

USMC Combat Operational
Stress Control Conference
June 18, 2007

Department of Veterans Affairs
Programs for Returning Veterans

OIF/OEF MH Data, FY 2002-1st Quarter FY 2007

- 686,306 returnees, 229,015 in VA care, 12% USMC
- 83,889 with provisional MH diagnosis
- 39,243 PTSD (17,000 in '06) , 2,643 ASD
- 27,023 Depression/ 14,489 affective psychoses
- Drug/ alc abuse 6,101
- Drug/ Alc Dep. 9,127

Poly Trauma Centers

- Rehabilitation/ re-integration of those with polytraumatic & blast related injuries
- 4 Centers: Richmond, Tampa, Minneapolis, Palo Alto + VISN support sites
- Incorporate psychosocial/ mental health issues in care

Orientation to Care

- Health promotion, preventive care
- Avoid over-pathologizing, teach coping skills
- Assess for PTSD depression, SUD, Mild TBI
- Rehabilitation/ recovery approach to those with mental disorders (involve family)

Orientation to Care

- Public health approach:
 - repeat contacts over time,
 - Public Service Announcements on availability of care
 - 6 months, 1 or 2 years for problems to arise

OEF/ OIF RFP FY 05-07

- Tasks: Outreach, Education & Care
- Goals: Health promotion, recovery, rehabilitation
- Engagement of VHA/ RCS, VBA, VSOs, DoD, State Agencies, community at large
- Vision: Mental Health as a part of overall health and functioning is valued.
- 90 programs

RVOEC Training

- The Public Health Approach
- Community outreach/ VA 'inreach'
- Battlemind
- Training modules address functional problems (driving, family issues)
- Satellite, web-based, local workshops

RVOEC Performance Measures

- Required of every RVOEC proposal
- Number & type of outreach/ inreach activities
- Number of veterans enrolled for services
- Functional/ symptom measures of improvement

FY 2006 Survey Data

- 7,792 OEF/OIF veterans seen
- PTSD : 56.7%
- Depression: 45.4%
- Employment problems: 31.6%
- Substance abuse: 24.7%

Survey Data

- Services provided:
- Psychotherapy: 32%
- Clinical assessment/ diagnosis: 28.6%
- Medical management: 6.8%

Treatment of PTSD in VA Medical Centers

- VA offers a comprehensive array of specialized programs for the treatment of PTSD including inpatient and residential care, outpatients PTSD Clinical Teams, and PTSD specialists.
- Currently, there are over 230 specialized PTSD programs across the country and available in every state.
- In FY 06, VAMC programs served over 346,000 veterans with PTSD in specialized outpatient programs and general mental health clinics.

PTSD Future

- Assess residential care needs
- Comprehensive care (e.g. SUD)
- Primary Care (CBOC) care
- Evidence Based Practice dissemination
- Disaster Preparedness (Facility Disast. POCs)

PTSD Research

- National Center for PTSD
- Mental Illness Research, Education & Clinical Centers (MIRECCs)
- VISN 6: Deployment Issues
- V19 Suicide
- V 20, 21 (PTSD)

Research

- 52 identified PTSD studies funded by VA Office of Research & Development
- Topics:
 - Resilience/ coping with stress (DoD collaborations)
 - Cooperative studies (VA): cognitive behavioral therapies

Research

- Topics:
 - Disaster response
 - Telehealth (diabetes in veterans with PTSD)
 - Medication trials: prazosin; guanfacine
 - PTSD and aging
 - Functional MRI; genetic studies, neuroendocrine aspects of stress response

Suicide Prevention Clinical Initiatives

- IL 10-2006-013, JCAHO Performance Requirement Mitigating Suicide Risk
 - Assess risk
 - Assess protective factors
 - Ensure immediate safety needs
 - Crisis hotline info. For patients/ Significant Others

Clinical Initiatives

- Revise Risk Assessment/ Management Pocket Cards + Users Guides
 - Triage/ ER settings
 - Inpatient settings

Clinical Initiatives

- Suicide Prevention Coordinators at each VAMC: track suicidal behaviors; coordinate care ; educate staff
- Mental Health Primary Care Integration
- National Center for Patient Safety Environmental Checklist

Suicide Prevention Training

- War Injured/ Suicide Prevention web based training (FY 2007)
- Evidence Based Intervention for Suicidal Persons (June 13-14, 2006; Feb. 7-9, 2007)
- DVDs based on EBI conf.

Global War on Terrorism

VA Mental Health Response

- War Wounded satellite & VHI (4/2003)
- Iraq Clinician War Guide (6/2003, Rev. 5/2004)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction MH curriculum (5/2004)
- Stress Response (PTSD) CPG

War Wounded Satellite

- VA/ DoD participation
- Wounds from traditional weapons
- Chemical, bacteriological, radiological, environmental hazards addressed
- PTSD & other stress related disorders addressed

Iraq Clinician War Guide

- Created by VA National Center for PTSD
- Assessment/ treatment of PTSD & other war – related disorders.
- Issues of “new veterans” vs. existing patients from previous conflicts
- Traumatic grief as an issue
- Revised with DoD post actual casualty care

WMD Curriculum

- PL 107-287: train VA staff to assist casualties of WMD attack
- Blast, chem./ bio, radiation & MH issues
- MH: acute stress response protocol
- Follows PTSD CPG: approaches applicable to disaster, and newly returned vets.

PTSD CPG

- VA/ DoD collaboration
- PTSD Special Comm., NCPTSD, RCS participation
- Addresses:
 - Acute PTSD
 - PTSD assess/ care/ referral in primary care
 - Psychotherapy EBP
 - Pharmacotherapy EBP