

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Memorandum

Date: June 17, 2022

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services/Chief Medical Officer (CMO) (11)

Subj: Behavioral Health Leadership Training (BHLT) Nominations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Training (VIEWS 7796021)

To: Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) Director (10N1-23)
VISN CMOs (10N1-23)
VISN Chief Mental Health Officers (CMHO) (10N1-23)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to solicit VISN CMHO-nominated applications for the FY 2022 BHLT Program for Chiefs in Baltimore on September 13-16, 2022 (Monday and Friday travel days). To accommodate VISNs' stated need for increased BHLT program capacity, the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) has added approximately 17 participant slots to the FY 2022 training.

2. BHLT provides leadership training that enhances the performance of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) leaders in behavioral and mental health (MH) services at the facility or VISN level. BHLT equips local MH leaders with knowledge about VHA systems, leadership principles, access management, human resources, and data management within a MH context.

3. The target audience is VHA employees who are in positions of MH leadership at their facility or network. All MH disciplines are eligible to apply (e.g., psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, licensed professional mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, masters-prepared nurses, and others). Priority is given for chiefs of MH services, service discipline leaders, associate chiefs, and managers or assistant managers of MH service or product/care lines. Participants are expected to have supervisory or program responsibility for other clinicians.

4. **Within 2 weeks of memorandum release**, VISN CMHOs or their designees must **complete this short [form](#)** with information about each VISN CMHO-nominated applicant, including their agreement to attend the FY 2022 training and their facility leadership's commitment to fund their travel, if selected. **OMHSP encourages VISNs to nominate multiple applicants, including different disciplines; please email VHABHLTSteering@va.gov with your prioritization.** An interprofessional steering group will select attendees in July 2022 and will notify all applicants of their status.

5. Please see attached [draft agenda](#) for BHLT content and direct any questions to kendra.weaver@va.gov and VHABHLTSteering@va.gov.



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