



## ***Are you ready to arm yourself against the flu?***

Across the nation people are making plans to roll-up their sleeves to arm themselves against the flu.

Other people are planning to avoid the flu vaccine- it's a personal decision whether or not to arm themselves against the flu. For health care employees, this personal decision has the potential to impact hundreds of other people's health.

If you work on an island and you never have contact with another human your chances of passing the flu are zero, if you work in an office cubical you can easily pass the flu virus on to your family and co-workers, and if you work in healthcare you can pass the flu to your co-workers and patients- who then can pass it on to more co-workers and patients and so on.

If you work for Boise VAMC but you are under the impression, because of the nature of your job you never come in contact with our Veterans, guess again! All you need to do is sneeze in public, the canteen, and restrooms; touch anything anyone else might touch- hand rails, telephone, doorknobs, faucets, computers, prescription bottles- and you make pass the flu to your co-workers, family, and our veterans.

Think of the flu vaccine as a form of personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE are items like hard hats and goggles that protect us from head and eye trauma/exposure, masks that prevent us from breathing in toxic or infectious material, gowns that keep us from getting our clothing contaminated, and gloves to limit our hand exposure. All of these items are not guaranteed to be 100% effective, 100% of the time but, when used correctly, they greatly reduce the risk of injury, illness, and death. The flu vaccine can be considered a form of PPE.

While not 100% effective, the flu vaccine can greatly reduce the likelihood of getting the flu and/or spreading it to others.

### **There are other benefits to getting vaccinated and preventing the spread of the flu:**

- Even if the vaccine match is not perfect and your vaccine primed body encounters the flu, you may be contagious for a shorter period of time, or perhaps not at all.
- If those around you are vaccinated, they are less likely to give the flu to you.
  - Flu vaccination protects not only you but entire communities.
  - Persons who are vaccinated consistently over 10 years showed a reduction in cardiac injury and death- getting the flu causes inflammation of vessels, increased formation of plaques among other things. Those with underlying cardiac and vascular issues are at increased risk of cardiac events during the flu season.
- Cost savings not only to employees and employers - it costs you money to get sick- you lose time- something that cannot be replaced, you may end up in the emergency room or the hospital with pneumonia, you may end up taking care of someone else when they get sick.
  - Vaccinated pregnant women can prevent hospital stay due to influenza in their infants by 91%.
  - There is evidence for those vaccinated against flu a 30-70%



reduction in hospitalization due to pneumonia and influenza in persons over the age of 65 who do not live in nursing homes.

- An 80% effectiveness in preventing death due to secondary complications such as pneumonia and sepsis for those over 65 who live in long term care (think CLC) and reduces hospitalizations overall.

The vaccine is safe, and it does not cause the flu. Depending on your own unique immune system, the flu vaccine may take up to two weeks to be effective as your body works to build immunity. In this time, you may feel tired, a little warm, may have some mild aches, and a sore arm (this usually comes on the next day and does not last very long). These symptoms are not the flu. The flu will hit you hard- and last for up to 10 days with fever, dry cough, muscle aches and leave you wondering why you waited to get a vaccine.

So don't wait- come roll up a sleeve to get your flu vaccine - do it for yourself, do it for your family, do it for our patients!





# HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER 500 W FORT STREET BOISE, ID 83702

**21 OCTOBER 2023**  
**0800 to 1500**

**PROOF OF VETERAN REQUIRED**

**MEDICAL SCREENINGS, HAIRCUTS, FOOD, SURPLUS GEAR & MORE**

*For more information call (208) 353-9769*



**Idaho State**  
UNIVERSITY



**IDAHO**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



**VA** | Boise VA  
Medical Center





*Hello's*



*Goodbye's*

**THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW  
EMPLOYEES WHO CAME ABOARD IN AUGUST 2023:**

**Angela Mariani, Nursing  
Angelia Jones, Mental Health  
Hailee Earl, Community Care  
Jessica Binder, Specialty Care  
Karin Gilbert-Nield, Specialty Care  
Rylee Code, Specialty Care  
William Rogers, Mental Health  
Agape Castro, Nutrition  
Dayna Watson, Health Administration  
Jane Pierce, Primary Care  
Kathryn DeBoer, Primary Care  
Nicole Roessler, Primary Care  
Renee Wells, Health Administration  
Ronald Lee, Nutrition**

**Alexandra Fesperman, Mental Health  
Leah Jackson, Mental Health  
Liliana Alvarado, Mental Health  
Marianna Rich, Mental Health  
Paige Wooten, Mental Health  
Barbara Smith, Education  
Kenna Sauret, Connected Care  
Ryan Killeen, Facilities Management  
Sarah Newell, Facilities Management  
Deborah Nicolson, Primary Care  
Philip Elackatt, Connected Care  
Carrie Montgomery, Connected Care  
Mirriam Lockwood, Connected Care**

*Hello's*



*Goodbye's*

THE BOISE VAMC WOULD LIKE TO SAY GOODBYE TO  
THE EMPLOYEES WHO LEFT US IN AUGUST 2023:

**Lisa Quinby, Health Administration**

**Brandon Brashears, Nursing**

**Samantha Lavis, Nursing**

**Austina Marica, Nursing**

**Tiffany Hope, Health Administration**

**Susan Tuttle, Primary Care**

**Debera Anderson, Facilities Management**

**Karen Vest, Nursing**

**Luisa Miller, Mental Health**

# BOISE is HIGHLY RELIABLE

## HRO PRINCIPLES & VALUES

THEME OF THE MONTH

**Learn, Inquire and Improve**

September 2023 | National Safety Poster

### Enhancing Patient Care with Lean Improvements

**C**

#### CONTEXT

Alicia Williams, Clinical Nurse Coordinator at the West Palm Beach VAMC, became interested in Lean improvement—techniques to increase effectiveness and reduce waste—while participating in a team project in the Emergency Department (ED). She enjoyed learning system-wide improvement tactics and pursued Yellow and Green Lean Belt training.

**A**

#### ACTION

Ms. Williams collaborated with multiple teams in the ED to apply Lean techniques. Together, they implemented multidisciplinary huddles to address patient falls, completed Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles to identify why patients were deciding to leave without seeing a provider, and found opportunities to better align sepsis care processes with quality care guidance.

**R**

#### RESULTS

By integrating Lean improvement strategies to address patient safety concerns within the ED, Ms. Williams demonstrates the impact of Learn, Inquire and Improve. Her emphasis on collaboration enabled multiple teams to learn and support process improvement throughout the facility, which builds greater satisfaction for staff members and improves patient outcomes and safety.



**“If you use the tools taught in Lean training, you will be successful. Then, see how you can share that knowledge to improve processes around your facility.”**

*Alicia Williams, RN  
Clinical Nurse Coordinator  
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center  
West Palm Beach, Florida*

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

For more information, visit: <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/vhahrojourney>

Internal VA Use Only

VHA'S JOURNEY TO  
**HIGH**  
RELIABILITY

Your Care is Our Mission.





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Medical Center



**SDU**

Unit of the  
Quarter  
Q3

As you know, monitoring fluid balance through accurate documentation of patients' intake and output flow sheets is vital during hospitalization especially for patients on the Stepdown unit. As a result, inaccurate fluid balance monitoring and poor documentation can result in poor clinical outcomes, including missed recognition of warning signs of dehydration, affected cardiac and renal function, fluid overload, over diuresing, prolonged hospitalization and increased mortality. It is prevalent that the current nursing practices of fluid intake and output monitoring for inpatients is inconsistent, incomplete and lacks accuracy for years.

The entire team on the Stepdown unit recognized this problem and took action by implementing a quality improvement project to improve Intake and Output recording, including selecting two I&O champions representative of both shifts, implementing a q shift water pitcher refill ritual, recording three meals food/fluid intakes, conducting monthly audit and monthly staff education based on the audit result, as well as offering I&O tips and reminders each month. Their efforts and engagement were truly remarkable, and within just four months, they were able to improve overall unit compliance from 26% to an impressive 66%. What's more, every category audited all well exceeded the target goal of 70%.

This achievement is a testament to the team's unwavering commitment to providing exceptional patient care. They worked tirelessly to improve processes, communicate effectively with one another, and support each other to achieve this incredible result. And the impact of their efforts is clear: patients are receiving better care, and their outcomes are improving.

I believe that the Stepdown unit deserves recognition for their outstanding work. They have demonstrated what is possible when a team comes together with a shared vision and a commitment to excellence. I wholeheartedly recommend them for the Unit of the Quarter award.

# MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES

## AN ALTERNATIVE TO LONG-TERM NURSING CARE

**VA**Boise VA  
Medical Center

The idea started in 1999 with two social workers from the Little Rock VA who were looking for alternatives for veterans who were unsafe living in their homes. The veterans were suffering from frequent falls, unable to provide for their basic self-care needs and they were unwilling to receive care within a nursing home facility.

The MFH Program was piloted in 2004 in Tampa Florida and San Juan Puerto Rico VA Hospitals. The study revealed a dramatic decrease in falls and a reduction in hospital admissions.

There are now 520 participating Medical Foster Homes across the country. The VA Medical Foster Home provides individualized care in a private home environment. Once a veteran is admitted into the Medical Foster Home Program, they have the luxury of receiving in home medical care by the VA's Home-Based Primary Care Team (HBPC) comprised of physicians, nurses/case managers, physical therapists, pharmacists, social workers, and other health care providers. Medical Foster Home Caregivers provide 24-hour care while maintaining a safe, therapeutic, home environment with the aim at improving quality of life.



***"I LOVE BEING ABLE TO GIVE BACK!"***

Charlotte Matos and Lucy Rodriguez are caregivers in the Medical Foster Home program at the Boise VA in Idaho. Charlotte worked in a nursing care facility before deciding to do independent care out of her home. "I love this program! I enjoy being able to give back." Since 2015, Charlotte Matos has provided personalized care for veterans in the Medical Foster Home program. Charlotte has enabled her resident veterans to be part of the community by structuring outings and other recreational activities such as camping, fishing, road trips, and dining out to name a few all while encouraging as much independence as possible in self-care skills. "The therapists and doctors work with you and open possibilities within the home for more mobility, adaptation techniques and lots of good ideas," says Charlotte.

Veterans who need a higher level of care due to complex, chronic, disabling conditions and are appropriate to live with a caregiver in a home like environment may be considered for a Medical Foster Home. Medical Foster Home is an alternative to a skilled nursing facility while maintaining a family setting. "I love caregiving because I like taking care of and advocating for people, especially the most vulnerable. I find it rewarding in many ways but knowing that I am needed is most rewarding of all" says Lucy Rodriguez. "I like living in a VA Medical Foster Home because I'm fed well, all my medical needs are met, and we're offered recreation such as fishing excursions. I also experience a sense of independence in being able to come and go to visit friends, go to a movie, and occasionally enjoy dinner out with friends" said Navy Veteran Richard.



Caregiver Lucy Rodriguez and veteran Richard

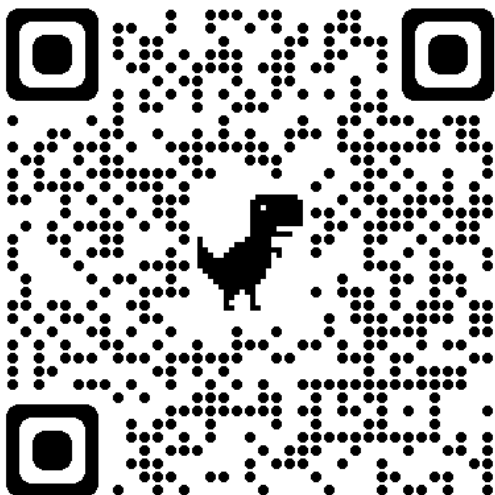


# THE BOISE VA NEEDS MORE MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES IN THE TREASURE VALLEY!

The option for Medical Foster Home placement can be less expensive than some assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Many veterans qualify for Compensation and Pension as well as Aid and Attendance through the VA. This financial assistance coupled with Social Security income can be used to afford a Medical Foster Home placement.

"I am so glad I tried this program. I am a lot happier now because I can do the things I like to do." said veteran Sheila.

- Amie Panicacci, LCSW  
Medical Foster Home Program Coordinator



For more information visit our website at:  
[www.va.gov/boise-health-care/programs/  
medical-foster-home-program/](http://www.va.gov/boise-health-care/programs/medical-foster-home-program/)



Medical Foster Home Coordinator Amie  
Panicacci, Caregiver Charlotte with veteran Sheila

## **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEDICAL FOSTER HOME CAREGIVER YOU MUST:**

Be financially stable & at least 21  
years of old.

Have formal or informal  
experience in caregiving/patient  
care.

You must own or rent your  
home.

Undergo a background check.

Initial health screening and  
annual home inspection.

CPR and First Aid Certification.

Have a driver's license.

Complete an application and  
participate in an interview  
with the Medical Foster Home  
Coordinator.





BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER

# FARMERS MARKET

FRESH & LOCAL

**EACH WEDNESDAY**  
**1:30P - 2:30P**  
**FLAG CIRCLE**



**VA** | Boise VA  
Medical Center



Paul  
**Vaught**

Employee of  
the Month  
**JULY**

I am excited to nominate Paul Vaught for Employee of the month.

Paul has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, efficiency and remarkable commitment to providing excellent customer service. His contributions to the Boise VAMC has been exemplary. Here are some of his achievements. Paul has assisted individuals including with complex clinic builds which required having not only a firm understanding of clinic build/naming convention rules but also taking the time to understand what the clinicians needed. Paul's collaborative approach led him to work closely with the Pharmacy team to establish proper naming conventions. His attention to detail and thoroughness have greatly contributed to streamlining operations and enhancing clinical operations. Despite staffing issues Paul's dedication has shone through. He has performed the work of 2 individuals for 7 months. His work ethic has been truly commendable, ensuring no compromise in the quality of service provided to his customers. Paul has provided support to the 2024 Flu Campaign by creating VText messaging to be sent to veterans to remind them of the importance of getting vaccinated, contributing significantly to overall preparedness for the upcoming flu season. Paul Vaught's unwavering commitment to his responsibilities and his exceptional performance in all areas of his work make him an invaluable asset to our team. He consistently leads by example and is the go-to for complex issues. Paul deserves to be recognized for his outstanding contributions and sustained commitment to the Boise VAMC



# FEEDING AMERICAN HEROES

**WEDNESDAY**

**SEPT. 13TH**

**1PM - 4PM**

**VA HOSPITAL**

**AT THE FLAG POLE**

**500 W FORT ST, BOISE, ID 83702**



**VETERANS**

**& FAMILIES**

**HOT FOOD FOR  
THE FIRST 200**

**SUPPLY BAGS FOR THE  
FIRST 200 VETERANS**

**FOOD FROM TACO EL REY**

**SPONSORED BY**



**The  
Idaho  
Foodbank**



**United  
Rentals**

PROVIDING ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS AND SUPPLIES TO HELP VETERANS STAY SAFE AND STILL BE ABLE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS DURING ANY NATIONAL EMERGENCY, CATASTROPHE, OR PANDEMIC.

**REGISTER ONLINE!**

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/VETERAN-REGISTRATION-  
SEPTEMBER-2023-FEEDING-AMERICAS-HEROES-BOISE-TICKETS-  
681858385787](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veteran-registration-september-2023-feeding-americas-heroes-boise-tickets-681858385787)

**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ONLINE!**

[HTTPS://SIGNUP.COM/GO/JYTSRZB](https://signup.com/go/JYTSRZB)

THE COST OF GROCERIES IS HIGHER THAN EVER!

**PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD  
ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!**





Jessica  
**Marquez**

Employee of  
the Month  
**JULY**



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Ms. Marquez has shown great commitment to Veterans seeking dental services. She has worked diligently and tirelessly while being critically short-staffed. Since taking on her role as lead tech, I see her go above and beyond to ensure every Veteran that visits the dental clinic is treated with respect and has all their needs taken care of. She has not only performed her duties as a lead tech but has also taken on the role of seeing patients due to critically short staffing. She has coordinated with her staff and outside departments to ensure the Veterans have the equipment needed to provide the best service possible. This coordination has been done in-between patients after regular hours and after taking care of any issues as the lead tech.

Throughout this time, Ms. Marquez has always been the utmost professional and in high spirits. This demonstrates Ms. Marquez's dedication to the ICARE value of excellence. Her decisive leadership has kept that department afloat through these trying times. Without Ms. Marquez's leadership and commitment to providing excellent service to our Veterans, we would be turning dental patients away to community care.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## *Monique Chadwick*



I am not a Veteran, I am the daughter of a Veteran. My father was in the Army and served 2 tours in Vietnam then went on to be a National Guard recruiter for years in Alaska.

I was born in Southern California and moved to Sitka Alaska at a very young age. This is where my father was a National Guard recruiter for many years. I spent most of my childhood here until my freshman year of high school. When my parents decided to move us to Boise Idaho. I finished high school here and went on

to spend 10 years at Micron where I met my husband. We have been married 24 years and have 3 wonderful daughters. I was lucky enough to be a stay at home mom and Realtor while they were growing up. Now that I am retired I enjoy volunteering with the Go Team Therapy Dogs and the American Red Cross Animal Visitation Program with my 2 certified therapy dogs Solo and Lacie. I love spending time with my husband and kids when they can fit me into their new adulting lifestyle. I'm always ready for any

dog activity and I enjoy camping and paddle boarding.

When my father was diagnosed with GIST cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. I found myself visiting the Boise VA a lot over the course of his battle. At the end of his 7 year fight we had to bring him to the Boise VA hospice, we could no longer care for him at home. We only stayed 1 night before he was called to duty elsewhere. I'm so thankful for the nurses that cared for us for 2 days and 1 night taking such great care of my father and allowing him to pass peacefully with dignity and honor. I will forever be grateful for everyone that cared for him. Over the 7 years my father spent several nights at the VA for various

reasons. Every one of those nights I spent with him. He didn't like small rooms or doors closed or curtains shut so I stayed every time and slept in the chair and made sure everything was how he liked it and watched over him so he could rest. After my father passed away I wanted to give back to the Boise VA both to the staff, nurses, doctors and our Veterans. What better way then to bring joy with my dogs. If we can bring a smile to someone's face and maybe help them forget about whatever they are battling for just a few minutes it's the least we can do for all the service and sacrifices they have made for us. I have been volunteering at the Boise VA for 4 and a half years and have loved every minute of it. Last year I took over as the coordinator for the Boise VA Red Cross Animal Visitation program. Scheduling multiple wonderful Go Team Therapy dogs for visits on every Tuesday and Saturday. All of our teams enjoy bringing joy and smiles to everyone at the Boise VA. We have all experienced some very special moments between our dogs and veterans as well as creating friendships with staff and patients, as they look forward to seeing us every week. This is a small token of our appreciation for their service and sacrifice.



# Lactation Space Update

Supporting new moms!

New lactation space available!

\*NEW\* Building 85, Room 126A (Main Building- 1st Floor)

Building 88, Room G-05 (Main Building - Basement)

Building 85, Room 327 (Main Building – By ICU)

Building 124, Room 108 (Women's Wellness Center)

Building 88, Room 162A (Orange Team)

Caldwell & Twin Falls CBOC sites

For Lactating employees who need access to the rooms, email Police Service at [boipolicesvc@va.gov](mailto:boipolicesvc@va.gov) for PIV access. Then you can access any of the spaces listed above.

Veterans or visitors who need the lactation space, please check in at Purple Team clerk, ICU clerk, or Orange Team clerk. AOD staff can help after-hours (evenings/weekends).

A huge thank you to the team for all their work to make these spaces possible:

Executive leadership; Doug Lamb; Police Service: Jeff Middlemas, FMS installation team, interior design and paint crew; housekeeping, HAS and nursing services, and of course our multi-disciplinary work group! This project was funded through Boise VA funds and VA WHISE grant funding.

Sincerely from the Project Team Leads:

Jeanette Berry and Sharon Cardona







## Have you tried our massage chairs?

### Located at:

- **\*NEW\* Building 33, Room 106**
- **Chapel (Building 67, by Police Services)**
- **LRC (Building 29)**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 302**
- **CLC Building 121**
- **Logistics (Front office meeting room)**
- **Caldwell CBOC**
- **Twin Falls CBOC**

**Please note: Massage chairs have weight limits and height limits. Please follow the rules listed by the massage chairs so we can help as many employees as possible.**

**Any massage chair issues: Please contact Mike Parker.**



# ***EMPLOYEE FLU SHOTS***

Remember, per VHA Directive 1192, all VHA employees are required to submit a 10-9050 with flu shot documentation or exemption by November 30th!

## **Where Can I Get My Flu Vaccine?**

Employee Health (T122) from 8 – 9AM and 11:30AM-1PM M-F and Fridays from 2PM - 3PM or by appointment – [schedule online here](#)

- Inpatient & Clinical Areas from a vaccinator
    - From the Flu Cart – schedule coming!
  - Off-Tours: Emergency Dept. from 7PM - 7AM
  - CBOCs: At flu clinics or from clinical vaccinators
    - In the community at a local pharmacy
    - Need egg-free or a nasal spray option?
- Check [www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines](http://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines)

Please submit your [10-9050 form](#) and proof of vaccination to [VA Employee Occupational Health Update System](#) if vaccinated off station.

If you are unable to use the link you may email your 10-9050 and proof of vaccination to [BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov](mailto:BOIEOHVaccines@va.gov)  
One person's forms per PDF attachment, and please include your FIRST & LAST name.

Thank you.

Lindsey J Robinson, BSN, RN



# PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

## GET YOUR FLU SHOT



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Medical Center

*Get your flu shot from your VA Primary Care Team during a scheduled appointment or at any one of the flu shot clinics below:*

**Boise VA Main Campus**

Walk-in Clinic: OCT. 2nd to 13th • 9am to 4pm

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 2nd to 6th • 9am to 4pm

**Caldwell CBOC**

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 23rd to 27th • 8am to 3:30pm

**Twin Falls CBOC**

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 5th and 6th • 8:30am to 3:30pm

**Salmon Outpatient Clinic**

Walk-in Clinic: OCT. 12th • 1pm to 3:30pm

**Mtn. Home Outpatient Clinic**

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 6th • 9am to 3:30pm

**Eastern Oregon Outpatient Clinic**

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 2nd to 5th • 8am to 4:30pm

**John Day Elks Lodge**

Drive-Thru Clinic: OCT. 18th • 10am to 3pm

***Flu shots will also be offered at the events below!***

**Homeless Veterans Stand Down**

OCT. 14th • 8am to 3pm @ Boise VA facility

**Women Veterans Health Fair & BBQ**

OCT. 20th • 11:30am to 1:30pm @ Boise VA facility

***Tips for receiving your flu shot.***

- Bring your VA ID card.
- Wear clothes that allow easy access to your shoulder.
- Ages 65+ years receive high dose vaccine.

***You can also receive a flu shot from a contracted community provider.***

Before receiving a flu shot from a community provider check your eligibility & locate a community provider by going to:  
[www.prevention.va.gov/flu](http://www.prevention.va.gov/flu)

There is no co-pay for eligible Veterans.

You must bring your VA ID card.

If your community provider asks for co-payment, first call the Community Care National Contact Center at 877-881-7618.

*\* Please be sure to let your VA Primary Care team know the specific date of your vaccine.*



# VETERAN FLU SHOTS





**Join Us for an upcoming Employee Whole Health Class!**

***Want an invite? Reach out to Mike Parker or Jeanette Berry.***

## **Employee Whole Health Healthy Teaching Kitchen Summer Series**

**Virtually on [Teams](#)**



**12:00 – 12:30 PM Mountain Time**

**4th Wednesday each month**

**Hosted by Madison Keller, RD**

**July 26: [Fresh Corn & Red Pepper Salad](#)**

**August 23: [Strawberry Banana  
Oatmeal Smoothies](#)**

**Sept 27: [Bright Broccoli Salad](#)**

Recorded sessions and recipes are on the Boise VA  
[Employee Whole Health SharePoint Site](#).

Want an Outlook invite? Contact [Jeanette Berry](#)

**Open to all VISN 20 staff!**

## **Be Here Now Class**

**Third Thursdays Monthly from 12 – 12:30**

**[Teams Meeting Online](#)**

**Led by Drs. Tanya Watford and Adam Brotman**



**Join us for a short mindfulness practice and learn more about  
mindfulness through experience and conversation**





# 13th Annual CHROME AT THE HOME



**Join us at the Veterans Home  
for a Free BBQ and Auctions!**

## **Event Location :**

Idaho State Veterans Home -Boise  
320 N. Collins Rd. Boise, ID 83702

## **Date & Times :**

Sunday, September 24th  
Registration at 9:00am  
Opening Ceremony at 11:00am

## **More Information :**

<http://bvpowmia.org/>  
we are a 501c3

 Boise Valley POW-MIA



**2022 Veterans Choice Winner!**







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Medical Center



**Jessica  
Raubenheimer**

**Employee of  
the Month  
JULY**

ICARE Values- Jessica Raubenheimer is a nurse on the 2M/S Unit. She displayed all of the ICARE Values while caring for a patient that was on hospice. This patient had transferred from 2P for end-of-life care. The plan was to prepare the patient and potentially transfer him to the hospice unit in CLC. The patient was at times difficult to work with as he would refuse care or not talk to staff at times. The case manager and social worker had tried to talk to the patient about this opportunity, but the patient would not listen. CLC staff physicians and even the nurses came over to try to get the patient to tour the CLC and again the patient would not do it. In multidisciplinary meetings they would ask that if staff had a good rapport with the patient if they could talk him into touring the CLC to try to get him over. This was mentioned to Jessica one day she was charge nurse. Although that day the patient again would refuse to talk to staff the next day Jessica tried again. She asked the patient if he wanted to take a walk outside and while out there asked the patient to take a tour of the CLC. The patient reluctantly agreed. Jessica took the time to talk to the patient about the CLC and what his options were. The patient had wanted to go live out the rest of his days at a hotel, but Jessica pleaded with him to allow us the honor of taking care of him while showing him what a great room he would have and the space to roam around in to get his own drinks and food. The patient fell in love with the idea and came back to his room and packed his belongings right away. The CLC assisted in getting the needed orders to allow the patient to admit before changing his mind. This demonstrated the excellence and commitment that our nurses here at the Boise VA to give the best care to our patient population. Jessica received positive comments about this amazing act from the CLC Manager who also stated her staff were amazed at the time she put into helping this veteran. Another comment from the Social Worker who said "great job to the team" and case manager who said "Jessica is such an amazing nurse, advocate."



**VA**

Boise VA  
Medical Center

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# ***Women Veterans Health Fair & BBQ***

Friday, October 20th

11:30AM to 1:30PM

Boise VA Medical Center  
500 W. Fort Street, Boise, ID 83702

*There will be various information  
booths specific to women veterans,  
flu shots, free BBQ food, fun, and  
much more!*

# **ALL WOMEN VETERANS ARE INVITED!**



# VISN 20 Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Presents

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) Virtual Education Summit 2023

### SAVE THE DATE

10/11/2023, 9 am—3 pm (PST)

## The Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and Cognitive Functioning

#### Presentations Include:

- ♦ **TBI/Cognitive Impairment and the Use of IPV**

Dr. Lewis Krain, Geriatric Psychiatrist, Chief of Inpatient Mental Health,  
Central Arkansas VA Healthcare System

- ♦ **Caring for Loved Ones with Neurocognitive Disorders**

Dr. Valerie Johnson, Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Major of Public Administration,  
Alaska VA Healthcare System, Caregiver Support Team

- ♦ **Impacts of Strangulation and Identification**

Rachel Ramirez, LISW-S, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Director of Health and  
Disability Programs, Founder of The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury

- ♦ **Firearm Life Planning**

Marian Betz, MD, MPH, Professor of Emergency Medicine,  
University of Colorado School of Medicine

4.5 Continuing Education Credits pending approval for:  
ACCME, ACCME-NP, ACPE, ANCC, AOTA, APA, ASWB



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration

Contact Your VA Coordinator  
**Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program**  
[www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Coordinators.asp](http://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Coordinators.asp)

The National Domestic Violence  
**HOTLINE**  
1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)



**The VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) is excited to announce the release of the revised Relationship Health and Safety (RHS) screen national clinical reminder – expected to be available in Boise the week of August 21st.** This clinical reminder is intended to be used with all Veterans at least annually to identify any relationship health and safety concerns. At-risk populations may be screened more frequently per clinician discretion.

The new version of the RHS screen is brief and can be conducted by any trained member of the health care team in any clinical setting. Staff who are familiar with using the current version will require very little preparation to transition to the new format as the core elements remain the same. For those who already have access to the RHS clinical reminder and would like a brief refresher (10 min) on how to use the new version, you can access this by searching for TMS 131007444 (Relationship Health and Safety Version 3 Clinical Reminder Training).

Screen shots of RHS Clinical Reminder Version 3 are available [here](#). A side-by-side comparison of screen shots from Version 2 & Version 3 is available [here](#).

The significant changes include:

- If you click the option that there are safety concerns about documentation, you can still complete the remainder of the screen and you do not have to manually delete the text afterwards. The specific screening answers will automatically be replaced with a generic response that can be edited.

- The Resolution section has a different layout, organized into 3 sections:
  - o Indicating whether the Veteran wants same-day follow-up, a future follow-up, or declines follow-up. Those with positive primary and secondary screens must be offered same-day follow-up. Licensed Independent Providers (LIPs) who are trained and complete the screen can also indicate that they are providing the follow-up themselves (i.e., no referral is needed).
  - o Resources (includes education, the National DV hotline/website, community resources, contact information for relevant VA staff).
  - o Education (confirming whether the Vet has any barriers to understanding the information presented).

There is still a box to click if Safety Planning was conducted, but remember that we do not include the details of the plan for safety reasons. While any clinical provider can complete the screen, only a trained LIP should complete a safety plan. Additional training on Safety Planning (28 min) is available at TMS ID 131006026 (IPVAP Safety Plan Training: A Live Demonstration of Trauma-Informed Safety Planning).

Your local IPVAP-Coordinator (Keri Barbero, LCSW) and IPVAP Champions (Alissa Lyon, LCSW and Tina Wilkerson, LCSW) are available if you need additional support or consultation on anything related to IPV screening, documentation, resources and safety planning.

Keri Barbero, LCSW



# KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL

The Embassy of the Republic  
of Korea would like to present  
all Korean War Veterans who  
served between

**June 25, 1950 – Dec. 31, 1955**  
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**The Korean Ambassador of  
Peace Medal**

This medal is an expression  
of appreciation from the  
Korean Government to US  
servicemen and women who  
served in the Korean conflict  
past and present.

Please contact us to determine eligibility and apply  
[mitzi.cheldelin@veterans.idaho.gov](mailto:mitzi.cheldelin@veterans.idaho.gov)

To receive the medal by Veterans Day 2023, apply by:

## OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023





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