commit each year to strengthen communities and bring out the best of America.
Our Model

Community Serving Organizations (Grantees and Sponsors)

Members & Volunteers
Our Focus Areas

- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Veterans & Military Families
- Disaster Services
- Healthy Futures
- Environmental Stewardship
Veterans & Military Families
Some of Our Partners & Champions
AmeriCorps State and National supports a broad range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive service to meet critical community needs.

AmeriCorps State and National does this by issuing grants to state service commissions, Indian Tribes, and other organizations.

AmeriCorps State and National involves more than 65,000 AmeriCorps members each year.
AmeriCorps VISTA

The mission of AmeriCorps VISTA is to combat poverty and address poverty-related issues.

8,000 AmeriCorps members serving in the VISTA program perform indirect service to build capacity in organizations and help them more effectively generate the commitment of private sector resources, encourage volunteer service at the local level, and empower individuals and communities.

AmeriCorps members serve as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to address our nation's most pressing poverty-related challenges with local solutions.
AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based, residential program for 2,200 individuals each year age 18-24. AmeriCorps team leaders in this program can be any age.

AmeriCorps members in this program are assigned to one of four campuses in Denver, CO; Sacramento, CA; Vicksburg, MS; or Vinton, IA; where they join a team and deploy to complete hands-on projects for organizations in their region.

AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC –FEMA Corps program, approximately 1,000, complete administrative projects in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP

AmeriCorps Seniors’ RSVP program is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for individuals 55 and over, with over 170,000 volunteers.

Older Americans put their expertise to use to make a difference and address a wide variety of community needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers use skills and talents they’ve learned over the years, or develop new ones while serving in a variety of volunteer activities within their community.
AmeriCorps Seniors
Foster Grandparent Program

20,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the Foster Grandparent program support young people with exceptional needs through mentorship.

These AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are role models and friends to students and support their academic and emotional development. They provide one-on-one tutoring, care for premature infants, and assist children with disabilities.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers age 55 and over are able to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities.
AmeriCorps Seniors
Senior Companion Program

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the Senior Companion program age 55 and over who make a difference by providing assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks. They help older adults remain independent in their homes instead of having to move to more costly institutional care.

These 10,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers give families or professional caregivers a much needed time off from their duties, run errands, and provide companionship to their clients.
Veteran and Military Family Focus Areas

- Reduce Veteran & military spouse unemployment
- Support wellness & suicide prevention efforts
- Support COVID-19 vaccination & relief efforts
  - Decrease food insecurity among Veterans and military families
- Connect Veterans & military families to Department of Veterans Affairs services
- Engage Veterans and military families in service and national service and volunteerism
- Provide independent living services for Veterans and wounded warriors
- Support recreational and therapeutic activities for Veterans
WHY SHOULD YOU PARTNER WITH US

• $$$ (Grants and Individual Living Allowances)
• Pathways to Employment (Public, National, and Military Service)
• Education Benefits
• Access to Childcare Benefits
• Skills and Certifications
• Eligibility for the President’s Volunteer Service Award
• Leadership Development
• Access to a vetted and trained network of volunteers
• Commitment to National Service
Contact Information

• **Title**: AmeriCorps Senior Advisor for Wounded Warrior, Veteran, and Military Family Initiatives

• **Contact**: Mary L. Tobin

• **Email**: americorpsvmf@cns.gov

• **Phone**: 202-967-5621

• **Website**: www.americorps.gov
Ms. Dayna Cooper serves as the Director of Home and Community Care in the Office Geriatrics and Extended Care. In this role Ms. Cooper has national responsibility for policy, operations and management of VA’s spectrum of Home and Community based care services, providing care to our nation’s Veterans with complex, chronic disabling diseases.

Ms. Cooper began her federal career as a Staff Nurse working in various settings, including Neurology, Rehabilitation, and Medical and Cardiac Intensive Care. Ms. Cooper assisted with the development of the first cardiac catheterization unit at Bay Pines VAMC. Ms. Cooper went on to become a nurse manager of a Community Living Center and eventually found her niche in Home Based Care. While in the role of Home and Community Care (HCBS) Director at Bay Pines VAMC, she implemented one of the largest Home and Community Based programs serving Veterans in the southwest region of Florida.

Ms. Cooper holds a Masters of Science degree in Nursing with focus on gerontology. Her research interests include high-risk Veteran populations and Home-Based Primary Care. She has over 30 years of experience as a registered nurse in VA.
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Geriatrics and Extended Care
Programmatic Overview

2022 VA CFBNP Virtual Summit
May 17-18, 2022
Dayna Cooper, MSN, RN
Director, VA Home and Community Care
Geriatrics and Extended Care Continuum of Care

**GEC PROGRAM COMPONENTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independence</th>
<th>Dependence</th>
<th>End of Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulatory Care</td>
<td>Home &amp; Community Based LTSS*</td>
<td>Inpatient Acute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Ambulatory Care**
  - Outpatient Geriatric and Palliative Care
  - Geriatric Patient Aligned Care Team (GeriPACT)

- **Home & Community Based LTSS***
  - Adult Day Health Care, Home Based Primary Care, Homemaker & Home Health Aide, Community Residential & Medical Foster Care, Respite, Skilled Home Care, Veteran Directed Care

- **Inpatient Acute**
  - Inpatient Geriatric and Palliative Care

- **Facility Based Care**
  - VA Community Living Centers, Community Nursing Homes, State Veterans Homes

- **Hospice Care**
  - VA inpatient and VA-paid in the community

**Family / Caregiver Support**

- Dementia Care; Transitional Care; Telehealth; Healthcare Workforce Development; Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs); GEC Field Programs and Resource Centers

*Long term services and supports; Red = purchased community care; Blue = both VA and purchased community care
Conrad Washington
Director
Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)
United States Department of Veteran Affairs

Conrad Washington serves as the Director with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships nationwide with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness of VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA.

Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active-duty service to include an infantry battalion combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.
Conrad Washington  
Director  
Phone: (202) 461-7865  
Email: Conrad.Washington@va.gov

Trulesta “Tru” Pauling  
Senior Program Specialist  
Phone: (202) 821-3848  
Email: Trulesta.Pauling@va.gov

Nicholas Walters  
Program Specialist  
Phone: (202) 443-5374  
Email: Nicholas.Walters@va.gov

William Morales Jr.  
Program Specialist  
Phone: (202) 461-0753  
Email: William.Morales2@va.gov

CFBNP Website: www.va.gov/cfbnp  
CFBNP Email: vacfbnp@va.gov  
CFBNP Facebook: www.facebook.com/vacfbnp

Scan the QR code below to subscribe to receive VA CFBNP Updates