



# How to better serve **VETERANS**

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ★ Traumatic Brain Injury ★ Suicide

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009

1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Sedgwick County Zoo Cargill Learning Center (5555 W. Zoo Blvd - Wichita, KS)

*Keynote Speaker*

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL CYNTHIA RASMUSSEN**

## SPEAKER BIOS

### Lieutenant Colonel Cynthia Rasmussen

Lieutenant Colonel Cynthia Rasmussen has been a Mental Health Nurse in the Army Reserves for 21 years. She is in her fifth year of being mobilized to support the Global War on Terrorism and serves as the Psychological Director and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the 88th Regional Support Command. LTC Rasmussen received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from Marquette University. She was the recipient of the MOPH HONORARY SERVICE AWARD from the Military Order of the Purple Heart National Service Officer Training.

### Jason Deselms, Ph.D.

Dr. Deselms received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Wichita State University. Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007, he served as the Director of Crisis and Access Services for COMCARE of Sedgwick County. He is currently the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. In this capacity, Dr. Deselms is responsible for VA staff education and training regarding suicide prevention; screening and intervening with high risk veterans; and community outreach activities which educate important community partners regarding the specific needs of veterans and their families. He is a member of the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and is the President-Elect for the Kansas Psychological Association.

### Laura Taylor, LSCSW

Laura Taylor is the Director of Extended Care Service and Social Work Executive at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. As a service line Director, Laura is responsible for all Extended Care and Social Work Services provided not only at the Medical Center and Clinic Annexes in Wichita, but also in six Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the state.

Extended Care programs offered include, Hospice & Palliative Care, Home Based Primary Care, Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Case Management & Outreach, a 40 bed inpatient Community Living Center, VA Purchased Home Health Care Services, Contract Nursing Home and State Veteran Home Oversight, Care Coordination Home Telehealth (CCHT), as well as Respite Care, Discharge Planning, and Purchased Adult Day Health Care.

### Kristin Zenishek, LMSW

Kristin Zenishek is currently the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)/Polytrauma Coordinator for the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. As TBI/Polytrauma Coordinator Kristin is responsible for the day to day clinic operation as well as ensuring the veterans served by the clinic have the appropriate level of care.

## LEARNING TRACKS

### Mental Health Professionals

#### Objectives for the Workshop:

- ★ To understand military culture as it relates to willingness to seek mental health and substance use services and consequences for treatment.
- ★ To recognize similarities and differences in military PTSD and other presentations of PTSD.
- ★ To understand Traumatic Brain Injury and best practices.
- ★ To improve strategies for gathering information from veterans.

### Corrections, Public Defenders, & Community Members

#### Objectives for the Workshop:

- ★ To recognize the signs and symptoms in a veteran who may be suffering from PTSD, TBI, or is a suicide risk.
- ★ To identify who is eligible for VA benefits and what those benefits are.
- ★ To understand how to approach a veteran that you believe has a problem with PTSD, TBI, or suicide.



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## NO CHARGE TO ATTEND

Certificates of attendance will be provided for those requesting Continuing Education Credit

## RESERVATIONS PLEASE

Kerrie Platt 660-7015 or [kplatt@sedgwick.gov](mailto:kplatt@sedgwick.gov)