



Maximum
Veteran
Benefit

VA Heartland Network

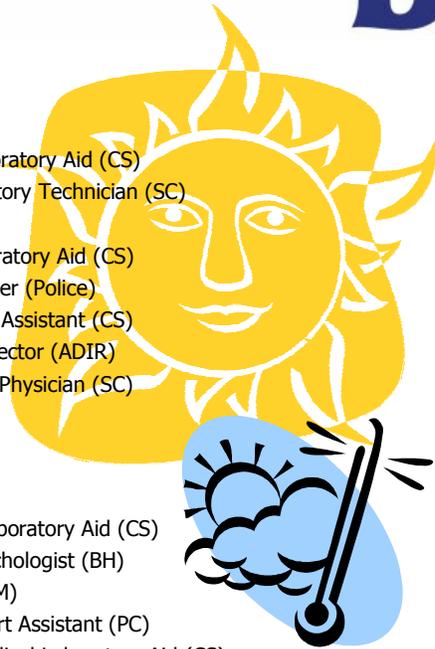
Truman VA BULLETIN



AUGUST 10
2007

WELCOME

Julie Brown, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Tony Ehler, Dental Laboratory Technician (SC)
Ana Hinkle, RN (PS)
Amy Houck, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Mark Kirksey, Police Officer (Police)
Anthony Lopez, Autopsy Assistant (CS)
Marc Magill, Associate Director (ADIR)
Sameer Stas, MD, Staff Physician (SC)
Arianna Todd, RN (PS)



FAREWELL

Joshua Arner, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
John Higdon, PhD, Psychologist (BH)
Dierdre Shea, Laborer (FM)
John West, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
Jennifer Wideman, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Lynn Williams, Patient Services Assistant (SC)

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Sue Bystrom (PC), **Billy Davenport** (FM), **Carmen Vroman** (BH), and **Phyllis Ward** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at ext 56397 for information.

AUGUST SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

30-Years

Charles D. Burchett (FM) ☼
Bonnie L. Vedenhouth, RN (PS) ☼

25-Years

Laura H. DeVenney, RN (PC) ☼

20-Years

Charles A. Burton (FM) ☼
Karen S. Reider, RN (PS) ☼

15-Years

Jon L. Freeland (CS) ☼

10-Years

Tammy L. Farrell, RN (PS) ☼

5-Years

Robert L. Bernskoetter, OD (SC) ☼
Erin M. Carr (PS) ☼
Myo Lwin, MD (PC) ☼



TRUMAN VA NURSE MANAGERS

<i>Associate Director/Patient Svcs</i>	Lynn Cooper
<i>Associate Chief Nurse</i>	Mary Wideman
<i>Team Care</i>	Becky Rahmoeller
<i>Emergency Department/HBPC</i>	Lula Johnson
<i>Cardiology/Specialty Clinics</i>	Neva Berkey
<i>OR/PACU/SDS/Imaging</i>	Marie Hulett
<i>Behavioral Health</i>	Maya Warren
<i>3 East</i>	Maureen Anderson
<i>4 Med</i>	Tadd Greenfield
<i>6 Surg/Med</i>	Jennifer Bechtel
<i>ICU</i>	Vanessa Brown
<i>Step Down Unit</i>	LaDonna Crum
<i>Special Programs</i>	Beverly Hagenhoff

VA'S SUICIDE HOT LINE BEGINS OPERATIONS

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, VA has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hot line. The toll-free hot line number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Mental health professionals in Canandaigua, N.Y. will take toll-free calls from across the country and work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers. To operate the national hot line, VA is partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

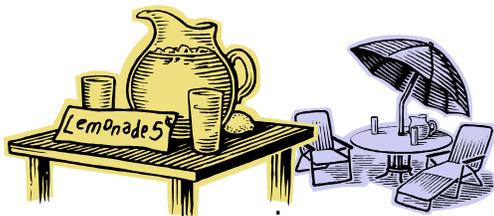
The suicide hot line is among several enhancements to mental health care that VA has made this year. Earlier, resources were provided to add suicide prevention coordinators at each VA medical center. **Kathy Crews, RN** was selected for that position at Truman VA Hospital. VA is the largest provider of mental health care in the nation. This year, VA will spend about \$3 billion for mental health. More than 9,000 mental health professionals, backed up by primary care physicians and other health professionals in every VA medical center and outpatient clinic, provide mental health care to about one million veterans each year.



LOCAL GRANT AWARDED FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

In July, VA announced the award of a \$102,821 grant to Phoenix Programs Inc. of Columbia to provide more assistance to homeless veterans. The local announcement was part of a broader announcement that reflected \$24 million in grants to 92 community-based groups for homeless programs in 37 states. The grants are part of VA's continuing efforts to reduce homelessness among veterans. VA has the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country. Throughout the country, VA social workers and other clinicians working with community partners conduct extensive outreach programs, clinical assessments, medical treatments, alcohol and drug abuse counseling and employment assistance. VA estimates that fewer than 200,000 veterans may be homeless on an average night, which represents a 20 percent reduction during the past six years.

Denise Heet, LCSW (BH), coordinator for the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program at Truman VA, reports that this particular grant will be used primarily for the development of transitional housing for homeless veterans



RETIREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULED

Retirement seminars are scheduled Sept. 18 and 19 in the auditorium. Employees must notify **Carol Malloy** (HR) at extension 56398 or **Lea Foster** (PS) at extension 54071 by Sept. 5 if they wish to attend. They must clear their attendance through their supervisor. Priority consideration will be given to those who are eligible to retire, or eligible within the next five years. It is possible that all interested employees will be able to attend, but, if necessary, a waiting list will be developed. At this point, the seminars are for employees only. To register for a seminar, either e-mail or call Carol or Lea and specify if you are FERS, CSRS or Offset plan. Registered participants will receive notice verifying their expected attendance at the seminar. The retirement seminars are scheduled as follows:

Civil Service and Offset Employees –
Tuesday, Sept. 18, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FERS Employees –
Wednesday, Sept. 19, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION NEWS

■ The Employees Association needs your help with MU football game parking. This project is the organization's only fundraiser and the money collected helps fund the many events sponsored and organized for employees and their families. Each volunteer receives a tee shirt/sweatshirt and a movie ticket or travel mug. The 2007 football schedule is as follows:

Sept. 15	Western Michigan (Family Weekend)
Sept. 22	Illinois State (Band Day)
Oct. 6	Nebraska (Gold Rush)
Oct. 20	Texas Tech (Homecoming)
Oct. 27	Iowa State
Nov. 10	Texas A&M (Black Out)

For more information or to sign up, please contact any of the following Employees Association board members: **Kristina Gaddy, Amy Pulliam, Mabelle Dykstra** or **Erica Keeler**.

■ A trip to the St. Louis Zoo is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 29. The bus will leave Truman VA at 8:00 a.m. and will depart the zoo at 4:30 p.m., with estimated arrival in Columbia at 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5 per person, which includes the coach bus ride and lunch. In addition, reduced price activity tickets will be available. They include the Zooline Railroad for \$2 each (regularly \$5), Children's Zoo admission for \$1.50 (regularly \$4) and Wild Adventure Ride admission for \$1.25 (regularly \$3). Tickets will be sold Friday, Aug. 10 and Friday, Aug. 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Cardiology lobby. There is a limit of four (4) tickets per employee. For more information, contact **Mabelle Dykstra, Barb Hatfield** or **Teresa Smith**.

GENERAL POSTAL NEWS

A new mail rule took effect July 30 for packages and envelopes that weigh more than 13 ounces, if they are being mailed with stamps at a location other than a Post Office retail service counter.

Customers wishing to mail items that weigh more than 13 ounces in (1) Postal Service collection boxes, (2) Post Office lobby mail slots or (3) by pickup by their letter carrier can use one of several convenient online postage applications – available



24 hours a day, seven days a week - or an Automated Postal Center. Online postage applications include the Postal Service's Click-N-Ship service on www.usps.com and PC Postage from an authorized Postal Service vendor. Business customers that use postage meters are not affected by this rule and may continue to use meter postage for packages of any weight and mailing method.