Dear Mental Health Professionals:

Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Our Veterans is the theme for this issue of the Project INTERFACE Newsletter, which spotlights the special one-day Conference on May 18, 2012: Beyond "Thank You for Your Service" sponsored by MSPP in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Services. We encourage you to join us at this important event and learn how to expand your practice to better support our veterans. We also hope you will share helpful information from this Newsletter with your colleagues and/or clients as appropriate.

Project INTERFACE is growing rapidly as the number of communities we serve continues to increase. We will begin serving Harvard MA in July 2012.

It is always rewarding to hear how well our services are received, but the following quote from a child to her parent really brightened our world:

"My daughter met with [your referral] yesterday and her concluding remarks were 'Daddy, she is a good talking doctor. I really like her. We should come back again!'

As always, please let us know if you have openings for new clients, if you have updates to your INTERFACE provider profile or if you know a provider who would like to participate in INTERFACE.

If you have not yet updated your provider profile, please e-mail us at updates@projectinterface.org to receive instructions for easy online updating.

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Three Experts from MSPP Speak Out on Meeting the Mental Health
Needs of Our Veterans

The following quotes are excerpted from an article by Phyllis Hanlon, Veterans Treating Veterans: A Growing Niche, which appears in the April 2012 issue of New England Psychologist. Visit www.nepsy.com to read the entire piece, along with others from a highly regarded publication for area professionals.

"A mental health crisis is likely in the next five to 10 years if appropriate attention is not given to war veterans and their families, according to Nicholas Covino, Psy.D., President of the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. ... 'Our profession has a responsibility to revise and rework our practices to learn about military culture and equip ourselves with techniques to deal with veterans and families presenting with complaints.' ... Unresponsiveness because of the perception of inadequate skill sets will create social problems such as homelessness, divorce and alcoholism, in the future, he says.'"

"Christopher M. King, professor in MSPP's Organizational and Leadership Psychology Department, points out that psychologists in various specialty areas could benefit by learning about the culture and barriers veterans face in accessing mental health professionals. 'For instance, you really can't understand family dynamics unless you understand the deployment cycle... a cycle of behavior that changes and brings different stresses during different stages [throughout the deployment process].'"

"One Marine veteran who has accepted the call to work with his fellow veterans is Greg Matos, who anticipates graduating from MSPP this June... He says, 'We all have unique but relatively uniform experiences, such as deployment cycles, indoctrination, living on base and off... [Veterans] understand this and are potentially able to understand in a quicker way when someone talks about these experiences.'"

Recommended Resources:


Spotlight on Upcoming Programs

Beyond "Thank You for Your Service": Meeting the Needs of Returning Veterans and Their Families

This special conference presents an exciting opportunity for professionals seeking to more effectively support our veterans in learning new skills and to meet community-based practitioners - all in a beautiful setting. The program will include: current research on PTSD/TBI; understanding military culture; and working with both male and female veterans, as well as their partners and children.

**Date:** Friday, May 18, 2012  
**Time:** 9:00 am- 4:30 pm  
**Location:** Veterans Inc., Independence Hall, 59 South Street, Shrewsbury MA 01545  
**Conference Directors:** Nicholas Covino, PsyD and Christopher King, MPA  
**Program Codes:** VVF6  
**CE Credits:** 6 (for psychologists, social workers, counselors, educators and nurses)  
**Fee:** $150 (includes lunch)
Conference Agenda

**9:00 - 9:15 am  Welcome**
Nicholas Covino, PsyD, President, MSPP
Coleman Nee, Secretary of Veterans' Services, Commonwealth of Mass.
Christopher King, MPA, Executive Director, MSPP Center for Veteran Studies

**9:15 - 10:15 am  Combat Veterans: Understanding Their Cognitive Challenges**
Mary Beth O'Sullivan, CDR USNR (ret.), BSN, UMASS Boston,
Veterans Upward Bound, Outreach Coordinator

**10:15 - 11:00 am  Voices of Veterans**
Kristina Orio, DO, South Shore Hospital; Tim Joyce, President, The Not Forgotten Veteran Outreach Services;
Janice Furtado, LMHC, MSPP;
Norman Tippans, MA, MSPP

**11:00 am  Break**

**11:15 am - 12:15 pm  Working with Spouses and Children of Service Members**
Melanie Blount, MA, MSPP; Robert Dingman, EdD, MSPP;
Ruth Paris, MSW, PhD, Boston University School of Social Work

**12:15 pm  Lunch (provided)**

**1:00 - 2:15 pm  Workshops (choose one)**
- **What IS & What IS NOT Exposure Therapy for Anxiety Disorders?**
  Brian Ott, PhD, MSPP
- **Military Service and Reintegration: Understanding Military Culture**
  Sandy Dixon, PsyD, MSSP; Christopher King, MPA, MSPP
- **Primary Care**
  Christine Runyan, PhD, UMASS Medical School
- **Working with Children and Families**
  Robert Dingman, EdD, MSPP
  Michelle Acker, PsyD, Boston University School of Social Work

**2:15 pm  Break**

**2:30 - 4:00 pm  Keynote Address:**
**Serving Those Who Have Served: What Clinicians Need to Know**
Connie L. Best, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Capt. USNR (ret.)

**4:00 - 4:30 pm  Humanitarian Award Presentation and Closing Remarks**

To register for this conference and other upcoming MSPP Continuing Education programs,
visit [www.mspp.edu/ce](http://www.mspp.edu/ce) or call 617-244-1682.

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 INTERFACE
 An initiative of the Freedman Center for Child and Family Development
 at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology

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