



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC)
Spring, 2016 Liaison report to CCTC**

Mission

The VA Psychology Training Council (VAPTC) is the membership group for all psychology internship and postdoctoral training directors in the Department of Veterans Affairs system. Created in 2008, our mission is to promote the development of VA training programs and training directors, facilitate sharing of information and resources among VA training programs, and serve as a voice for psychology training to national groups and organizations that may affect VA psychology training. More broadly, our training council serves to represent VA in matters of training in psychology and hopes to shape the future of VA professional psychology training at all levels from practicum to postdoctoral. The VAPTC Executive Committee also provides consultation to VA's Offices of Academic Affiliations, Mental Health Services, and Mental Health Operations on matters pertaining to training in psychology.

VAPTC Executive Committee

Members of our Executive Committee for 2015-2016 are as follows:

Chair: Joel Schmidt, PhD, VA Northern California

Chair-Elect: Bernadette Lauber, Ph.D., VA Pittsburgh Health Care System

Past Chair: Loretta Braxton, PhD, Durham VA Medical Center

Secretary/Treasurer: Allison Aosved, PhD, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Member-at-Large: Kellie Rollins, PsyD, San Francisco VA Medical Center

Member-at-Large: Kristin Rodzinka, PhD, ABPP Dayton VAMC

Member-at-Large: Amy Silberbogen, Ph.D., VA Boston Health Care System

Training Programs

VA provides Internships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Doctoral Practicum Training in many sites across the U.S. VHA's support for psychology training through the VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) has continued to increase annually. In the current academic year (2015-16), OAA is funding 640 psychology internship positions across 124 VA internship programs located in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Similarly, OAA is currently supporting approximately 418 postdoctoral fellowship positions at 75 VA medical centers in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Over the past eleven (11) years, VA psychology internship and postdoctoral training has more than doubled in scale, from 432 total positions in 2005 to 1058 in academic year 2015-16.

The VA, through OAA, has embarked on a five year project to increase Mental Health Training and recently completed year four of this cycle. Funding for round four has focused on psychology internships and neuropsychology post-doctoral fellowships, as these were seen as the areas of greatest need in psychology training. Specific emphases in all expansion rounds included interprofessional

education and rural mental health care delivery. A total of 33 internship and 9 neuropsychology fellowships were funded this round. The request for proposals for the fifth round of funding will be released later this spring.

Additional Highlights:

1. With the continued expansion of psychology training, the VAPTC continues to provide training for new training directors and an active mentoring program, helping new training directors navigate all aspects of program management, including obtaining APA accreditation.
2. The VAPTC maintains a SharePoint site of resources for VA training programs. This site was substantially revised and expanded this past year, with considerable new content added.
3. VA PTC took a leadership role in migrating VA psychology websites from national to local VA facility hosting.
4. Several new educational resources have been developed and distributed to the field from the Model Curriculum Committee and the Multicultural Diversity Committee.
5. The VAPTC is partnering with the VA Evidence Based Psychotherapy Initiative to expand training for both trainees and VA credentialed staff in specific evidence-based psychotherapies. Of note, this training includes significant review and feedback of participants' recorded clinical sessions, leading to specific competency-based evaluation of skills and learning.
6. The VAPTC Executive Committee provided combined public comments for the APA CoA Standards of Accreditation (SOA).
7. Elections for new VAPTC officers is scheduled for this spring.

Upcoming Events:

1. VAPTC Membership Conference- August 2016