



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

Frank E. Shelp, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner

Division of Addictive Diseases

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Training Announcement

Paving the Way Home: Navigating and Gaining Access to the Services of the Department of Veterans Affairs

To: Community Providers of Mental Health and Addictive Diseases Services
DBHDD Regional Coordinators
Department of Labor
Department of Corrections
Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Department of Veterans Service
Department of Family and Children Services
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

From: Cassandra Price, Director, Division of Addictive Diseases
Lawrence Biro, Veterans Affairs Southeast Network Director

CC: DBHDD Management Team

Date: July 16, 2010

The purpose of this memo is to announce a training that will serve as a guide to understanding and accessing Veterans Affairs services for service personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Title: Paving the Way Home: Navigating and Gaining Access to the Services of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Description: The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Addictive Diseases has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer this training. The purpose of this training is to present providers of services working with Veterans in Georgia with an overview of key Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services and information on how to access various supports from both the VA and from community providers. This training will disseminate critical and current information about the health care concerns and resource needs of returning OIF/OEF combat veterans and their families.

This two day program will:

- Define individual and agency roles and the ways those roles can best be integrated to form the most effective state-wide and national system of post combat support possible.
- Promote opportunities to increase interdisciplinary collaborative approaches in delivery and coordination of services to returning combat veterans and their families.
- Exhibit a best practice approach to coordination and care based on lessons learned, evidence-based outcomes, and emerging research.

- Examine the immediate post-combat, the long-term immediate post-combat, and the long term impacts of war on Veteran's health and their family's well-being.

This training will also discuss contributions to the development and maintenance of services and supports available to combat Veterans from earlier conflicts, as well as reviewing the implementation of systems to insure timely and effective support for Veterans returning from combat deployments in the future. Finally, attendees will participate in panel discussions with OIF/OEF Program team members, Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN), and leadership from the State of Georgia.

Specific topics of discussion will include:

- Outreach & Stigma Reduction
- Improving Access to HealthCare
- Expanding & Improving Services
- Veteran Workforce Development
- Family & Spiritual Aspects to Recovery
- Experiences of the Returning Combat Veteran
- Veteran & Military Culture: Readjustment Issues & Deployment Related Issues
- PTSD/Suicide Prevention/Substance Abuse Co-Morbid Conditions
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Homelessness & Veterans- Justice Outreach Initiative
- Peer Support & Training
- Contracting with the VA

Audience: The audience for this training includes providers of supports and services for returning Georgia National Guard Units including staff from the following organizations:

- Community Providers of Mental Health and Addictive Diseases Services
- Armed Forces
- Department of Labor
- Department of Corrections
- Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Department of Veterans Service
- US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Family and Children Services

Presenters: Presenters for this training will be staff from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at both a local and national level. Each presenter will bring a first-hand perspective on the obstacles facing returning Veterans and their families as well as effective ways of working to help recognize and overcome the unique difficulties facing OIF/OEF Veterans.

Date/Location:

Paving the Way Home: Navigating and Gaining Access to the Services of the Department of Veterans Affairs		
Timeframe for the training is 8:00am to 5:00 pm each day; on-site check in begins at 7:30 am		
TRAINING DATES	Registration Deadline	LOCATION
Thursday & Friday, August 19-20, 2010	August 12	ATLANTA- Gwinnett Area DULUTH, GA Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place 1775 Pleasant Hill Road - Duluth, GA 30096 ; (770) 923-1775 Directions: http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/atlgp-atlanta-marriott-gwinnett-place/

Registration: **REGISTER ONLINE:** <http://www.cviog.uga.edu/dbhdd/>

- **Please register online if possible – it's quick and easy!**
- If you are **unable** to access the Internet to register online, you may fax the Registration Form to UGA/CVIOG at 404-463-6808. For faxed registrations, please use the form on the last page of this announcement.
- This announcement as well as instructions for registering multiple participants from the same organization are posted on the **DBHDD Training website at <http://www.cviog.uga.edu/dbhdd/>**
- Please note **registration deadline(s)** contained in this announcement. No registrations, online or faxed, will be accepted after the deadline(s).
- Early registration is encouraged and **you must provide an email address** so that we can communicate with you (or your supervisor if you do not have email.)
- When submitting registration online, an email will automatically be sent to the email address you provided; this email confirms receipt of your registration. This email is not an approval to attend the training.
- There are often more registrants than we are able to accommodate and the DBHDD reserves the right to utilize various factors in selecting participants.
- **Notification that you have been approved to attend will typically be sent two weeks prior to the date of the session for which you registered. This notification will be sent via email from the DBHDD Training staff.** Exceptions to this timeframe may occasionally occur, depending on when the training was announced.
- If you have not received an email indicating whether you are approved or not approved to attend the training by 10 days prior to the event, please email RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us to inquire about your status. In that email, please be sure to tell us what event and session you registered to attend.
- RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us is also the address to which you may send any other registration questions.

CEUs:

It is the goal of the DBHDD to continue to provide those working within the publically-funded DBHDD system with free, high quality opportunities to acquire credits needed for professional license renewal. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability policy regarding issuance of CEUs is based upon State Law and the guidelines set forth by the Georgia Composite Board which state that **“participants must attend the entire presentation in order to receive continuing education credit.”** Please plan to arrive early or on time for all Department sponsored training events. **If you are more than 15 minutes late in arriving for a seminar, you will be welcome to remain for the balance of the presentation but we will not be able to issue continuing education credits to you as a participant. This policy applies to early departures as well – if you leave more than 15 minutes early, we will not be able to issue CEUs for your participation.**

We have instituted this policy in an effort to cut down on unnecessary interruptions during the presentation and to ensure that our ability to offer CEUs is not put into jeopardy. Participants are expected to make prior arrangements for management of work-related emergencies so that such events do not interfere with their full attendance and participation in the training.

CEU's for this training will be provided by the Veterans Affairs Employee Education System (VA-EES) and the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC).

VA-EES will provide CEU's for the following disciplines:

- ANCC (nursing)
- ACCME (physician)
- NBCC (counseling)

- ASWB (social work)
- APA (psychologist)

ATTC will provide CEU's for Certified Addiction Counselors.

There is no charge to participants for CEUs; however, those who require CEUs for licensure are responsible for (1) signing the Attendance Sheet for CEUs and (2) completing the Evaluation Form. Certificates will be mailed to participants who complete both of these forms at the conclusion of the training. No CEUs can be issued to any attendee who does not complete both of these forms and attend the entire training event.

Certificates of Attendance will also be provided to those who complete both days of training, which includes completion of the Evaluation Form.

Please Note: While there is no fee for this training, participants are responsible for their own travel, meals, snacks and lodging arrangements. You may want to bring a light-weight jacket or sweater since facilities vary widely in their temperatures.

Contact: For questions, please contact Lory Barkley, Training Coordinator II, via email at RegistrationMHDDAD@dhr.state.ga.us

