Women & Minority Veterans Health Care

Laurissa Woerdeman
HUD-VASH Case Manager
Mann Grandstaff VAMC
AGENDA

• MGVAMC
• History of Women in the military
• Women’s Health
• Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM)
• Events
MGVAMC News:

Meet Ms. Tracye Davis, New Interim Medical Center Director
MGVAMC Catchment Area
64,000 sq.miles (WA / ID / MT)
# Mann-Grandstaff VAMC Diversity

<table>
<thead>
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<th>FY14 Mann-Grandstaff VAMC</th>
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History of Women in the Military

- Number of women in military has grown substantially since 1968.
- Women make up nearly 12 percent of OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.
- More than half (57%) of female OEF/OIF/OND Veterans have received VA health care.¹
History of Women in the Military (cont.)

- Role of women during deployment
  - Vietnam War: primary role was health care related or clerical,
  - Gulf War: Expanded roles
  - Following Gulf War: additional military occupations opened to women
  - OEF/OIF/OND: Even closer proximity to warfare, with many more women working side-by-side with combat personnel and coming under direct fire.
Women Veterans Health Care
Best Care Anywhere

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hMCKmobQ6Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hMCKmobQ6Y)
The face of the VA is changing

- Increase in Women Veterans
- Younger Women
- Aging Women
Data for Spokane Women Veterans

- Over 11,000 women veterans in our catchment area (vet pop 2014)
- Over 2200 women veterans enrolled in care across 6 sites
- Enrollment grown 52% in last 5 years
Younger Women’s Needs

- Maternity Care
- Mental Health
- Service-Connected Disabilities
- Privacy, safety, convenience
Aging Population

58% of women VA users are 45+

- ✔ Menopausal Needs
- ✔ Geriatric Care
- ✔ Inpatient/Extended Stays

Next 20 years ... more intensive health care services and support as caregivers

Age distribution of women Veteran patients, FY01 and FY10

Growth Expected to Double Again Soon

12% of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Veterans

18% of National Guard/Reserves

6% of VA health care users

Women Veteran enrollment outpacing that of men—21% increase since 2009

5 years’ free VA health care for OEF/OIF/OND Veterans with service-related issues

57% of OEF/OIF/OND women Veterans have used VA care
Women Average More Primary Care Visits than Men

Proportion of women and men Veteran outpatients by total primary care encounters, FY10

Women Use Mental Health Care More than Men

Proportion of women and men Veteran outpatients by mental health/SUD encounters, FY10

More Service-Connected Status among Women than Men (VHA Patients)

Service-connected disability status among Veteran patients, by gender, FY10

Spokane Women Top 3 Diagnosis

- Hypertension
- Depressive Disorder
- PTSD
Who is in our Veteran population?
Ideal: Women Veterans Experience of VA

- High-quality, equitable care on par with that of men
- Care delivered in a safe and healing environment
- Seamless coordination of services
- Recognition as Veterans
• VA-wide campaign to enhance the language, practice and culture of VA to be more inclusive of women Veterans

• National Women Veterans Communications Workgroup:
  • Tasked with developing strategies to reach women Veterans (inside and outside VA) and VA employees

Outcome: Needs of women Veterans are always considered across program offices and in policy and key decisions

• Established a Women Veterans Program Manager in every health care system
VA Understands Women Veterans
VA Can Meet Their Needs

- Primary Care
- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Breast & Gynecological Care
- Maternity & Infertility Care
- Mental Health & MST Services
- Addiction Treatment Programs
Beyond Health Care … VA has Something for all Veterans

- Homelessness
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Job and Career Counseling
Role of the Women Veterans Program Manager

Julie Liss, RN, MSN—Women’s Health Coordinator

• Linchpin for improved women's health services
• Leader of facility women's program
• Resource for women Veterans in the community
Rethink Veterans
It’s our job to give her the **best care anywhere**

She Served, She Deserves
Breast Cancer Awareness Day
Special Emphasis Program Managers
Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) Committee

- Christina O’Dell-Holloway-Ethics and Compliance officer
- Traylor Bennett-African-American Program Manager-January
- Gordon Graves-Hispanic Employment Program Manager-September
- Carrie Daniel, LISCW-Woman’s Program Manager-March
- Alaina Taylor-LGBT Program Manager-June
- Cassandra Davis-Disability Awareness Program Manager-April
- Sonja Webster-Freeman-Asian American & Pacific Islander-May
American Indian Veteran Advisory Council (AIVAC)

Bret Bowers, Public Affairs Officer, MVPC
AIVAC Mission

- Facilitate meaningful support for Native American Veterans (\& Non-Natives) regarding VA medical services and programs (VA-OTGR)
- Promote VA support of Tribal Health \& Wellness programs
- Support VA HUD / VASH housing programs
- Provide facility / support for Native American (healing) Sweat Lodge “sweats” at MGVAMC
- Host (8th Annual in 2017) AIVAC Veterans Memorial \& Honoring Ceremony at MGVAMC (2nd Saturday in September)
PNW Native American Tribes Actively Supported by AIVAC thru Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Spokane

- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Coeur d’Alene Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Yakama Warrior Nation
Veterans Training Summits & Other Support for AI / AK Native Veterans:
(SAIGE / ATNI / NCAI) plus:
2014 – Clearwater Casino
2015 – Swinomish Casino
2016 – 12 Tribes Casino
2017 – Clearwater Casino
Other: Medal of Honor Hwy Dedication
8th Annual Veterans Memorial & Honoring Ceremony – Sept. 9, 2017 at MGVAMC
Great Resource

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_TR3Z7u6hU&list=PLA93A5833057D78B7&index=37
2017 Veterans Stand Downs

- Coeur d’Alene, ID  May 13th
  Kootenai County Fairgrounds (0800-1400)
- Wenatchee, WA  August 11th
  National Guard Armory (0800-TBD)
- Moses Lake, WA  September 16th
  Grant County Fairgrounds (0900-TBD)
- Libby, MT  Sept. 30-Oct. 1st
  Asa Wood Elementary School (0800-TBD)
- Yakima, WA  October 21st
  State Fair Park (0900-1500)

MGVAMC’s Veterans Stand Down Coordinator:
Zack Badger,
(USAF Veteran)
509-462-2500
Rethink Veterans

which one is the veteran?

Both. It’s our job to give every vet the best care anywhere.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPM) Committee

- Christina O’Dell-Holloway-Ethics and Compliance officer-434-7212
- Traylor Bennett-African-American Program Manager-434-7546
- Gordon Graves-Hispanic Employment Program Manager-462-2500
- Carrie Daniel, LISCW-Woman’s Program Manager-462-2500
- Alaina Taylor-LGBT Program Manager-434-7710
- Cassandra Davis-Disability Awareness Program manager-434-7500
- Sonja Webster-Freeman-Asian American & Pacific Islander-434-7650