

# PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP BROCHURE



**Phoenix VA Health Care System**  
Psychology Internship Training Program  
Psychology Section (116B)  
650 East Indian School Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012



Director of Training: Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.  
Psychology Service Executive: Joelle Oizumi, Ph.D.



***Application Due Date: November 1, 2022***  
***Start Date: August 14, 2023***

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Program Overview  | 3  |
| Covid-19 Response   | 4  |
| APA Accreditation Status  | 4  |
| Commitment to Diversity   | 5  |
| Application and Selection Procedures                                    | 6  |
| Phoenix VA Health Care System   | 7  |
| Training Model and Program Philosophy                                   | 8  |
| Program Goals and Competencies  | 9  |
| Successful Completion of Program/Exit Criteria                          | 10 |
| Administrative and Program Structure                                    | 11 |
| Funding/Benefits  | 12 |
| The Training Experience   | 13 |
| Intern Sample Schedules   | 14 |
| Additional Training Experiences   | 16 |
| Supervision   | 17 |
| Didactic Trainings  | 18 |
| Rotation Descriptions   | 19 |
| Training Committee  | 30 |
| Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data              | 46 |
| Eligibility Requirements to Work for the Department of Veterans Affairs | 49 |

## ***PROGRAM OVERVIEW***

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Phoenix VA Health Care System's Psychology Internship Program. We currently offer training to eight doctoral interns. Our goals are multifaceted and are focused on developing well-rounded, effective, ethical, and professional psychologists. Our strengths and emphases are in *Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health*. However, our training and supervision are intended to develop individualized skills relevant to the general practice of psychology. Although the majority of the training occurs at our Main Hospital, additional training opportunities exist at Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) and a local Vet Center.

You will find that a collegial relationship exists between training supervisors and interns. Psychology interns are expected to be professionally responsible and are encouraged to accept as much responsibility and autonomy as their current levels of knowledge and skill will allow. All clinical work performed by psychology interns is reviewed and supervised by a diverse group of licensed staff psychologists.

The training program places priority on the involvement of psychology interns in direct patient care. As such, interns are expected to spend a minimum of 25% of their time engaged in direct patient care. Clinical responsibilities are assigned by "track" with a minimum of half-time commitment during the training year met in Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI), and PTSD/General Mental Health. The remaining time is tailored to the interests and/or training needs of the intern.

Additionally, there is a weekly didactic training seminar, which includes topics in psychotherapy, assessment, health psychology, neuropsychology, interprofessional skills, ethics, diversity, health care practices, preparing for licensure, and more. Guest speakers from the community and from other VA disciplines are involved in training.

We are excited about your interest in our psychology internship program and look forward to reviewing your application. Please feel free to contact us with questions as you progress through the application process.

Sincerely,

The Phoenix VAHCS Internship Training Committee

## ***PHOENIX VAHCS PSYCHOLOGY – COVID-19 RESPONSE***

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Phoenix VAHCS Psychology training committee has developed additional policies and procedures to ensure that trainees are able to meet their training goals throughout the training year. The federal government and VA Health Care System recognizes psychologists and psychology trainees as essential employees during pandemic situations. As a result, trainees typically work on station 2-3 days a week and telework the remaining days. As a result of social distancing recommendations and shifting to telework, trainees may also receive video supervision with some or all of their supervisors during the training year. It is important for each intern to research the licensing laws applicable to them to determine whether video supervision is allowed. The program can provide 100% in-person supervision in these cases.

As a result of the shift to telework for many trainees, the Phoenix VAHCS developed a new Telework, Telehealth, and Telesupervision policy to address the changes noted above. All trainees have completed recommended trainings on telehealth provided by the VA and APA. The training committee has also developed additional training goals for all trainees that focus on increasing knowledge and proficiency in telehealth throughout their rotations. It is our hope that the additional training that we are providing in this area will allow trainees to feel competent in delivering services via telehealth following the completion of their training experience.

### ***APA ACCREDITATION STATUS***

The doctoral internship at the Phoenix VA Health Care System (VAHCS) has been accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) since 1999. In 2019, the program was reviewed by the Commission on Accreditation and was awarded the maximum 10 years of full accreditation. The next site visit will be in 2028. For further information on program accreditation, please contact:

American Psychological Association  
Commission on Accreditation  
750 First Street, NE,  
Washington, DC  
20002-4242

Phone: 202-336-5979  
[www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation)

### ***APPIC MEMBERSHIP***

The Phoenix VAHCS is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit or accept for use any ranking-related information from any applicant. The APPIC Match Policies can be found at their website at: <http://www.appic.org/d08match-policies.html>.

## ***COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY***

Our internship site maintains a strong commitment to diversity among staff and trainees, as exemplified by our past success in the recruitment and retention of individuals of diverse backgrounds at the intern, postdoctoral, and staff levels. As a federal employer and an equal opportunity training program, our facility and department of Psychology strongly adhere to policies on non-discrimination and accommodations to facilitate success in our internship. We encourage applications to our internship program from diverse applicants.

The Phoenix VA Psychology Department believes that diversity presents in multiple facets. We consider diversity as including various cultures, values, and experiences of trainees and faculty, as well as different theoretical models, research paradigms, and ways of professional practice. As a program, we place high value on diversity recognition and sensitivity and maintain a monthly diversity seminar among interns and postdoctoral residents. This seminar is highly valued by trainees as a place where personal beliefs and feelings can be discussed, explored, and shared. We foster a seminar in which there is trust and support in order to enable self-examination that is necessary for clarifying values/beliefs and confronting bias. With the goal of increasing multicultural awareness, knowledge and skills, we examine the impact of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and other cultural factors on theory and practice in clinical psychology, particularly within the VA Health Care System. As part of their diversity curriculum, interns will have the option to collaborate in initiating, planning, and implementing a Diversity and Inclusion project with the support of a mentor. The aim of the project is to acknowledge diversity and inclusion in advocating for change and to promote equity in order to cultivate growth and healing regarding social and systemic inequalities. Interns will present to their projects to the training committee in the Spring. In addition to the diversity seminar and project, interns also will be guided through exploratory and scholarly discussions on topics related to cultural diversity, inclusion and mental health practices as facilitated by our postdoctoral residents. Our postdoctoral residents work with our CE committee to develop six to eight 1-hr diversity presentations throughout the training year. Interns are expected to attend a minimum of four of these presentations.

Our training program and service regularly work towards creating a culture of humility with respect to diversity knowledge, awareness and skills. As an example, the Phoenix VAHCS is now rated a "Top Performer" with respect to LGBT patient equality ratings because of the efforts of the members of the Psychology Service. We are also proud to share that multiple members of our psychology training committee have been invited by the Medical Center Director to serve as panelists on discussions related to race, inclusion, and inequality. The Phoenix VAHCS Psychology Service aspires to combat prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment and is committed to the continued development of the personal and professional skills of its employees, who are treated in a fair and unbiased way and given every encouragement to realize their potential.

## ***MENTORSHIP PROGRAM***

Our program is excited to offer a mentorship program for our trainees. The mentorship program was created to support our interns' overall professional development in a non-evaluative, collegial environment. Topics discussed are varied but include intern's personal and professional development, helping the intern negotiate the internship program, and planning for post-internship goals. The mentorship program is independent of any supervisory relationships to ensure the opportunity for trainees to openly discuss professional issues. Interns also have the option of being connected with an individual mentor if desired during the training year.

## ***APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCEDURES***

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The *minimum* requirements for entry into the training program are as follows (see page 43 for tables with additional details):

- United States Citizenship
- Verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration)
- Enrollment in an American Psychological Association (APA), Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) or Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology
- Comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship
- Dissertation proposal approved
- A minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience
- Clinical experience with adult populations in a variety of clinical settings
- Consent to a background check, which requires fingerprinting
- Consent to complete a pre-employment physical and submit a completed TQCVL form, which is provided after accepted into the program

### **APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Students interested in applying for our internship program must submit the following under APPIC electronic submission guidelines:

- Application Form
- Curriculum Vita

- Official Graduate Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All APPIC applications must be submitted electronically following APPIC guidelines ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org))

- Submit application materials electronically by **11:59PM EST on November 1, 2022**.
- Approximately 50 applicants will be notified of interview offers by **November 30, 2022**. Half of the interviews will occur during the third week of December 2022, and the other half will take place during the first week of January 2023. In the spirit of equity and inclusion, the Phoenix VAHCS conducts all interviews via video format (vs in person).
- The format of the interviews includes an overview of the program, interviews with 6 supervisors, the training director and an opportunity to meet with current interns.
- To assist the interview panel with their review of prospective applicants following our interview season, we will request that a group photo be taken at the end of the overview presentation on the interview day. **Participation is strictly optional**. If an applicant chooses not to be in the photo, it will not impact any decision making or rankings of applicants.
- Once interviews are completed, the training committee prepares four separate lists for each of the specialty tracks with a corresponding Match Number in bold: Neuropsychology (**167112**), Health Psychology (**167113**), PTSD/General Mental Health (**167114**) and PC-MHI (**167115**).
- Applicants should feel free to e-mail the Training Director for any clarification of procedures or questions about the internship at [Matthew.Weyer@va.gov](mailto:Matthew.Weyer@va.gov).

## ***PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM***

The Phoenix VAHCS is a tertiary care and training facility with 129 medical/surgical beds, 48 psychiatric beds, and a 102-bed community living center. The hospital has been providing service to veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. In 2021, the medical center had over 800,000 visits with a total veteran enrollment of over 91,000. There are two primary locations that our interns complete training rotations. Training rotations in Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, Inpatient Mental Health, the Women Veteran's Program are all completed at our main hospital which is located at 650 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85012. Training rotations in General Mental Health, PTSD and PC-MHI are typically completed at our newly built 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Clinic located at 400 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Interns also have the opportunity to complete training rotations at several Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located throughout the valley. These rotations are typically offered in primary care and general mental health services. Finally, interns can also consider a rotation in GMH/PTSD at the West Valley Vet Center.

## **PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The Psychology Department of the Phoenix VAHCS is committed to excellence in training and service. The training committee is heterogeneous in terms of educational and theoretical backgrounds, which allows a wide range of orientations for instruction, observation, role modeling, and professional development. The Psychology Department contributes to the larger community by donation of personal and professional services to community groups, participation in university activities, and private practice outside the Medical Center. Members of our training committee have held and currently hold elected and appointed leadership positions in local, state and national professional associations and groups.

### **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

***Matthew Weyer, Ph.D.***  
Training Director

***Jennifer Averyt, Ph.D., ABPP***  
Assistant Training Director

***Tim S. Ayers, Ph.D.***  
Assistant Training Director

The Training Director and Assistant Training Directors are responsible for the coordination, oversight, and day-to-day operation of the Psychology Training Program. An Executive Training Committee periodically reviews all aspects of the training program and when necessary recommends changes in procedures and policy. Additionally, the Training Committee which is composed of current supervisors meets monthly to monitor the progress of interns on each rotation. This committee attempts to ensure continuity of training among various rotations and training settings. Final decisions regarding the Psychology Training Program are the responsibility of the Psychology Service Executive, Joelle Oizumi, Ph.D.

### ***TRAINING MODEL AND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY***

- The philosophy of our program is grounded in the practitioner scholar model, which emphasizes clinical practice and the importance of using theory and research to inform practice. In addition, the practitioner scholar model emphasizes the delivery of psychological services that take into account individual, cultural, and societal considerations.
- The primary focus of the internship year is training. Delivery of patient care is an essential component to training but is secondary to the educational mission of the internship. Interns are encouraged to plan their internship experiences in a manner that maximizes their individual training goals. One of the strengths of our program is the breadth of experiences available to interns and the flexibility for interns to create a personalized set of rotation experiences.
- Our program maintains a generalist focus, fostering general competence over specialization. This training philosophy is based on the view that a psychologist must be broadly competent before becoming a skillful specialist. The internship year is designed to help interns master the common principles and practices that form the foundation of clinical patient care.
- Clinical training is focused on evidence-based interventions. The Phoenix VAHCS Department of Psychology has several staff members who are national trainers and consultants for the VA's evidence-based treatment programs, including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive



Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Prolonged Exposure (PE), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Interns have the opportunity to take part in training initiatives, including ongoing consultation groups, with staff members during the year.

- Our training model is developmental, and we recognize that interns will be entering the training year with different levels of clinical experience, skills, and comfort levels. Interns complete a self-assessment at the beginning of the year to help to develop their individualized training plan. Interns are encouraged to take an active role in choosing rotations that will match both their personal interests and potential areas for growth. The flexibility of our training program also allows interns to adjust their training plan to meet their needs and emerging interests. Over the course of the year, interns progress from receiving close supervision to taking on a more autonomous role.
- Our training philosophy emphasizes a collaborative approach. An important component of all training experiences is the development of skills to work with other psychologists and members of other disciplines. Our interns routinely collaborate with psychiatry, social work, pharmacy, nutrition, and primary care staff.
- There is a focus in our program on creating a safe environment for learning. We value open discussions and processing of challenging experiences that interns might face as they grow into their roles as autonomous practitioners.

### ***PROGRAM GOAL and COMPETENCIES***

The **overall training goal** at the Phoenix VAHCS is for interns to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for postdoctoral or entry-level professional practice in clinical or counseling psychology across the following nine profession-wide training competencies:

- 1. Research** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the research literature to inform their clinical practice. Some interns may also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing research projects and disseminate findings at the local, regional, or national level.
- 2. Ethical and Legal Standards** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to respond professionally and ethically in accordance with the APA Code of Ethics and relevant federal and state laws, regulations, rules, policies, and standards and guidelines.
- 3. Individual and Cultural Diversity** - Interns will demonstrate the ability to conduct professional activities with sensitivity to diversity, including the ability to deliver high quality services to diverse populations. Interns will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and skills when working with diverse individuals who represent a variety of cultural and personal background and characteristics.
- 4. Professional Values and Attitudes** - Interns will demonstrate an increasing awareness of their professional identity as a psychologist. This includes awareness of and receptivity to areas needing further development.
- 5. Communication and Interpersonal Skills** - Interns will demonstrate effective communication skills and the ability to form and maintain successful professional relationships.
- 6. Assessment** - Interns will develop competence in evidence-based psychological assessment with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Emphasis is placed on developing competence in diagnostic interviewing and the administration and scoring of psychometrically-validated instruments assessing personality.
- 7. Intervention** - Interns will develop competence in the delivery of evidence-based interventions for adults with a variety of diagnoses, problems, and needs. Interns will select and implement these interventions from a range of therapeutic orientations, techniques, and approaches.

**8. Supervision** - Interns will demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based supervision models and practices and apply this knowledge in direct or simulated practice.

**9. Consultation and Interprofessional Skills** - Interns will develop competence in consultation and collaboration skills through working with professionals from a variety of disciplines.

### **SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM/EXIT CRITERIA**

Interns are evaluated at four points during the year on the previously described competencies. Copies of the Internship evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review upon request. In terms of each rotation evaluation, behavioral exemplars for each competency are rated as “Entry Level,” “Intermediate,” “Proficient,” “Advanced,” or “High Advanced.” There is also a rating of “Skill Deficit or Problematic Behavior” that can be used for areas in which significant clinical, professional, or ethical concerns are noted. Below are the descriptions of the different rating levels:

**Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior:** Intensive level of supervision needed. Lacks ability to benefit from supervision/team feedback. Lacks knowledge of relevant clinical issues and is not demonstrating progress in knowledge/skill development. Evidence of poor decision-making processes. Unethical or illegal behavior. **Triggers a remediation plan.**

**Entry Level (Intern entry level):** Regular and systematic supervision needed on most straightforward cases/projects. Integrates knowledge acquired with guidance from supervisor. Decision-making facilitated by supervisory process.

**Intermediate:** Regular supervision needed, particularly in new skill areas. Developing solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for many clinical issues.

**Proficient (Intern exit level/Fellow Entry Level):** Supervision needed mainly for unusual, complex situations or for a new clinical skill area. Solid understanding of relevant clinical issues. Independent decision-making for the majority of clinical issues.

**Advanced (Fellow exit level):** Supervision needed only for unusual, complex situations. Demonstrates more specialized knowledge. Independent decision-making for most clinical issues.

**High Advanced:** Seeks supervision/consultation as needed. Continues to independently expand knowledge and skills in content area. Demonstrates nuanced decision-making skills in complex clinical situations. Knowledge/skills/attitudes commensurate with board certification level.

Consistent with APA accreditation requirements, we have identified minimum levels of achievement and exit criteria for our program:

#### **For interns to maintain good standing in the program, they must:**

1. Rotation 1 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Intermediate” or higher level, with none being rated as “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”
2. Rotation 2 Evaluation – 50% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated as “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”
3. Rotation 3 Evaluation – 75% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Proficient” or higher level, with none being rated as “Entry Level” or “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior.”

4. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unethical behavior.

**For interns to successfully complete the program, they must:**

1. Rotation 4 Evaluation (Exit Criteria) - 95% of the behavioral anchors rated at the “Proficient” or higher level with none being rated below the “High Intermediate” level, none being rated as “Skill Deficit/Problematic Behavior,” AND no more than 2 behavioral anchors rated at the “High Intermediate” level within any one competency area (e.g., Ethics, Intervention, Assessment etc).
2. Not be found to have engaged in any significant unprofessional or unethical behavior.
3. Have spent a minimum of 25% of their time on internship engaged in direct patient care.
4. Complete two professional presentations:
  - a. Presentation 1 – Interns present a didactic on a topic of choice (typically dissertation research)
  - b. Presentation 2 – Interns can complete either a Diversity-Inclusion Project or a Program Evaluation/Quality Assurance Project .

It is noteworthy that the program has successfully graduated all interns, and historically all interns have secured either postdoctoral training positions or employment prior to the completion of internship. Please see page 50 for a list of recent post internship positions.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM STRUCTURE***

The Psychology Internship Program at the Phoenix VAHCS currently offers training to eight doctoral interns in Health Service Psychology with emphases in the areas of Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, and PTSD/General Mental Health. The psychology intern’s training plan is individualized to fit their needs and interests. In our program, we encourage interns to observe and experience a variety of supervisory and clinical models. As interns progress in the program and their professional skills and duties develop and expand, they assume greater responsibility in the clinical setting.

At the end of each clinical rotation, interns are evaluated on the previously described goals and competencies. Copies of evaluation tools and associated policies are available for review during interviews. In evaluating interns' performance and progress, applicable statutes and policies concerning due process and fair treatment are followed.

Upon successful completion of internship, interns will receive a certificate that indicates they have successfully completed an Internship in Health Service Psychology. In addition, a final letter of evaluation will be sent to the intern’s academic program indicating successful completion of the doctoral internship. This letter serves as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology. The letter will further detail the intern's training experiences in the program and provide an overall summary evaluation.

## **FUNDING/BENEFITS/LEAVE**

VA-funded psychology interns are paid a full-time stipend of \$27,243, and payments are every two weeks for a full year. Health insurance is available at employee copay rates (see page 45 for tables with additional details). Training stipends are taxable. The Phoenix VAHCS does not offer part-time or unfunded intern training positions.

The official internship year will begin on **August 14, 2023** and end on August 9, 2024. Interns earn four hours of annual leave and four hours of sick leave every two weeks. Additionally, interns are granted up to 40 hours of authorized absence (i.e., time allowed for attending or presenting at conferences, dissertation defense, postdoctoral interviews) with Training Director approval. Finally, interns receive 11 paid federal holidays.

## **FACILITY AND TRAINING RESOURCES**

The Psychology Department has staff at the Main Hospital, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Clinic, Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), and the West Valley Vet Center. Interns have access to a large conference room with computers, phones, and a printer. There are dedicated therapy and assessment offices for intern use. Interns have access to a refrigerator and microwave for shared use. The Psychology Department has a administrative officer, a secretary and a program assistant to assist interns with the procurement of supplies and various administrative tasks.

### ***PHOENIX: A GREAT PLACE TO TRAIN AND LIVE***

Phoenix is the fifth largest city in America with a population of more than 1.6 million. Despite its size, it remains affordable and easy to navigate compared to other large U.S. cities. Phoenix has much to offer in terms of culture and arts. The Heard Museum houses a renowned collection of American Indian art and culture. The Phoenix Art Museum has a fine permanent collection and presents several shows each year. Phoenix's downtown art galleries and music venues host "First Friday" events throughout the year. Phoenix is also home to five professional sports teams: the Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Cardinals, Arizona Diamondbacks, and Arizona Coyotes. Several annual sporting events take place in Phoenix, including PGA and LPGA golf tournaments.

Phoenix offers over 300 days of sunshine! Many sporting activities are popular including hiking, running, and cycling. Several farmer's markets are available year-round in Phoenix, Scottsdale, and other surrounding communities. Phoenix's dining scene has expanded significantly in recent years, and most restaurants have patios to enjoy outdoor dining.

There are six man-made lakes near Phoenix where boating, fishing, and water skiing can be enjoyed. There are ski resorts, pine forests, and the red rocks of Sedona less than two hours away in northern Arizona. The Grand Canyon is a 4-hour drive to the north, and national parks in Utah are only a few hours further. The beaches of Mexico are a 4-hour drive to the south, and California is only 5-6 hours (or a quick flight) west. Sky Harbor International Airport provides daily connections to all major international airports. For additional information about the Phoenix metropolitan areas please go to: [www.visitphoenix.com](http://www.visitphoenix.com).

## ***PLANNING THE TRAINING YEAR***

At the beginning of internship, interns go through several days of orientation activities, which provide the opportunity to visit the clinical sites and meet all the prospective supervisors. An individualized training plan is developed for each intern based on the intern's self-assessment, specific interests, and training needs. The goal is to develop a broad-based training experience that includes exposure to multiple clinical settings and patient populations. The training directors and rotation supervisors are available for consultation to help navigate the various training options. Interns are typically able to participate in the training activities that they desire, but the exact structure and timing of various activities must fit with the intern's training needs as well as the overall organizational needs of the program.

The program is organized into two six-month segments with interns typically participating in two rotations at a time. There may be opportunities for supplemental experiences that are outside of the normal rotation activities. Participation in supplemental activities must be clearly specified and approved by the Training Director and the rotation supervisors. Because interns' interests and priorities often change over the course of the training year, modifications in the training plan can be considered.

## ***THE TRAINING EXPERIENCE***

The training program places high priority on the involvement of psychology interns in providing direct patient care. Clinical experiences are obtained through major rotations, minor rotations, and supplemental experiences. Additionally, professional skills are developed in the areas of assessment, consultation, and supervision.

### **Rotation Experiences**

The Phoenix VAHCS has created three types of rotations to provide a comprehensive and generalist training experience for our interns: major, minor, and required. Additionally, interns can complete a supplemental experience to round out their training year.

**Major Rotation:** The first type of rotation is based on the specialty track chosen by each intern. This will constitute at least 50% of the training year, e.g., Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, PC-MHI, PTSD/General Mental Health emphasis. Interns have the opportunity to work with a variety of training supervisors in each of these specialty areas.

**Minor Rotation:** Second, in collaboration with the training committee, interns select minor rotations to fulfill their training needs. These minor rotations are six months in duration and are offered in a variety of clinics, including Inpatient and Outpatient Mental Health, Women Veteran's Program, PTSD, Health Psychology, PC-MHI, Home-Based Primary Care, and Neuropsychology.

**Required Rotation:** Given that our program is a generalist training program, all interns complete a rotation in one of our general mental health settings. Interns can choose from completing this rotation in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, Inpatient Mental Health, or the Women Veteran's Program. During this required rotation, interns will receive 1) intensive training in evidence-based psychotherapy with a variety of patients experiencing mental health concerns; 2)

participate in our assessment clinic and complete personality assessments; and 3) receive supervision/consultation from a psychology fellow. This rotation is 6 months in duration and can be anywhere from 12 to 24 hours per week depending on the intern's area of interest and need for psychotherapy training. This rotation can be completed in the first or second half of the internship year.

**Supplemental Experience:** Finally, in consultation with the Training Director, interns can choose a supplemental experience in one of two areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee or Research. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6-month or 12-month period. Supplemental experiences are optional. As a point of reference, in the past two intern cohorts, there has only been 1 intern that has completed a supplemental experience.

**A sample of potential rotation schedules is shown below.** There are several different options for building your training experience during the year depending on personal and professional preferences and training needs as well as rotation/staff availability:

### **SAMPLE SCHEDULES**

|  |
|--|
| Major Rotation   |
| Minor Rotation ( <i>includes supervising a Practicum Student</i> )                                     |
| Required Rotation ( <i>includes conducting personality assessments/being supervised by a postdoc</i> ) |
| Supplemental Experience ( <i>optional, not required</i> )  |

#### **Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

| Rotation 1  | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3  | Rotation 4 |
|---|------------|---|------------|
| Health Psychology<br>Burgess (20 hrs)                               |            | Health Psychology<br>Averyt (16 hrs)  |            |
| PC-MHI<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Streeter (12 hrs) |            | Outpatient Mental Health Clinic<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Fierstein (16 hrs) |            |

#### **Intern Sample HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

| Rotation 1   | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3  | Rotation 4 |
|--|------------|---|------------|
| Health Psychology<br>Averyt (16 hrs)   |            | Health Psychology<br>Breedlove (16 hrs)                               |            |
| Outpatient Mental Health<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Wertz (12 hrs) |            | PTSD Clinic<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Baker (12 hrs) |            |
| Supplemental Experience - Research Rotation (4 hrs)  |            |   |            |

**Intern Sample PC-MHI TRACK**

| Rotation 1   | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3  | Rotation 4 |
|--|------------|---|------------|
| PC-MHI<br>Streeter (20 hrs)  |            | PC-MHI<br>Truong (20 hrs)   |            |
| Outpatient Mental Health<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Jupinko (12 hrs) |            | PTSD Clinic<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Ayers (12 hrs) |            |

**Intern Sample GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

| Rotation 1   | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3   | Rotation 4 |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| General Neuropsych<br>De La Rosa (20 hrs)  |            | Neuropsych – TBI Clinic<br>Bushnell (20 hrs)                     |            |
| Outpatient Mental Health – LGBT Emphasis<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Price (12 hrs) |            | PC-MHI<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Masai (12 hrs) |            |

**Intern Sample SPECIALTY TBI NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

| Rotation 1  | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3  | Rotation 4 |
|---|------------|---|------------|
| Neuropsych- TBI<br>Bushnell (20 hrs)  |            | Neuropsych – General<br>De La Rosa (20 hrs)   |            |
| Health Psychology<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Burgess (12 hrs) |            | Outpatient Mental Health Clinic<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Fierstein (12 hrs) |            |

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

| Rotation 1   | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3   | Rotation 4 |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| PTSD Clinic<br>Wertz (16 hrs)  |            | West Valley Vet Center<br>McCray (16 hrs)                        |            |
| Inpatient Mental Health Clinic<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>De Los Santos (16 hrs) |            | PC-MHI<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Masai (16 hrs) |            |

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

| Rotation 1  | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3  | Rotation 4 |
|---|------------|---|------------|
| PTSD Clinic<br>Belsher (16 hrs)   |            | PTSD Clinic<br>Ayers (20 hrs)                                     |            |
| Outpatient Mental Health Clinic<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Fierstein (16 hrs) |            | PC-MHI<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Senter (12 hrs) |            |

**Intern Sample PTSD/GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH TRACK**

| Rotation 1  | Rotation 2 | Rotation 3   | Rotation 4 |
|---|------------|--|------------|
| West Valley Vet Center<br>McCray (16 hrs)                         |            | PTSD Clinic<br>Lowrey (16 hrs)   |            |
| PC-MHI<br><i>Supervise a Practicum Student</i><br>Truong (12 hrs) |            | Women Veteran's Program<br><i>Assessment Experience/Supervised by a Postdoc</i><br>Casillas (12 hrs) |            |
| Supplemental Experience – Disruptive Behavior Committee (4 hrs)   |            |  |            |

**Additional Training Experiences:**

**Assessment Clinic:** While completing their required rotation (i.e., General Mental Health, Inpatient Mental Health and/or Women Veteran's Program), interns will participate in a weekly Assessment Clinic. During this experience, interns will attend didactic trainings to become proficient with diagnostic interviewing and a variety of assessment instruments including the MMPI-2-RF, PAI, and MCMI-IV. The Assessment Clinic will give interns the opportunity to staff the case and receive supervision in test administration, interpretation and report writing, including the integration of diagnostic interview information with test data. In addition, interns will regularly participate in the types of assessment normatively done within their selected rotations. For instance, interns will regularly complete diagnostic intake interviews in their respective clinics. They will also be asked to complete more comprehensive personality assessment batteries when indicated and will be required to utilize assessment tools to measure treatment progress in their ongoing psychotherapy cases.

**Supervision by a Postdoctoral Resident:** While completing their required rotation, interns will also be paired with a postdoctoral resident for adjunctive supervision experience for a six-month period. The intern will be supervised by a resident with mutually identified interests and goals at the direction of a clinical supervisor.

**Supervision of Supervision Clinic:** Interns will have the opportunity to supervise a practicum student for a six-month period. Interns receive extensive training in how to conduct evidence based supervision while they are completing their minor rotation. In addition to participating in a half day Evidence Based Training in Clinical Supervision, interns receive weekly group supervision of supervision led by a licensed psychologist. During this experience, interns will learn the



fundamentals of clinical supervision, complete assigned readings and engage in role plays to better prepare them in their supervision of their assigned psychology practicum student. The goal of this practical experience is to help better equip our interns to provide supervision in the future as professional psychologists.

**Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar (optional)** - Interns have the option to attend an advanced psychotherapy seminar in which they can learn innovative therapy skills and techniques to adapt evidence-based protocols for their current caseload. This seminar emphasizes the “art” behind effective psychotherapy.

## ***SUPERVISION***

One of the strengths of our internship program is the variety and quality of supervision offered. We have a training committee that consists of seasoned clinicians with diverse theoretical backgrounds and clinical expertise. The majority of our training staff has received formal training, consultation, and certification in one or more of the following evidenced-based treatments: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Problem-Solving Therapy (PST), Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) for Depression, and Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT). Furthermore, we are proud to have staff that have served or currently serve as national trainers and national consultants in PE, CPT, CBT for Depression, CBT for Chronic Pain, and CBT-I.

Given Covid-19, supervision is currently provided via face-to-face or through video format. It is up to each intern to research relevant licensing laws for their state to determine whether video supervision is allowed. Interns receive at least 4 hours of supervision per week. Supervision is tailored to the intern’s needs and skill level and is provided in the following formats:

### **INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION**

Psychology interns receive individual supervision by rotation supervisors for a minimum of two hours per week. There is additional time for supervision on a less formal basis as supervisors are readily available for questions and the interns’ need for guidance. Interns are trained in various evidence-based psychotherapies that differ according to the chosen clinic. For example, an intern assigned to the PTSD clinic might be trained in CPT, EMDR, and/or PE protocols. An intern assigned to the Health Psychology rotation would likely receive additional training in CBT-I, CBT-E, MI, ACT, and clinical hypnosis.

### **GROUP SUPERVISION**

Psychology interns participate in required weekly group supervision within the Assessment Clinic and the Supervision of Supervision Clinic. In addition to these required group supervision activities, interns also have the opportunity to participate in group supervision through the Advanced Psychotherapy Seminar or any of the weekly consultation groups offered in DBT, CPT or MI. All together, our interns receive a minimum of 4 hours of combined individual and group supervision per week.

## ***DIDACTIC TRAININGS***

In order to facilitate the learning process that occurs on internship, rich didactic experiences are offered in the following areas:

1. We provide an Intern Didactic Seminar Series that meets weekly and consists of general topics such as ethics, diversity, interprofessional communication, evidence-based psychotherapy, and assessment. Specialty training is also provided in the areas of Health Psychology, PTSD/General Mental Health, and PC-MHI. Recent research studies and/or literature reviews will be paired with each didactic lecture. Articles are disseminated to interns and discussed within the didactic lectures. All intern didactic trainings are held in person on Thursdays at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Clinic which allows interns to spend the day together.
2. In addition to the general didactic series, neuropsychology interns have the opportunity to attend the postdoctoral neuropsychology seminar held three times per month and biweekly case conferences with neuropsychology faculty. This offers a combination of biweekly case conferences. In the second half of the year, interns may have the option to attend a 2-hour weekly Video Teleconference with eight Department of Defense (DoD) and VA Fellowship Training Sites that is based on a 2-year curriculum for postdoctoral fellows. Topics include neurobehavioral syndromes, neuroanatomy, psychometrics, individual and cultural diversity in assessment, and preparation for oral exams for boards.
3. The Psychology Department also offers monthly APA-approved CEU training opportunities covering a variety of topics (e.g., diversity, ethics, MMPI-2RF). Learning opportunities are also available by attending Medical Grand Rounds, periodic offerings in the Department of Mental Health, and satellite training that is transmitted nationwide in the VA System.
4. At the beginning of the year, interns will have the opportunity to participate in up to two evidence-based training experiences. These 3-day trainings are offered in the following areas: Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Following the training, interns will participate in weekly consultation to further develop their skills in implementing these evidence-based treatments. Interns who participate in the CPT training are eligible to receive certification through the VA's national training initiative. Additionally, interns have the opportunity to participate in 1-day training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Insomnia (CBT-I) and all interns participate in a half-day Supervision Skills training.
5. Interns are also encouraged to attend training opportunities outside the VA that fit well with their internship training goals. As noted earlier, an attractive aspect of our training program is that psychology interns can be granted up to 40 hours of authorized absence to attend conferences and workshops.

## ***ROTATION DESCRIPTIONS***

### **GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH**

All interns complete at least one 6-month rotation in the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, the Women Veteran's Program or the Inpatient Mental Health Unit. These rotations can be either for 12, 16 or 20 hours a week depending on the intern's area of interest and/or training needs. In this required experience, interns will complete personality assessments and will receive tiered supervision from a psychology fellow.

In the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic and the Women Veteran's Program rotations, interns will have the opportunity to gain experience in the use of several evidence-based psychotherapies that treat depression, anxiety, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder. Interns will develop the ability to conceptualize and create treatment plans for veterans who often have complex issues and/or may have co-morbid diagnoses. There are opportunities to work with individuals with presenting personality structures that make treatment adherence difficult. These rotations also affords interns the opportunity to conduct group psychotherapy in such areas as DBT, anger management, behavioral activation, women's chronic pain group, and CBT-Depression and Anxiety. Collaboration with mental health staff, including psychiatry, nursing and social work is also an exciting part of these rotations.

In the Inpatient Mental Health rotation, interns have the opportunity to provide short term individual therapy, group therapy, and conduct psychological assessments. Evidence-based treatments in this rotation include Social Skills Training and Seeking Safety. Interns also engage in treatment and discharge planning and assist with coordination of care with outpatient mental health.

**OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:**  
**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LEANNE FIERSTEIN, PH.D.**

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, non-combat related PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Fierstein to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies, such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), and Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT). Interns will have an opportunity to co-facilitate DBT Skills Group, Pathfinder Group, and Mindfulness Group. Interns will become a part of an interdisciplinary treatment team (with psychiatric providers, nurses, and social workers) to assess and engage in treatment planning with veterans presenting to the walk-in clinic one day per week.

**OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – NORTHEAST CLINIC:**  
**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JESSIE GARCIA, PH.D., ABPP**

Psychology interns working with Dr. Garcia will develop solid case conceptualization, assessment, diagnostic and treatment skills related to anxiety and depressive disorders, PTSD and other trauma and stress-related disorders, all while considering contextual factors and intersectionality among and between various reference groups (Multicultural Guidelines, 2017). The intern will have the

opportunity to further develop their existing competency skills in delivering evidence-based psychotherapies, i.e., CBT, ACT, IPT, PE and CPT. Dr. Garcia is double-board certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology and Clinical Psychology; as well as an EMDRIA certified in EMDR therapy. The Northeast CBOC is small clinic, located in Scottsdale, AZ and the mental health team is made up of Dr. Garcia, a psychiatrist, and a social worker, who work collaboratively with four PACT Teams.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRYCE JUPINKO, PSYD

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat a variety of mental health concerns including, anxiety, depression, PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient mental health population. Interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Jupinko to increase their awareness of and confidence in using evidence-based psychotherapies, such as Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Eye movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). Interns will also have an opportunity to co-facilitate a DBT skills based group. Interns will become part of an interdisciplinary treatment team (with psychiatry, pharmacy, nursing, and social work) working in a walk-in clinic one day a week, completing intake assessments and addressing other care needs.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH - SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: CHRISTOPHER OGLE, PSY.D.

The Southeast CBOC is a very large, newly renovated, outpatient clinic located in Gilbert Arizona with a mental health staff consisting of 6 psychologists, 6 psychiatrists, 2 social workers, 3 nurses, a nursing assistant a mental health pharmacist and 2 substance-abuse counselors. Interns participating in this rotation will have opportunities to learn evidence-based psychotherapies including CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy), PE (Prolonged Exposure), CBT-D (Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Depression), and ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) for depression. There may also be opportunities to learn mindfulness, sleep hygiene, and DBT skills as needed. Psychological assessment for personality functioning is also an option for trainees. Dr. Ogle specialized in PTSD treatment, and this rotation provides an opportunity to work with PTSD cases as well as general mental health cases.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH: LGBTQ VETERAN CARE– 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DONNA PRICE, PSY.D.

Interns participating in the LGBTQ Veteran Care rotation will work primarily with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) Veterans. Interns will engage in direct clinical care (individual and group), program development, outreach/training, and research/program evaluation. Through direct provision of clinical services, interns will further the goal of providing competent and LGBTQ-affirmative mental health services to our Veterans. Additionally, through education, outreach, and advocacy, the intern will further the larger goal of changing the culture of the VA to incorporate affirmation of LGBTQ identities. Supervision tailored to those goals will be provided to interns throughout the rotation to allow for clinical growth in providing care to LGBTQ communities.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JESSICA WERTZ, PSY.D.

In this rotation, interns will learn tools to treat a variety of mental health concerns including, anxiety, mood, PTSD, and personality disorders within a diverse, outpatient, mental health population. Interns will provide time-limited, evidence-based treatments for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and EMDR. If cases allow, interns will also learn how to incorporate third wave approaches such as ACT and DBT as well as how to tailor CBT-Insomnia for Veterans with PTSD. Dr. Wertz has specialized training in the treatment of childhood and attachment traumas and thus interns will learn how to tailor treatment to address the common cognitive and affective presentations seen in this patient population. Dr. Wertz also likes to incorporate professional development, leadership skills, and the development of supervision skills into her rotation. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH – MAIN HOSPITAL:  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: RHONDA CASILLAS, PH.D.

Interns on this rotation will expand their clinical skills and proficiency in evidence based practices that address the physical, mental and behavioral health needs unique to female veterans. This includes working in an outpatient mental health and integrative gender specific specialty clinic where behavioral health concerns such as perinatal and postpartum depression, trauma recovery and reproductive health, self-management of chronic pain, relationship problems, and other stress related illnesses are the focus of treatment. Interns will be exposed to wide-range of literature on the needs of women veterans. They will gain competence in culturally sensitive functional assessment, triage and care coordination, crisis intervention, brief psychotherapy, and whole health integrative consultation services. Opportunities to learn evidence base treatment modalities such as CBT-i (Insomnia), CBT-CP (Chronic Pain), PST (Problem Solving Training), Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), CBT-E (Eating Disorder), Motivational Interviewing (MI), STAIRS and CBT-D (Depression) will be offered.

INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH – MAIN HOSPITAL:  
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: REBECCA DE LOS SANTOS, PH.D.

On this rotation, interns will expand clinical skills and proficiency in offering group psychotherapy on the two inpatient mental health units, which can serve up to 24 veterans at one time. Veterans present to the unit with a variety of diagnoses, including schizophrenia spectrum disorders, mood disorders, substance use disorders, trauma-related disorders, personality disorders, and neurocognitive disorders. There may also be other psychosocial stressors that are prominent in the their presentation and treatment, such as issues related to housing, employment, relationships, and legal involvement. This rotation includes a significant interdisciplinary component, as psychology works closely with psychiatry, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, social work, recreational therapy, and nutrition to best serve the veterans admitted to the unit. Trainees participating in the rotation will gain experience facilitating groups including Seeking Safety, IMR, DBT, and VA Whole Health. Additional experiences include providing brief supportive individual services, assisting with outpatient treatment planning, and completing psychological assessments. Additionally, one of the two units frequently serves Veterans who present with issues related to aging, which offers opportunities related to assessing and treating mental health issues in older adults.

## **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) CLINIC**

The PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) provides specialized assessment and psychotherapy for veterans suffering from military-related post-traumatic stress disorder including combat, sexual or physical assault, natural disasters, and life-threatening accidents that occur during military service. The PCT is housed within the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Clinic. The PCT serves veterans from all warzones and conflicts, including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, Lebanon, Somalia, Panama, Grenada, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The PCT also offers specialized services to veterans who are struggling with addictive disorders that co-occur with their PTSD. Therapies offered are generally cognitive-behavioral in orientation, and include empirically supported therapies for PTSD (i.e., Cognitive Processing Therapy; CPT, Prolonged Exposure; PE, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing; EMDR, Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia; CBT-I, and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for couples with PTSD). In addition, interns can deliver adjunctive treatments for PTSD, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for PTSD, Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR), and Skills Training in Affect and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR) to Veterans prior to the Veteran engaging in a trauma-based treatment.

Psychology interns will have the opportunity to conduct intake evaluations with veterans, provide individual psychotherapy for PTSD, co-lead a CPT or couples psychotherapy group, and/or teach coping skills classes that provide education on trauma-related symptoms. There are also some opportunities for interns interested in research and/or program evaluation.

### **PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: TIM S. AYERS, PH.D.**

This rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in assessment, trauma-based treatments and brief psychotherapy for related conditions (e.g., substance abuse, insomnia, and nightmares). Psychology interns work closely with Dr. Ayers to prepare Veterans for trauma based treatments (e.g. CBT-I, ACT for PTSD) and to deliver one of the three evidence based trauma treatments recognized by the VA (i.e., CPT, PE and EMDR) offered within the clinic. Finally, Dr. Ayers's work focuses on sleep based interventions such as Group Based CBT-Insomnia and Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares.

### **PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:**

**SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: COURTNEY E. BAKER, PSY.D.**

Psychology interns on this rotation will develop skills in the assessment and treatment of PTSD and the assessment and treatment of interpersonal violence. Interns will have the opportunity to deliver evidence-based treatments for PTSD, including CPT, PE, EMDR, as well as CBCT in group format. Interns will also have the opportunity to learn and administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) as part of a larger trauma assessment battery. Finally, interns will work with Dr. Baker to co-lead Strength at Home, which is a 12 week cognitive-behavioral intervention for Veterans who engage in interpersonal violence.

PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRADLEY E. BELSHER, PH.D.

This rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in assessment and treatment of PTSD and other trauma-related conditions. Psychology interns will work closely with Dr. Belsher to learn how to effectively deliver recognized evidence-based treatments for PTSD (i.e., PE, CPT, WET). Interns will be encouraged to gain more mastery delivering EBTs, while recognizing the importance of maintaining a strong therapeutic alliance to keep veterans engaged in treatment.

PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JOHN S. CHARLESON, PH.D.

In this rotation, psychology interns will have an opportunity to develop their therapy and assessment skills while working with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD and other trauma-related disorders. This includes learning to conduct psychodiagnostic intakes with Veteran's referred to the clinic and helping them identify evidence based interventions that best suit their needs. Interns will also learn to identify resources outside the PCT clinic and get Veteran's connected with those resources when their needs are better served elsewhere. From an intervention perspective, interns under the supervision of Dr. Charleson will learn and facilitate evidence-based therapies including CPT, PE, Written Exposure Therapy, and DBT. Interested interns may also have the opportunity to assist with our support group for Vietnam Veterans.

PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to learn and administer gold-standard diagnostic interviews for PTSD diagnosis including the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5) and PTSD Checklist (PCL-5). This rotation offers unique opportunities to learn evidence-based therapies (EBTs) such as Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), Prolonged Exposure (PE). Interns will progress from observer to co-therapist with Dr. Luedtke in Mindfulness-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (MB-CBCT). Interns will have opportunities to educate veterans, staff, and the community about signs, symptoms, and treatment of PTSD. Finally, the intern will have the opportunity to attend and participate in the multi-disciplinary PTSD Clinical Team Meetings.

PTSD- SOUTHEAST CBOC (GILBERT):SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, PH.D.

This minor rotation in PTSD at the Southeast CBOC offers training opportunities in evidence-based assessment and psychotherapy in the treatment of PTSD. Dr. Hernandez served as a national consultant for the PE rollout initiative and works with interns to learn either PE or CPT therapy in the treatment of veterans experiencing PTSD.

**PTSD CLINIC – 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC:****SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: KYLE LOWREY, PSY.D.**

Interns will provide specialized, time-limited, evidence based treatments for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE) and EMDR for PTSD. Dr. Lowrey is a local trainer for CPT and has co-led an annual training workshop for those interested in obtaining provider status within the VA. Interns will have a chance to gain experience and enhance CPT skills via an integration of individual and group formats. Interns also have the opportunity to co-facilitate other groups with Dr. Lowrey, such as Imagery Rehearsal Therapy for nightmares and Pathfinders (a DBT-based group for the development of emotion regulation and distress tolerance skills). Interns are supervised in incorporating elements of these treatments into their clinical practice to various degrees, depending upon their previous therapy experiences. Diagnostic assessment opportunities are also available on this rotation.

**WEST VALLEY VET CENTER**

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Readjustment Counseling Service consists of 300+ community-based Vet Centers around the nation that offer counseling services to combat veterans, veterans exposed to military sexual trauma, and their families. The West Valley Vet Center, located at 14050 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85381, provides outpatient individual, group, marital, and family psychotherapy to eligible veterans and their families in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere located close to the communities where veterans live, work, and play. Given its target population, West Valley Vet Center provides a great deal of treatment of PTSD as well as general readjustment counseling focused on removing barriers to the effective adaptation to civilian life after military service. Additionally, the West Valley Vet Center participates in community outreach and education initiatives designed to prevent the onset of mental health problems in the veteran population and to encourage veterans' engagement in VA health care services.

**WEST VALLEY VET CENTER:****SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ADAM MCCRAY, PH.D.**

This rotation provides interns with an opportunity to work with combat veterans, veterans exposed to military sexual trauma (MST), and their family members in an outpatient, community-based setting. Interns will receive training and consultation in Cognitive Processing Therapy for combat/MST-related PTSD and gain a significant amount of clinical training and experience in the treatment of problems related to a variety of stressors associated with readjustment to civilian life after military service. These include managing symptoms of emotional distress, renegotiating family and interpersonal relationships, planning for educational and career pursuits, and working to establish a civilian identity. Based on their clinical interests and level of preparation, interns will have the opportunity to conduct individual, group, marital, and family psychotherapy as well as an opportunity to engage in community education and outreach activities.

**HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

The Health Psychology track provides psychology interns with the opportunity to enhance skills in psychological approaches to problems of health and illness. Interns have the option to complete a general health psychology rotation or a specialty rotation in our Chronic Pain Wellness Center. In our Health Psychology clinic, consults and referrals are received from Primary Care as well as from



specialty medical clinics including: Rheumatology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Oncology, Audiology, and the Spinal Cord Injury Clinic. Interns can complete organ transplant evaluations, pre-bariatric surgery evaluations and/or insulin pump evaluations.

Interns can also complete a specialty health psych experience rotation through our Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). The CPWC is an innovative interdisciplinary program designed to enhance the quality of life and functioning of Veterans with chronic pain. The CPWC team includes health care professionals from the fields of psychology, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, addiction medicine, psychiatry, physical therapy, nutrition, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and recreational therapy. Veterans in the CPWC present with chronic pain and a variety of comorbid medical and mental health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, sleep disorders, substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and personality disorders.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: JENNIFER AVERYT, PH.D., ABPP

Interns will have an opportunity to gain experience in health psychology interventions through a variety of referrals from specialty care clinics. Dr. Averyt specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in medical settings and can provide training in enhanced CBT for eating disorders (CBT-E), CBT for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other disorders of gut-brain interactions (DGBI), CBT for insomnia (CBT-I), behavioral treatments to increase CPAP adherence, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for a variety of health concerns. Interns have the option to participate in the interdisciplinary Eating Disorder Program by completing intake evaluations and providing individual/group therapy. Interns can also gain assessment experience on this rotation by conducting insulin pump and pre-bariatric surgery evaluations.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, PSY.D.

Interns will gain training and experience in providing time-limited, evidence-based health psychotherapy interventions for Veterans with health concerns, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for specific health conditions such as diabetes, IBS, headaches, seizures, COPD, heart failure, cancer, sleep disorders, tinnitus, and sexual health concerns as well as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic health concerns and adjustment to new medical diagnoses. There are additional training opportunities in other brief interventions, including desensitization to increase CPAP adherence, exposure therapy for medical phobias, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Dr. Breedlove also serves as national consultant for the VA CBT-I Training initiative and can provide enhanced training in this area.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LISA BURGESS, PH.D.

Interns will focus primarily on developing skills in consultation and working to support providers in their interactions with patients. Both group and individual therapy modalities are used. Training is also provided in psychological assessment as it relates to pre-surgical evaluations. Dr. Burgess is the Health Behavior Coordinator for the Phoenix VA Health Care System. She specializes in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Interpersonal Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Mindfulness-

based interventions. Within this role there are opportunities for both a clinical and a programmatic focus, as described below.

Within the therapy area, psychology interns will participate in work with individual Health Psychology patients. They will also participate in group interventions through the MOVE! weight management and Smoking Cessation Programs. Interns will initially co-facilitate and move to independently facilitating these groups. Within the assessment area, psychology interns will also conduct insulin pump, pre-bariatric, and organ transplant evaluations (i.e., heart, stem cell, bone marrow, liver, and kidney). These consist of a structured interview, paired with varying levels of cognitive and psychological assessment. Within the programmatic area, there are opportunities for interns to participate in clinician coaching. In this role, the intern will work with a variety of medical professionals, supporting their use of motivational interviewing skills with patients.

CHRONIC PAIN WELLNESS CENTER (CPWC) – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: ERIC HANSON, PH.D. , BRITTANY FRIEDMAN, PSY.D., & JEFFREY MINTERT, PH.D.

The Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC) is an interprofessional team comprised of pain-focused medical providers, pain psychologists, physical therapists, chiropractors, pharmacists, dietitians, recreational therapists, and support staff. The CPWC is the first Chronic Pain Clinic in the VA to adopt the Sociopsychobiological model to provide high-value pain care. In this rotation, interns will focus primarily on: 1) Developing and utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) skills and approaches in both group and individual therapy, 2) conducting individual and CoDisciplinary (with a medical provider) intake assessments to formulate collaborative treatment plans with patients, and 3) learning foundations and implementation of interdisciplinary rehabilitation strategies for patients with chronic pain. Rehabilitation programs available in CPWC include the Functional Restoration Program (FRP), lifestyle modification programs, and the Women’s Wellness program. Individual assessments might lead to a treatment plan that includes CBT-CP, motivational interviewing, behavioral management of migraines, or mindfulness-based/acceptance and commitment therapies for chronic pain. Additionally, there may be available research projects with the CPWC team; please inquire with Dr. Hanson. Dr. Hanson is a VA VISN 22 CBT-CP Trainer and Consultant and teaches trainees this evidence-based model of treatment. Dr. Friedman and Dr. Mintert have earned equivalency status as a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain providers within VA. Interns may choose to work with Dr. Hanson, Dr. Friedman, or Dr. Mintert in the CPWC for 1 day, 2 days, or 2.5 days per week depending on their other rotations.

**PRIMARY CARE-MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION (PC-MHI)**

The Primary Care-Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) rotation provides psychology interns the opportunity to develop skills in functional assessment, problem-focused case conceptualization and brief psychotherapy in primary care clinics. As a member of the Patient Aligned Clinical Team (PACT), psychology interns work closely with mental health nurses, psychiatrists, primary care providers (PCPs), social workers, clinical pharmacists, and support staff to address mental health issues that present as part of the veteran’s primary care visit. These appointments may be in the form of an unscheduled “warm hand-off” from a PCP or nurse, or a scheduled brief psychotherapy appointment. Population-based integrated care provides triage and treatment in a stepped care model for a broad range of medical and psychological issues.

PC-MHI (32<sup>ND</sup> STREET CLINIC):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: BRENDT PARRISH, PH.D., GEOFFREY STREETER, PSY.D., ERIN TRUONG, PH.D., KAITLYN MASAI, PH.D., ASH SENTER, PSY.D. (THEY/THEM)

Interns will gain exposure to brief assessment and interventions in primary care with opportunities for “warm hand-offs” and same-day visits. Training in short-term evidence-based and measurement driven treatments will be provided, including brief CBT for depression and/or anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-i), CBT for Eating Disorders, Motivational Interviewing (MI), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Problem Solving Therapy (PST), and Prolonged Exposure in Primary Care (PE-PC). There are also additional training opportunities in other brief interventions, including chronic disease self-management, CPAP desensitization, CBT for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP), and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Interns may have the opportunity to co-facilitate groups, including Group CBT-i. Interns will also get experience with and exposure to completing risk assessments, working within an interdisciplinary team, and participating in team meetings and huddles. Training will be consistent with procedures outlined in the VA PC-MHI fidelity training model.

Additionally, interns may work with Dr. Senter in administrative roles supporting care and services for LGBTQ+ Veterans across Phoenix VA, such as PRIDE in All Who Served health education group and staff education. Interns may work with Dr. Truong on the Diabetes Management Program and complete projects within the Diabetes Distress Management Team.

PC-MHI (CBOC):

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: ANDREW JONES, PH.D., KIMBERLY SULLIVAN, PSY.D.

Interns will gain knowledge and experience with brief assessment and interventions as part of a primary care team, with a significant focus on providing same-day, warm hand-off visits. Training in short-term evidence-based and measurement driven treatments will be provided, including Focused Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (FACT) and CBTi for Insomnia. Interns will also be involved with teaching class-based interventions for chronic pain and coping with chronic illness. Dr. Jones has an extensive background working in chronic pain management, so interns on this rotation will gain knowledge and training in this specific area. Training will be consistent with procedures outlined in the VA PC-MHI fidelity training model.

HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: LINDSAY MANWAY, PSY.D.

VA Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) is a program that provides comprehensive longitudinal primary care in the homes of veterans with complex chronic disabling disease. Interns will be an integral part of an interdisciplinary treatment team comprised of nursing, social work, rehabilitation specialists, dietetics, pharmacy, and psychology. Interns working with Dr. Manway will gain the opportunity to provide in-home assessment and treatment to medically complex veterans and/or their families. This is an excellent rotation to gain a solid foundation of common medical conditions in older adults and how those conditions may impact overall mental and cognitive health. Common referrals include: performing dementia assessments, implementing interventions to increase compliance with medical treatment regimens, processing end of life issues, and helping veterans cope with grief, depression, anxiety, and other psychological issues related to the aging process. Opportunities for caregiver intervention focused on improving patient

well-being and reducing caregiver stress are also available . Cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and supportive therapy modalities are utilized.

### **NEUROPSYCHOLOGY TRACK**

Psychology interns may elect to obtain specialized training in clinical neuropsychology in an outpatient setting. Psychology interns have the opportunity to learn a variety of fundamental neuropsychological assessment skills with a diverse Veteran population. There are two rotation types in neuropsychology: General Neuropsychology and TBI Clinic.

#### GENERAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGISTS: MIA DE LA ROSA, PH.D., ELIZABETH HARFMANN, PH.D., GINA WALTERS, PH.D.

This rotation involves working with outpatients referred by primary care, mental health, neurology and specialty clinics (e.g. Endocrinology Clinic, Speech Language Pathology, Psychology). There are a wide variety of patients and referral questions. Interns in this rotation can expect to see Veterans with dementia, CVA, TBI, seizure disorders, multiple sclerosis, bipolar disorder, PTSD, schizophrenia spectrum disorders, and a variety of other medical disorders. The focus of this rotation involves developing skills in record review, clinical interviewing, test administration, scoring, case conceptualization and interpretation, writing reports and communicating results to patients, family and/or other interdisciplinary professional staff.

#### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CLINIC – MAIN HOSPITAL:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: MARY LU BUSHNELL, PSY.D., ABPP-CN

The TBI Clinic evaluates Veterans who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), or Operation New Dawn (OND) for a history of possible deployment-related head injury/concussion. In this clinic the intern works in a primary care setting to provide neuropsychological screening evaluations. Neuropsychological screenings are followed by a joint interview with a primary care provider. At the conclusion of the interview, treatment recommendations and additional referrals are provided when indicated. The intern will also be responsible for presenting findings to an interdisciplinary team, which includes psychiatrists, physician assistants, nurse case managers, social workers, speech therapists, and other psychologists or neuropsychologists. The intern will also have the opportunity to present relevant neuropsychological topics to this interdisciplinary team. Psychology interns will learn about the effects of blast injury and the physiological events that follow a traumatic brain injury. Differential diagnosis between the cognitive effects of PTSD and TBI is the primary referral question in this population. Although the great majority of referrals in this rotation involve OEF/OIF/OND Veterans, there will be occasional opportunities to work with other Veteran populations. This rotation is offered on a part time and/or full-time basis.

The psychology intern will also have an opportunity to co-lead the “Brain Boosters” Cognitive Enhancement Group for Veterans. This 9-week group combines didactic education and experiential exercises in order to help group members learn how to optimize their strengths and enhance their brain functioning. The intern may have the opportunity to be involved in splinter groups, which are 3-5-week groups that cover information presented in the Brain Boosters group in more detail. Examples of prior splinter groups covered topics such as communication skills, memory strategies,

and stress management. Possible opportunities for research with this population may also be available.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

In consultation with the Training Director, interns can choose a supplemental experience in one of two areas: Disruptive Behavior Committee or Research. Supplemental experiences are typically 4 hours a week and can occur for a 6 month or 12 month period.

#### DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR COMMITTEE:

SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST: ADRIANA WEYER, PH.D.

Although not offered as a full rotation, interns will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Weyer as part of the Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC), a multidisciplinary group of staff that address reports of Patient-Generated and Visitor-Generated Disruptive Behavior. The DBC identifies risks associated with reported behaviors and assists the medical center in developing risk mitigation strategies. The DBC provides interns with an opportunity to learn about the violence risk assessment process by participating in DBC meetings and reviewing individual cases to present to the DBC. An intern completing this experience might work with an outpatient or women's health supervisor for 8 to 16 hours a week and complete supplementary DBC training for 4 hours a week.

#### Research:

Supervising Psychologists: JENNA GRESS SMITH, PH.D., BRANDI LUEDTKE, PSY.D., BRAD BELSHER, PH.D., AND TIM AYERS PH.D.

Interns will have the opportunity to learn about and be involved with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process in VHA and to collaborate with other disciplines in planning research projects, data collection and analysis, and manuscript preparation. Interns may learn how to conceptualize and conduct studies based on CPRS data. This rotation may be particularly appealing to interns who wish to maintain involvement with research and continue making scientific contributions while engaged in clinical work while on internship and/or in their future careers. Because of the limited number of faculty, this rotation is considered on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the training director.

### **OTHER ROTATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

The Phoenix VAHCS has successfully recruited several new Psychology positions. When possible, the executive training committee attempts to secure additional training opportunities that are consistent with the program's philosophy and goals that may round out a training experience for the intern.

**PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING COMMITTEE**

JULIE ALBERTY, Ph.D., ABPP-CN  
Loma Linda University, 2012  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(General Neuropsychology- Section Head)

Dr. Alberty is the section chief for the Neuropsychology and Wellness Program. She is a bilingual (Spanish/English) neuropsychologist whose primary interests lie in cultural aspects of neuropsychology and adult outpatient neuropsychological assessments. Dr. Alberty's expertise includes assessment of dementia, seizure disorders, movement disorders, TBI, and stroke. She enjoys the wide variety of patients one can see in an outpatient clinic and currently conducts neuropsychological assessments of Veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics. Dr. Alberty received her doctorate from Loma Linda University in clinical psychology and completed her internship at the Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Health Care System, Michigan. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA staff in 2017 she was a faculty neuropsychologist at Barrow Neurological Institute. She is a mentor for the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society and for the American Board of Professional Psychology in Clinical Neuropsychology.

JENNIFER AVERYT, Ph.D., ABPP  
Ohio University, 2012  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Psychology)

Dr. Averyt is a member of the Health Psychology team and lead psychologist for the Phoenix VA Eating Disorder Program. After completing her internship at the Phoenix VA, Dr. Averyt completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center. Dr. Averyt has training and experience in a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies including CBT for depression and anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), enhanced CBT (CBT-E) for eating disorders, and Motivational Interviewing. Her interests include eating disorders, sleep disorders, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, psycho-oncology, and chronic pain. Dr. Averyt is board certified in clinical health psychology and is a national consultant for the VA CBT-I Training initiative.

TIM S. AYERS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 1991  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Ayers' theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, with an emphasis on empirically-based treatments. He provides evaluation and individual and group psychotherapy to veterans with warzone-related PTSD. His primary interests are in the anxiety disorders, particularly OCD and PTSD. Dr. Ayers also has a background in prevention programming and clinical child psychology and prior to joining the VA held faculty appointments at Yale University and Arizona State University. He has interests in program evaluation, and the development of family-based interventions. In the past, he has received federal grants to carry out research on the impact of major stressors on families and the evaluation of prevention programs. Dr. Ayers is currently the

Principal Investigator for a NIMH grant on a fourteen year follow up of a preventive intervention program called the Family Bereavement Program.

COURTNEY E. BAKER, Psy.D..  
Midwestern University, 2015  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Baker is a Clinical Psychologist in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team) and is regional trainer for Strength at Home, an evidence-based treatment for Veterans who engage in interpersonal violence. She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat PTSD in individual and group formats along with providing services via telemental health. Additionally, she specializes in assessment of PTSD using the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5). Her primary interests are in Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders, including associated features such as moral injury and shame. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Baker is a clinical champion for Mental Health Suite and heads a multidisciplinary team across the hospital that specializes in the development and implementation of patient-centered treatment plans.

BRAD BELSHER, Ph.D.  
Palo Alto University, 2010  
Licensed Psychologist in the Commonwealth of Virginia  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Belsher is a Clinical Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). He specializes in the delivery of evidence-based treatments for PTSD in individual and group formats. He completed his internship training and postdoctoral fellowship at the Washington DC VA, where he concentrated in the treatment of PTSD. Prior to working for the Phoenix VA, Dr. Belsher spent 8 years working for the Department of Defense where he conducted clinical research on improving the delivery of psychological treatments in the Military Health System. Dr. Belsher previously directed an evidence synthesis team for the Defense Health Agency and was responsible for providing objective and comprehensive evidence reviews on psychological health topics in response to congressional requests, stakeholder needs, and provider inquiries. Several of these reviews are now published in the peer-review literature. Dr. Belsher has published and presented in the areas of telehealth treatments for PTSD, stepped-care interventions, health systems research, and population-based care models.

LISA BURGESS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2005  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Behavior Coordinator)

Dr. Burgess is a Health Psychologist whose role is primarily with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Team as the Health Behavior Coordinator. The Health Behavior Coordinator develops and evaluates programs to enhance wellness for primarily Veterans, but also for VA employees. Involvement with facility-level policy and decision-making is integral to the role. There is also a clinical component consisting of smoking cessation, fitness and nutrition, and transplant evaluations. Dr. Burgess completed her doctoral internship in Geropsychology at the Palo Alto VA

Health Care System and then went on to a postdoctoral fellowship at this facility in Health Psychology. She was previously employed both in a local group practice and at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Dr. Burgess's orientation is primarily cognitive behavior with a focus on empirically supported treatments and common factors. Her interests include: adaptation to illness, healthy aging, stress and coping, grief and loss, motivational interviewing, and mindfulness-based interventions.

ASHLEY BREEDLOVE, Psy.D.  
Nova Southeastern University  
Licensed Psychologist in Louisiana  
(Health Psychology)

Dr. Breedlove provides psychotherapy services in the multidisciplinary setting of Phoenix VA's main hospital. She was primarily trained in cognitive behavioral, interpersonal, and acceptance and commitment treatment approaches over the course of her doctoral training at Nova Southeastern University and clinical Internship at Dayton VA Medical Center. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in the area of Health Psychology / Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) at the Phoenix VA. In her current role as a staff psychologist on the health psychology team, Dr. Breedlove provides time-limited, evidence-based psychotherapy interventions for Veterans with health concerns, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for specific health conditions such as diabetes, IBS, headaches, seizures, COPD, heart failure, cancer, sleep disorders, tinnitus, and sexual health concerns as well as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for chronic health conditions and adjustment to new medical diagnoses. Treatment services also include CPAP desensitization, exposure therapy for medical phobias, and behavioral treatments to improve adherence to medical recommendations. Her training and experience has enhanced her proficiency in multiple treatment approaches, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Interpersonal Therapy (IPT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Brief Prolonged Exposure (PE-PC), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Breedlove also serves as national consultant for the VA CBT-I Training initiative. Her primary interests include sleep disorders, anxiety disorders, women's health, and trauma-informed treatment.

MARY LU BUSHNELL, Psy.D., ABPP-CN  
Argosy University/Phoenix, 2006  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(OEF/OIF/OND Neuropsychology)

Dr. Bushnell's clinical interests include traumatic brain injury and dementia. Duties include neuropsychological evaluation and consultation to the postdeployment clinical team, TBI Clinic, and conducting outpatient neuropsychological evaluations. Dr. Bushnell co-developed and leads the Brain Boosters cognitive enhancement group. Prior to joining the VA in 2007, Dr. Bushnell worked at a community agency where she conducted neuropsychological evaluations, cognitive rehabilitation and psychotherapy with individuals with brain injury. She has provided education regarding traumatic brain injury to organizations such as the Phoenix and Mesa Police departments, National Guard Medical Command, court system, vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Bushnell serves as a member of the Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries and has served as the treasurer/secretary for APA Division 18, Psychologists in Public Service. Dr. Bushnell is currently



working on a study researching the TBI clinic. She is also the Director of Clinical Training for the Clinical Neuropsychology Fellowship.

RHONDA S. CASILLAS, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2010  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Women Veteran's Program)

Dr. Casillas is the lead psychologist in the Women Veteran's Program. Dr. Casillas completed her internship at Denver Health Medical Center (DHMC) and completed a two-year fellowship in clinical health psychology at the Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU). At GHSU Dr. Casillas specialized in behavioral medicine consultation services in HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, eating disorders, bariatric, memory and oncology clinics. Before joining the VA, Dr. Casillas provided psychology and community outreach services at Arizona State University Counseling and Consultation Services and was adjunct faculty for ASU Department of Behavioral Health. Her primary interests are women's health, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, caregiver's stress, geriatrics psychology, cross-cultural assessments, chronic pain, sleep disorders, depression, adjustment and anxiety disorders.

JOHN CHARLESON, Ph.D.  
Seattle Pacific University, 2020  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Charleson is a licensed clinical psychologist on the PTSD Clinical Team at the Phoenix VA. He completed his psychology training at Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, Washington and completed his pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship specializing in PTSD treatment at the Phoenix VAMC. His clinical interests are centered on working with Veteran's and their family system to address the impact of trauma. To that end, Dr. Charleson enjoys working with Veteran's with borderline personality disorder, working with Veteran's with posttraumatic stress disorder, and providing couples therapy to assist Veterans and their significant others in navigating and ameliorating the impact traumatic stress has had on their relationship. Dr. Charleson provides several evidence-based psychotherapies including: CPT, PE, CBCT, WET, DBT, and IRT. Dr. Charleson's primary research interest involves examining predictors of Posttraumatic Growth in active duty and Veteran military populations.

MIA DE LA ROSA-TRUJILLO, Ph.D.  
Loma Linda University, 2008  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona and California  
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. De La Rosa completed her graduate work at Loma Linda University, internship at Ann Arbor VA and postdoctoral fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2012, Dr. De La Rosa worked in California in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment. Dr. De La Rosa's primary clinical interest is in neuropsychological conditions in the geriatric population including differential diagnosis of dementia. She also has interests in other conditions including head injury, MS, CVAs, and other conditions affecting cognition. She

conducts outpatient neuropsychological assessment with Veterans from various referral sources including Psychiatry, Neurology, and the Specialty Clinics.

REBECCA T. DE LOS SANTOS, Ph.D.  
California School of Professional Psychology, 2019  
Licensed Psychologist in Michigan  
(Inpatient Mental Health)

Dr. De Los Santos is clinical psychologist on the inpatient mental health units. She completed a doctoral internship at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center, where she later worked as a staff psychologist on the inpatient mental health unit after completing her doctorate. Her clinical area of interest is serious mental illness, specifically schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, and her theoretical orientation is primarily third wave cognitive behavioral. She has experience working with individuals with a wide range of diagnoses at varying levels of care, including outpatient, short- and long-term residential, and inpatient. On the inpatient unit, Dr. De Los Santos facilitates group psychoeducation and psychotherapies, while also offering individual supportive therapy services as needed. She has certifications in Motivational Interviewing and CBT for Substance Use Disorders, and training in DBT and SST.

LEANNE FIERSTEIN, Ph.D.  
California School of Professional Psychology, 2006  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Outpatient Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Fierstein works in the General Mental Health Clinic (Jade/Opal). Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic, utilizing interventions from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She specializes in using Evidence-Based Practice to treat anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, and Borderline Personality Disorder, in both individual and group formats. Dr. Fierstein has previously worked at Arizona State University, in the Counseling Center, and has experience supervising interns and post-doctoral residents. Dr. Fierstein also has extensive experience in treating PTSD with survivors of sexual assault/abuse and domestic violence in a community mental health program.

BRITTANY L. FRIEDMAN, Psy.D.  
Nova Southeastern University, 2018  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Chronic Pain Wellness Center; Health/Pain Psychology)

Dr. Friedman is a Pain Psychologist within the interdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). She graduated from Nova Southeastern University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral program and completed her internship at the VA Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center in Los Angeles, CA, with a focus in Primary Care-Mental Health Integration. Dr. Friedman then completed fellowship at the Phoenix VA with a specialization in Chronic Pain. She continues as a staff member on this highly integrated, transdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center as a Pain Psychologist. Her clinical areas of interest include chronic pain, rehabilitation psychology, women's wellness, highly integrated care teams in a medical setting, and healthcare provider wellness. Dr. Friedman's theoretical orientation is integrative with an emphasis on third wave cognitive behavioral therapies within a rehabilitation psychology framework. Clinically, she utilizes

predominately mindfulness and relaxation interventions alongside Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Chronic Pain (ACT-CP) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain (CBT-CP) with the incorporation of Emotion-Focused Therapy, Time-Limited Dynamic Psychotherapy, Motivational Interviewing, and pain neuroscience education.

ERIC R. HANSON, Ph.D.  
Loma Linda University, 2013  
Licensed Psychologist in Washington  
(Chronic Pain Wellness Center; (Health) Pain Psychology)

Dr. Hanson is the lead Pain Psychologist and Pain Psychology Program Manager within the interdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). Prior to coming to the VA, they completed their clinical Internship at the Greater Los Angeles VA Health Care System at Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center and they went on to a clinical psychology fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at Harbor UCLA Medical Center. Their treatment approaches are primarily from an Acceptance and Commitment and Cognitive Behavioral Frameworks; they have had prior training in dynamic, interpersonal, and humanistic psychotherapies and incorporates these perspectives into their case conceptualizations. Dr. Hanson is a VA VISN 22 CBT-CP Trainer and Consultant and teaches trainees this evidence-based model of treatment. Additionally, Dr. Hanson has specialized training in clinical hypnosis. Dr. Hanson is involved in a variety of research projects within the VA at both a local and national level.

ELISABETH HARFMANN, Ph.D.  
University of Kansas, 2017  
Licensed Psychologist in Wisconsin  
(General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Harfmann received her doctorate from the University of Kansas in clinical psychology and completed her internship at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Illinois. She completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with collaborative fellowship training at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Harfmann's clinical interests include assessment of dementia, movement disorders, and acquired brain injuries. In addition to conducting outpatient neuropsychological assessment, Dr. Harfmann has been involved in the development of the Phoenix VA Post-Stroke Multidisciplinary Clinic. She is also involved in numerous research projects and her interests relate to traumatic brain injury, stroke, and the intersection between mood disorders and cognitive functioning.

DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.  
West Virginia University, 2005  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team – Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Hernandez provides individual and group psychotherapy as part of the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) at the Southeast Extension Clinic, located in Gilbert, AZ. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive behavioral, with a focus on empirically validated treatments. In addition to clinical duties, Dr. Hernandez is a consultant for the National Center for PTSD Prolonged Exposure training initiative and provides consultation to clinicians who are participating in the national training program. She also serves as the local Evidence Based Psychotherapy Co-Coordinator for the facility.

Before joining the PTSD Clinical Team, Dr. Hernandez was the Home-Based Primary Care team (HBPC) psychologist and provided psychotherapy and brief cognitive assessment for home bound veterans who received care from the multidisciplinary HBPC team. Prior to working for the VA, Dr. Hernandez had a breadth of clinical experiences, which included pre-employment psychological assessment, critical stress debriefing, and psychotherapy for local law enforcement agencies as well as inpatient and residential psychological services and behavior planning for individuals with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities. She also previously worked as an adjunct faculty member with Mesa Community College and taught classes in Introduction to Psychology and Abnormal Psychology.

CARL ISENHART Psy.D., ABPP  
 University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 1984  
 Licensed Psychologist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois  
 (Motivational Interviewing Consultant)

Dr. Isenhardt served as a Staff Psychologist at the Phoenix VAMC between 2015 and 2020, and now serves as the Motivational Interviewing Trainer and Consultant to the Psychology Training Programs. In addition to a client-centered approach in working with clients, he has specific training in Motivational Interviewing, Rational-Emotive Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, and Cognitive-Behavior therapy. He has held clinical, supervisory, and managerial positions at the VAMCs in Danville, IL, and Minneapolis, MN. He has also conducted and published research in the areas of Motivational Interviewing, substance abuse assessment and treatment, and masculine gender issues. He was a clinical assistant professor in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He holds Specialty Board Certification in Clinical Psychology, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology, has a Certificate of Proficiency in the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers.

ANDREW C. JONES, Ph.D.  
 Illinois Institute of Technology, 2000  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI- SE CBOC)

Dr. Jones has committed his career to VA Health Care and has primarily focused on the specialty of pain management. Upon completion of internship in 2000, he was hired into the Pain Clinic at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Health Care System and completed his postdoctoral training as a permanent staff member. In 2003, he transferred to the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson, Arizona, and was a founding member of the Chronic Pain Management Clinic at that facility. Since accepting employment with the Phoenix VA Health Care System, he has been a staff member at the Chronic Pain Wellness Program and is currently part of the Primary Care-Mental Health Integration team at the Southeast VA CBOC.

He strongly believes in the power of providing the best education possible concerning the mind-body connection and neuroplasticity, and enjoys teaching patients and providers alike. His theoretical orientation is strongly ACT influenced, with an intertwining of CBT and mindfulness principles. Beyond initial evaluation and assessment of motivation and stage of change, he prefers group-based interventions as he finds the interaction between patients to significantly enhance self-

efficacy. He has also undergone training in biofeedback interventions; has many years of experience completing spinal cord stimulator evaluations; and also enjoys incorporating his improv comedy training and experience into patient and trainee interactions.

BRYCE JUPINKO, Psy.D.  
Argosy University/Orange County, 2015  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Outpatient Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Jupinko is currently working within the Jade/Opal Clinic (Outpatient General Mental Health). Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic and incorporates concepts from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. She has evidenced based training in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. She currently co-facilitates several therapy groups, including a DBT group and Pathfinders group (DBT skills). She completed her internship at the Spokane/Walla Walla VA in general mental health. She also worked as a forensic evaluator for a community psychiatric hospital and completed fitness to parent evaluations for clients involved with the DCS system. Prior to pursuing a degree in psychology, Dr. Jupinko worked as a social worker in the emergency department and as a therapist at several residential substance abuse treatment programs.

KRIS KRATZ, Ph.D., ABPP (CL/CN)  
Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, 2000  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
Associate Chief of Staff – Mental Health Department

Dr. Kratz is the Associate Chief of Staff of the Mental Health Department. He is board certified in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology, a practice sample reviewer for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, and a mentor for the American Board of Clinical Psychology. In addition to his role for the Phoenix VA, Dr. Kratz has 15 years of experience as an Army officer (10 active duty, 5 in National Guard and Reserves). He has served in various military roles, to include psychologist, neuropsychologist, and as a unit commander. He has six combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and practices CBT when functioning in his role as a military psychologist. Clinical neuropsychology interests include traumatic brain injury, baseline and clinical evaluations for those in high risk occupations (i.e. aviation, special operations), dementia, neuroimaging analysis utilizing FreeSurfer, industrial/organizational psychology, and moral injury.

KYLE LOWREY, Psy.D.  
California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego 2014  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Lowrey is a Clinical Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). He also completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA in the general mental health and PTSD clinics. Prior to his work as a staff psychologist, Dr. Lowrey completed an internship at the Cleveland VA and worked as a research associate at the San Diego VA's Veterans Medical Research Foundation (VMRF). Research experiences have afforded Dr. Lowrey the

opportunity to conduct pre- and post-deployment assessments to OEF/OIF/OND, active-duty Marines on base at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms as well as structured psychodiagnostic interviews (e.g., CAPS, SCID) and neuropsychological assessment batteries to veterans from various service eras. His main interests are in evidence-based treatments of serious mental illness (e.g., PTSD), substance abuse, and other trauma-related issues. His theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral, with a focus on empirically supported practices. Dr. Lowrey is a member of the PTSD Telemental Health team, providing mental health treatment via telehealth to veterans located in community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) and homes across Arizona. In addition, he has served as a local trainer for Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), an evidence-based treatment for PTSD, and has co-lead the annual training workshop at the Phoenix VA.

BRANDI L. LUEDTKE, Psy.D., HSPP  
University of Indianapolis, 2010  
Licensed Psychologist in Indiana  
(PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Luedtke is a Clinical Psychologist and the Program Manager in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). Her main interests are in complex mental illness, particularly PTSD, and in the integration of third-wave behavior therapies, such as Mindfulness-based interventions, into evidence-based psychotherapies. Following internship at the Cincinnati VA and prior to coming to the Phoenix VA in 2015, she served as Project Director/Co-Investigator of a VA-grant funded study entitled, "Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD and Relationship Function" in which she assisted in the development and implementation of a randomized control trial of a mindfulness-based cognitive behavioral couples therapy intervention for OEF/OIF/OND veterans and their intimate partners at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN. She has published in the areas of trauma, neuroscience and metacognition in individuals with schizophrenia. Dr. Luedtke also serves as a National Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD Trainer for the VA Office of Mental Health Family Services and is a consultant for the University of Texas-Austin and Chris Kyle Frog Foundation designing curriculum weekend retreats and programming for military Veterans and spouses.

LINDSAY MANWAY, Psy.D.  
Nova Southeastern University, 2016  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Home-Based Primary Care)  
(Psychological Assessment Clinic)

Dr. Manway is a psychologist in the Home-Based Primary Care program, which provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary, in-home care for veterans who have complex health care needs and for whom routine clinic-based care is not effective. She completed her internship and postdoctoral training at the Cleveland VAMC with an emphasis in Geropsychology and continues to enjoy working with older adults in HBPC. Some of her specialized interests in this area include dementia assessment, behavior management for dementia, staff training and education, and caregiver support. Dr. Manway enjoys co-facilitating the Caregiver's First group, which is an evidence-based treatment that focuses on support and skills for caregivers of veterans with dementia. Psychology trainees are always a welcome addition to this group. Dr. Manway also assists with the Psychological Assessment Clinic, including case assignment and supervision.

KAITLYN MASAI, Ph.D.  
Alliant International University, CSPP, 2017  
Licensed Psychologist in California  
(PC-MHI – Midtown Clinic)

Dr. Masai provides evidence-based care & consultation with the Primary Care Mental Health Integration team. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, utilizing a mix of interventions from the Cognitive Behavioral, Interpersonal, and mindfulness-based disciplines based on the needs of the individual being treated. Dr. Masai works with patients who have chief complaints of trauma, insomnia, chronic pain, depression, and anxiety. She also works with patients with chronic medical diseases and utilizes motivational interviewing and behavioral activation to increase self-management and adherence of medical symptoms.

ADAM MCCRAY, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2005  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Director, West Valley Vet Center)

Dr. McCray is the Director of the West Valley Center and maintains oversight of the clinical and administrative operations of that clinic. Dr. McCray was commissioned as a Captain in the US Air Force and completed a predoctoral internship at Andrews Air Force Base, MD where he provided psychotherapy services to active duty military personnel and their families. He was subsequently assigned as the chief of the Mental Health Clinic at Luke Air Force Base, AZ and continued to treat military personnel for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and other psychopathology. Dr. McCray then served as the Family Advocacy Officer at Luke Air Force Base, overseeing a prevention and intervention program for family maltreatment offenders. Concurrent with this assignment, he developed a Behavioral Health Optimization Program to offer short-term, solution-focused treatment to active duty military personnel in the family practice medical clinics of the Air Force's 56th Medical Group. Upon completion of his active duty service commitment in, Dr. McCray accepted a position with the Department of Veterans' Affairs Readjustment Counseling Service where he currently serves in Peoria, Arizona as the Director of the West Valley Vet Center, an outpatient mental health clinic for combat veterans and veterans who were exposed to military sexual trauma. Dr. McCray is credentialed as a VA trainer and consultant in Cognitive Processing Therapy. Dr. McCray has also taught doctoral-level courses in clinical psychology at Argosy University-Phoenix and Midwestern University.

JEFFREY MINTERT, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2020  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Chronic Pain Wellness Center; Health/Pain Psychology)

Dr. Mintert is a Pain Psychologist with the interdisciplinary team at the Chronic Pain Wellness Center (CPWC). He graduated from Arizona State University's Counseling Psychology doctoral program. Dr. Mintert completed both his internship and fellowship at the Phoenix VA with a focus on Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI) and Health Psychology. His clinical areas of interest include pain management, sleep, and integrated healthcare. He primarily draws from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Dr. Mintert has also received specific training in CBT for chronic pain (CBT-CP). He delivers pain psychology

interventions as part of psychosocial rehabilitation groups for individuals living with chronic pain, provides individual pain psychology services, and participates in CoDisciplinary appointments with medical colleagues.

REBECCA MOE, Psy.D.  
 Illinois School of Professional Psychology, 2009  
 Licensed Psychologist in New York  
 (PTSD Clinical Team- Southwest CBOC)

Dr. Moe is a psychologist in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT) and is located at the Southwest CBOC. Her theoretical orientation is integrative, and attachment and relational theory, along with common factors, inform her use of cognitive behavioral and evidence-based models of psychotherapy for PTSD. In her years as a PTSD Specialist in the VA, Dr. Moe has been trained and regularly offers all evidence-based and front-line therapies for PTSD including Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Prolonged Exposure (PE), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy (CBCT), and Skills Training in Affective and Interpersonal Regulation (STAIR). Other interventions such as mindfulness, relaxation training, and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) are often utilized as adjunctive treatments to evidence-based practices. Dr. Moe has spent her career in the VA. After internship at the Hudson Valley VA, she was a graduate psychologist in Bath, NY, where she was also involved in program management and development in a rural health care setting. She later transferred to the Syracuse VA, where she was involved in the training and supervision of interns and graduate psychologists in PCT and general mental health. She's had the opportunity to serve on VISN-level committees to improve the delivery of PTSD treatment, and considers this work to be the overarching mission of her career.

MICHAEL MOORE, Ph.D.  
 The University of Southern Mississippi, 2011  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PTSD– Southeast CBOC – CPT Regional Trainer)

Dr. Moore works for the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team and is located in the Midtown Clinic. He completed his psychology Internship at the Memphis, Tennessee VA, and a postdoctoral Fellowship in PTSD and trauma related mental health disorders at the Tucson, Arizona VA. Dr. Moore specializes in using Evidence-Based Practices to treat trauma related disorders. He is a Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) Regional Trainer for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Moore has obtained provider status through the Department of Veterans Affairs in CPT, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), and Cognitive Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD (CBCT-PTSD). He has also been trained in, and utilizes Prolonged Exposure (PE) and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in his work with Veterans diagnosed with PTSD. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA staff Dr. Moore worked as the Military Sexual Trauma (MST) program coordinator, and as a member of the PCT for the Tucson, Arizona, VA Health Care System.



CHRISTOPHER OGLE, PSY.D.  
 Pepperdine University, 2013  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health Clinic - Southeast CBOC)

Dr. Ogle is a general mental health psychologist located at the Southeast CBOC. He completed his degree at Pepperdine University, his internship at the North Chicago VA/Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, and his post-doctoral fellowship at the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System in Honolulu, HI. During residency, he specialized in outpatient and inpatient PTSD treatment and worked closely with the National Center for PTSD. He has completed training in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure, and has certified provider status as a CPT provider. Clinical responsibilities include individual psychotherapy and assessment with a variety of clinical presentations. Additionally, Dr. Ogle has started and maintained a mindfulness group and an anger management group at the SE CBOC. Regarding theoretical orientation, he has a background in existential and cognitive-behavioral approaches, though he tends to adhere to cognitive-behavioral approaches.

JOELLE OIZUMI, Ph.D.  
 University of North Texas, 1996  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health– Southeast CBOC)  
 Psychology Service Executive

Dr. Oizumi currently functions as the Psychology Service Executive. She primarily provides individual psychotherapy for various mental health issues on an outpatient basis. Her theoretical orientation is cognitive-behavioral and interpersonal. She provides psychotherapy to mental health and Health Psychology patients. She conducts psychological evaluations for diagnostic and treatment purposes. Her primary clinical interest is in working with veterans with warzone-related PTSD and depression. Dr. Oizumi is an adjunct faculty member at Rio Salado and Everest Colleges. She has previously conducted disability evaluations at the VA and in the private sector. She has conducted fitness to parent evaluations for Child Protective Services. She worked in correctional psychology prior to coming to the VA in 1997.

BRENDT PARRISH, Ph.D.  
 University of Delaware, 2014  
 Licensed Psychologist in California and Kansas  
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Parrish is a psychologist in Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PC-MHI). After completing his internship at the Orlando VA, Dr. Parrish completed a one-year fellowship in PCMHI at the Milwaukee VA. Dr. Parrish has training and experience in a variety of evidence-based psychotherapies including CBT for depression and anxiety, CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). His interests include integrated care models, measurement based care, sleep disorders, self-management of chronic illness, health behavior change, and chronic pain. Dr. Parrish is the VISN 22 PCMHI training lead and national Problem Solving Training trainer.

ALEXANDRA PLEASANT, Psy.D.  
 Arizona School of Professional Psychology, 2016  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health Clinic)

Dr. Pleasant is currently working as a clinical psychologist within the Jade/Opal Clinic (Outpatient Mental Health Clinic). Prior to becoming a psychologist at the Phoenix VAMC, Dr. Pleasant has completed training in a variety of VA and community settings, including residential treatment, sub-acute medical facilities, hospice care, disability assessments, primary care mental health integration, PTSD-specialty clinics, and private practice. She completed her internship at the West Palm Beach VAMC in the interdisciplinary training track and fellowship at the Phoenix VAMC in the Chronic Pain Wellness Center. Her treatment approach is primarily humanistic and incorporates concepts from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. She also has specific evidence-based training in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Depression. She currently conducts individual therapy, intakes/assessments, triage, and group therapy in the Jade/Opal clinic, as well as participates in a variety of committees/work groups. In terms of group therapy, Dr. Pleasant co-facilitates several groups, including a therapy orientation group, Pathfinders group, and a coping skills group. Her main interests are interprofessional/interdisciplinary team work, the intersections between mental and physical health, particularly chronic pain, geriatrics, the mind-body connection, and mindfulness.

DONNA PRICE, Psy.D.  
 Spalding University, 2015  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (Outpatient Mental Health)

Dr. Price works as part of a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP) Team in the general outpatient mental health clinic (Jade Clinic). Her doctoral training was in clinical psychology with an emphasis in health psychology. She completed her pe-doctoral internship at the Medical College of Georgia and the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center with specialty training at the Equality Clinic, focusing on the provision of health care for underserved LGBTQ individuals. Her dissertation focused on the effects of perceived bias and health information seeking behaviors among LGB individuals. She then completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Phoenix VA Health Care System in the general mental health track. She co-created and facilitated the LGBTQ Veterans Equality Group and facilitates the GenderWise/Transgender Support Group. She provides mental health consultation to multiple disciplines engaged in the care of transgender and gender diverse Veterans. She also completes mental health readiness evaluations for Veterans considering gender confirming medical interventions. She is a member of the World Professional Association of Transgender Healthcare and is currently training for WPATH/GEI certification for excellence in transgender care. Dr. Price is interested in program evaluation and development regarding LGBTQ issues.

GEOFFREY STREETER, Psy.D.  
 Midwestern University, Glendale, 2019  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Streeter provides individual and group psychotherapy in the general mental health setting. He completed his doctoral training in clinical psychology with an emphasis on health psychology at Midwestern University, Glendale. He completed his doctoral internship at Providence Family Medicine Center and postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA Medical Center within the Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) track. Dr. Streeter's theoretical orientation is CBT and he also has experience with the following evidence-based treatments, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression (CBT-D), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Eating Disorders (CBT-E), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). His primary interests are health psychology, interdisciplinary teamwork, positive psychology, performance/sport psychology, the mind-body connection and mindfulness/relaxation training.

KIMBERLY SULLIVAN, Psy.D.  
 Argosy University - Phoenix, 2011  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Sullivan earned a M.A. in Forensic Psychology from the University of Denver and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University. She completed a doctoral internship at Napa State Hospital and post-doctoral fellowship at Harbor UCLA Medical Center where she focused on correctional/forensic psychology and assertive community therapy/rehabilitation. Prior to joining the Phoenix VA, Dr. Sullivan worked as a Drug Abuse Program Coordinator at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix and served as the Mental Health Expert on the Bureau of Prisons local Crisis Negotiation Team. Dr. Sullivan currently works at the SE CBOC in the area of Primary Care -Mental Health Integration.

ASH SENTER, Psy.D.  
 (they/them)  
 Adler University, Chicago, 2020  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Senter is a Psychologist in Primary Care - Mental Health Integration and LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator (LGBTQ+ VCC) for Phoenix VA. They earned their doctorate degree from Adler University in Chicago, IL with an emphasis in military clinical psychology. They completed their pre-doctoral internship at Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center and post-doctoral training at Phoenix VA. Their dissertation focused on rates of Military Sexual Trauma among LGBTQ+ Veterans. They provide brief evidence-based psychotherapy within PC-MHI including mindfulness, ACT, MI, and CBT-I. As LGBTQ+ VCC, Dr. Senter is a primary point of contact for LGBTQ+ Veterans seeking care at Phoenix VA. They also provide education to staff regarding affirming care for LGBTQ+ patients. Their clinical interests include brief interventions for mood disorders, sleep issues, behavioral medicine, medical psychology, and program development.

ERIN TRUONG, Ph.D.  
 The Ohio State University, 2016  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (PC-MHI)

Dr. Truong is co-located within primary care at the Midtown Clinic where she delivers short-term, evidence-based treatments for mental and behavioral health concerns. She receives warm hand-offs from medical staff, provides same-day assessment and triage, and facilitates referrals to specialty mental and behavioral health services when appropriate. She currently facilitates cognitive-behavioral therapy for anger management, cognitive behavioral therapy for chronic pain, and cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia and teaches the behavioral health classes for the MOVE! Program. Dr. Truong has provider status in Cognitive Processing Therapy and has training and experience in cognitive-behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing. Dr. Truong completed her internship at VA Central Iowa Health Care System and her fellowship at Phoenix VA Health Care System. She was hired on as staff in 2017.

GINA WALTERS, Ph.D.  
 Texas Tech University, 1998  
 Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
 (General Neuropsychology)

Dr. Walters completed her graduate training at Texas Tech University, her internship at the Memphis VA and postdoctoral training at Semmes Murphy Clinic in Memphis and Samaritan Rehabilitation Institute in Phoenix. Before joining the Phoenix staff in 2001, Dr. Walters worked in a rehabilitation setting providing neuropsychological testing and treatment. Dr. Walters' primary clinical interest is in working with the geriatric population, particularly differential diagnosis of dementia. Duties include outpatient neuropsychological assessment of Veterans from various referral sources including psychiatry, neurology, primary care, and specialty clinics.

JESSICA S WERTZ, Psy.D.  
 Loma Linda University, 2012  
 Licensed Psychologist in Illinois  
 (PTSD Clinical Team)

Dr. Wertz is a Clinical Psychologist in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT Team). She specializes in using evidence-based practices to treat PTSD in individual and group formats. She is certified in CPT, EMDR, CBT for Insomnia, Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression and Social Skills Training for Schizophrenia. Her primary interests are in Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders, especially childhood and attachment traumas. Another one of Dr. Wertz's interests is in supervision and leadership development. She has won several preceptor/instructor and excellence in training awards. She is also an APA Internship and Post-doctoral Accreditation Site Visitor.

ADRIANA TARAZÓN WEYER, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 2003  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Chair of the Workplace Violence Prevention Program)

Dr. Weyer serves as the Chair for the medical center's Disruptive Behavior Committee (DBC) and Employee Threat Assessment Team (ETAT). She conducts evidence based risk assessments, using a combination of clinical and actuarial methods to identify violence risk and develop risk mitigation strategies. Both the DBC and ETAT consist of multidisciplinary staff throughout the medical center trained in the risk assessment process.

MATTHEW WEYER, Ph.D.  
Arizona State University, 1997  
Licensed Psychologist in Arizona  
(Health Psychology, PC-MHI)

Dr. Weyer is the Training Director of the Psychology Internship and Fellowship Programs. He has completed evidence based training in Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). His clinical interests include intervention and treatment of medical patients. Clinical responsibilities include assessment, individual psychotherapy, and psycho-educational groups. He is one of the lead therapists in the following Health Psychology Groups: CBT-Insomnia and Progressive Management of Tinnitus. His theoretical orientation is eclectic with a cognitive-behavioral emphasis. He sub-specializes in clinical hypnosis and EMDR and depending on trainee interest, leads a weekly self-study group for the psychology trainees.

## Internship Admissions, Support, and Initial Placement Data Date Program Tables are updated: 7/1/2022

### Program Disclosures

Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values. **No.**

If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented? **N/A**

### Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program’s policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

The minimum requirements for entry into the training program include 1) United States citizenship, 2) verification of Selective Service Registration (Male applicants born after 12-31-1959 must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration), 3) enrollment in an APA, CPA or PCSAS accredited Doctoral Program of Clinical or Counseling Psychology, 4) comprehensive examinations passed prior to beginning internship, and 5) dissertation proposal approved. In addition to these requirements, we also have an expectation of a minimum of 500 total hours of practicum experience, and clinical experiences with adults in a variety of settings is strongly encouraged. The most competitive applicants will have completed a minimum of two practicum experiences prior to internship year.

### Program Disclosures

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution’s affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented: <a href="#">VA Eligibility Requirements</a>   |  |
| All requirements of federal hiring and employment, as well as VA health care system as outlined throughout this brochure and via program homepage: <a href="#">VA Eligibility Requirements</a>  |  |

Does the program required that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at the time of applications? If Yes, indicate how many:

1. Guidelines for Health Psychology, PC-MHI, PTSD/MH Applicants

| Type of Hours                           | N | Y | Amount    |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours |   | X | 250 hours |
| Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours   |   | X | 50 hours  |

2. Guidelines for Neuropsychology Track Applicants

| Type of Hours                           | N | Y | Amount    |
|---|---|---|-----------|
| Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours |   | X | 100 hours |
| Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours   |   | X | 200 hours |

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants: N/A

**Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year**

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-Time Interns: \$27,243

Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-Time Interns: N/A

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? | X   |    |
| If access to medical insurance is provided:              |     |    |
| Trainee contribution to cost required?                   | X   |    |
| Coverage of family member(s) available?                  | X   |    |
| Coverage of legally married partner available?           | X   |    |
| Coverage of domestic partner available?                  |     | X  |

|  | Yes  | No |
|--|--|----|
| Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)   | 4 hours per pay period/<br>13 days per year  | X  |
| Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave  | 4 hours per pay period/<br>13 days per year  | X  |
| In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave? | X  |    |
| Other Benefits   | Administrative leave for dissertation defense, post-doctoral interviews, and conferences (approved by training director) | X  |

### Initial Post-Internship Positions

|   | 2018-2021 |    |
|---|-----------|----|
| Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts  | 24        |    |
| Total # of interns who did not seek employment because they returned to their doctoral programs/are completing doctoral degree. | 0         |    |
|   | PD        | EP |
| Academic teaching   | 0         | 1  |
| Community mental health center  | 0         | 0  |
| Consortium  | 0         | 0  |
| University Counseling Center  | 0         | 0  |
| Hospital/Medical Center   | 6         | 0  |
| Veterans Affairs Health Care System   | 12        | 5  |
| Psychiatry facility   | 0         | 0  |
| Correctional facility   | 0         | 0  |
| Health maintenance organization   | 0         | 0  |
| School district/system  | 0         | 0  |
| Independent practice setting  | 0         | 0  |
| Other   | 0         | 0  |

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position.



## ***ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS***

Health Professions Trainees (HPTs) are appointed as temporary employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. As such, HPTs are subject to laws, policies, and guidelines posted for VA staff members. There are infrequent times in which this guidance can change during a training year which may create new requirements or responsibilities for HPTs. If employment requirements change during the course of a training year, HPTs will be notified of the change and impact as soon as possible and options provided. The VA Training Director for your profession will provide you with the information you need to understand the requirement and reasons for the requirement in timely manner.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to all Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies. As a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Health Professions Trainee (HPT), you will receive a Federal appointment, and the following requirements will apply prior to that appointment:

1. **U.S. Citizenship.** HPTs who receive a direct stipend (pay) must be U.S. citizens. Trainees who are not VA paid (without compensation-WOC) who are not U.S. citizens may be appointed and must provide current immigrant, non-immigrant or exchange visitor documents.
2. **U.S. Social Security Number.** All VA appointees must have a U.S. social security number (SSN) prior to beginning the pre-employment, on-boarding process at the VA.
3. **Selective Service Registration.** Male applicants born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the Selective Service by age 26 to be eligible for U.S. government employment, including selection as a paid or WOC VA trainee. For additional information about the Selective Service System, and to register or to check your registration status visit <https://www.sss.gov/>. Anyone who was required to register but did not register before the age of 26 will need to apply for a Status Information Letter (SIL) and request a waiver. Waivers are rare and requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the VA Office of Human Resources Management. This process can take up to six months for a verdict.
4. **Fingerprint Screening and Background Investigation.** All HPTs will be fingerprinted and undergo screenings and background investigations. Additional details about the required background checks can be found at the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/10450.html>.
5. **Drug Testing.** Per Executive Order 12564, the VA strives to be a Drug-Free Workplace. HPTs are not drug-tested prior to appointment, however are subject to random drug testing throughout the entire VA appointment period. You will be asked to sign an acknowledgement form stating you are aware of this practice. See item 8 below. Of note, this drug screening includes cannabis, with application of federal law (not state law) regarding drug policies (it is important to read the following document for more information [VA Drug-Free Workplace Program Guide for Veterans Health Administration Health Professions Trainees](#)).

6. **Affiliation Agreement.** To ensure shared responsibility between an academic program and the VA there must be a current and fully executed Academic Affiliation Agreement on file with the VHA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). The affiliation agreement delineates the duties of VA and the affiliated institution. Most APA-accredited doctoral programs have an agreement on file. More information about this document can be found at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/agreements.asp> (see section on psychology internships). Post-degree programs typically will not have an affiliation agreement, as the HPT is no longer enrolled in an academic program and the program is VA sponsored.
  
7. **TQCVL.** To streamline on-boarding of HPTs, VHA Office of Academic Affiliations requires completion of a Trainee Qualifications and Credentials Verification Letter (TQCVL). An Educational Official at the Affiliate must complete and sign this letter. For post-graduate programs where an affiliate is not the program sponsor, this process must be completed by the VA Training Director. Your VA appointment cannot happen until the TQCVL is submitted and signed by senior leadership from the VA facility. For more information about this document, please visit <https://www.va.gov/OAA/TQCVL.asp>
  - a. **Health Requirements.** Among other things, the TQCVL confirms that you, the trainee, are fit to perform the essential functions (physical and mental) of the training program and immunized following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and VHA policy. This protects you, other employees and patients while working in a healthcare facility. Required are annual tuberculosis screening, Hepatitis B vaccine as well as annual influenza vaccine. *Declinations are EXTREMELY rare.* If you decline the flu vaccine you will be required to wear a mask while in patient care areas of the VA.
  
  - b. **Primary source verification of all prior education and training** is certified via the TQCVL. Training and Program Directors will be contacting the appropriate institutions to ensure you have the appropriate qualifications and credentials as required by the admission criteria of the training program in which you are enrolled.
  
8. **Additional On-boarding Forms.** Additional pre-employment forms include the Application for Health Professions Trainees (VA 10-2850D) and the Declaration for Federal Employment (OF 306). These documents and others are available online for review at <https://www.va.gov/oaa/app-forms.asp>. Falsifying any answer on these required Federal documents will result in the inability to appoint or immediate dismissal from the training program.
  
9. **Proof of Identity per VA.** VA on-boarding requires presentation of two source documents (IDs). Documents must be unexpired and names on both documents must match. For more information visit: <https://www.oit.va.gov/programs/piv/media/docs/IDMatrix.pdf>

Additional information regarding eligibility requirements for appointment as a psychology HPT can be found at the end of this brochure.

#### **Additional information regarding eligibility requirements (with hyperlinks)**

- Trainees receive term employee appointments and must meet eligibility requirements for appointment as outlined in VA Handbook 5005 Staffing, Part II, Section B. Appointment

Requirements and Determinations.

[https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub\\_ID=646&FType=2](https://www.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=646&FType=2)

- Selective Service website where the requirements, benefits and penalties of registering vs. not registering are outlined: <https://www.sss.gov/Registration/Why-Register/Benefits-and-Penalties>

**Additional information specific suitability information from Title 5 (referenced in VHA Handbook 5005 – hyperlinks included):** *Specific factors.* In determining whether a person is suitable for Federal employment, only the following factors will be considered a basis for finding a person unsuitable and taking a suitability action:

1. Misconduct or negligence in employment;
2. Criminal or dishonest conduct;
3. **Material**, intentional false statement, or deception or fraud in examination or appointment;
4. Refusal to furnish testimony as required by § 5.4 of this chapter;
5. Alcohol abuse, without evidence of substantial rehabilitation, of a nature and duration that suggests that the **applicant or appointee** would be prevented from performing the duties of the position in question, or would constitute a direct threat to the property or safety of the **applicant or appointee** or others;
6. Illegal use of narcotics, drugs, or other controlled substances without evidence of substantial rehabilitation;
7. Knowing and willful engagement in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. Government by force; and
8. Any statutory or regulatory bar which prevents the lawful employment of the person involved in the position in question.

*Additional considerations.* OPM and agencies must consider any of the following additional considerations to the extent OPM or the relevant agency, in its sole discretion, deems any of them pertinent to the individual case:

1. The nature of the position for which the person is applying or in which the person is employed;
2. The nature and seriousness of the conduct;
3. The circumstances surrounding the conduct;
4. The recency of the conduct;
5. The age of the person involved at the time of the conduct;
6. Contributing societal conditions; and
7. The absence or presence of rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.

Additional information on VA eligibility: <https://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp>