Continuing Education Statement

Target Audience: This conference is of interest to clinicians involved in the care of veterans/service members and/or their families. It is recommended for Psychologists, Counselors and Marriage & Family Therapists, Social Workers and Alcohol and Drug Professionals.

Application for 6.25 continuing education credits/contact hours has been made to the following:

- South Dakota Board of Psychologist Examiners
- South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors and Marriage & Family Therapists
- South Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners
- South Dakota Board of Alcohol and Drug Professionals

To Register for the Conference:

Seating is limited. Please register by **May 15.** Call the Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center at: **605-655-1400** or visit **www.yrahec.org** for a link to online registration.

The one-day conference is $25 for professionals or $10 for students. The conference will be held at Avera Hall located on the University Center campus at 4801 North Career Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

From North/South on I29: Take exit 83, toward airport and turn left onto SD-38/W 60th St. N. and turn left onto N Career Avenue.

From West on I90: Take exit 395 - Marion Road and turn right onto N Marion Rd, turn left onto W 60th St N/SD-38 and take the second right onto N Career Avenue.

From East on I90: Take I29 S via Exit 396A and then exit 83 toward airport and turn left onto SD-38/W 60th St. N and turn left onto N Career Avenue.

The South Dakota Area Health Education Center (SD AHEC) has a mission to "connect students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health." Established in 2009 through a HRSA grant awarded to the Sanford School of Medicine, the statewide program currently has two centers, the Yankton Rural AHEC and the Northeast AHEC.

AHEC
Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center

1000 W. 4th Street, Suite 5
Yankton, SD 57078

Look inside for details on a continuing education opportunity.

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

- José Narosky

3rd Annual

Improving Combat Veterans Care

Post-Deployment

May 21, 2013
8:00 am - 4:15 pm

Avera Hall
University Center
Sioux Falls, SD

SPONSORS:

VA HEALTH CARE Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

AHEC Yankton Rural Area Health Education Center

Improving Combat Veterans Care

8:00 am - 8:30 am
Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 am - 8:45 am
Welcome - Sandy Viau Williams
Presentation of Colors - SD Army National Guard

8:45 am - 10:15 am
"Returning Combat Veterans"
Connie L. Bengston - RN, BSN, PHN

10:15 am Break

10:30 am - Noon
"Returning Combat Veterans"
Connie L. Bengston - RN, BSN, PHN

Noon - 12:45 pm
Lunch Provided On Site

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm
"Utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Treating Insomnia"
Patti Ramse - MSW, CSW-PIP
Jon Feiock - MSW, CSW-PIP

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm
"One Veteran's Journey"
Russ Martin - Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm
"Before Yellow Ribbon"
SFC Penny Dickes - SD National Guard

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm
"Approaching Transition as an Opportunity for Growth"
Dr. Bill Meirose - Transition Assistance Advisor SDNG

4:15 pm
Conclusion and Evaluation

Featured Speaker

Connie L. Bengston - RN, BSN, PHN; is a Nurse Care Coordinator, based out of the Minneapolis VA Hospital, for the OEF/OIF program. Her duties include welcoming troops home, ensuring they are able to access their benefits at the VA, providing supportive counseling and referrals for veterans experiencing reintegration issues, and community education and outreach. She began her work for the Minneapolis VA Healthcare System in 2005 as a Polytrauma Nurse to care for seriously injured service members. Specific training included: *Traumatic Brain Injury, Caring for the War Wounded, Caring for the Visually Impaired, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Blast Injuries, and Caring for Amputees*. She served as a primary care nurse to marines, Soldiers, Airmen, and a Sailor during their recovery from being wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Additional Conference Speakers

SFC Penny Dickes - is the Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator for the South Dakota National Guard.

Jon Feiock - MSW, CSW-PIP; facilitates individual, group, couples, and family therapy to improve the overall well-being of eligible veterans as an outpatient mental health social worker for the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System.

Russ Martin - Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist who directs the Supported Employment program within the VA's Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) Department. The goal of the CWT Supported Employment Program is for Veterans to secure and maintain competitive employment.

Dr. Bill Meirose - Transition Assistance Advisor for the State of South Dakota. His role is to assist any veteran, service member, or family member in accessing the benefits that they have earned based upon their type of service.

Patti Ramse - MSW, CSW-PIP, is the local recovery coordinator/SERVE-MH/Outpatient Mental Health at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center.

Conference Objectives

- **Apply military cultural competency to the care of veterans/service members and their families.**
- **Identify veterans/service members and their families in the population served/cared for.**
- **Discuss mental/behavioral health issues of veterans/service members and their families.**
- **Identify referral resources for veterans/service members and their families in South Dakota.**

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"The invisible scars of war follow them as they return from theater. It is our responsibility to identify these wounds, treat them and prevent the long-term physical, mental and social consequences of them."

Dr. Robert A. Petzel, Undersecretary for Health

News Release Feb. 12, 2013: VA Hires More Mental Health Professionals to Expand Access for Veterans