Dear prospective interns,

“Why would I want to come to Kansas?” That’s a great question, and we hope to answer that question both in terms of our training and our community.

We place high priority on providing excellent supervision with interns. Site visitors have commended the quality of our relationship with interns. In our evaluations our interns praise the energy and devotion we give to supervision. We value our interns and take pride in teaching them what we know in order to prepare them for entry level practice as psychologists. We focus on each intern’s training goals and utilize feedback to continually improve our training experience.

Internship is not all work, and this is a 40 hour a week site. We value a balance of hard work and self care. This area has a lot to offer! The cost of living is very reasonable here, and your stipend dollars offer you a good standard of living. Housing options range from country living to urban lofts. A variety of entertainment can be found including professional sports, theater, art, outdoors activities, shopping and of course a variety of dining options.

Thank you for taking the time to acquaint yourself with the Psychology internship at VA Eastern Kansas Healthcare System. Our site has two main campuses which process applications separately and we invite you to apply to Leavenworth, Topeka or both sites. In your cover letter please let us know if you are applying to a single site by name or applying to both sites. We recognize the challenge, energy and expense in finding a good match for your internship. This is a capstone experience in your professional development, and we appreciate your consideration of our site. Best of luck to you!

P. Chad Neal, Ph.D.                      Jamye Buelke Brown, Ph.D.
Director of Training (116)              Assoc. Director of Training (PCT-116B)
Dwight D Eisenhower VAMC                 Colmery-O’Neil VAMC
4101 South 4th Street Trafficway        2200 SW Gage Blvd.
Leavenworth, KS 66048                   Topeka, KS 66622-0001
(913) 682-2000, Ext. 52383              (785) 350-3111, Ext. 52075

Leavenworth MATCH Number: 130411
Topeka MATCH Number: 130412
Applications Due: November 15
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Accreditation Status
The predoctoral internship at the **VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System** is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association

American Psychological Association
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC  20002-4242
Phone: 202-336-5979
TDD/TTY: 202-336-6123
Fax: 202-336-5978

Application & Selection Procedures

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS:

To be considered for the predoctoral stipend internship program, the applicant must be a full time student actively involved in pursuing the Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an APA -ACCREDITED PROGRAM. The student must have completed a minimum of 500 practicum hours and be within one year or less of completing all requirements for the Ph.D. or Psy.D. They must have completed all graduate prerequisites for internship candidacy including completion of comprehensive exams by November 15th of the fall in which they are applying for internship. All applicants must have U.S. citizenship to be considered for an internship with the VA. A male applicant born after 12/31/1959 must have registered for the draft by age 26 to be eligible for any US government employment, including selection as a paid VA trainee. Male applicants must sign a pre-appointment Certification Statement for Selective Service Registration before they can be processed into a training program. Interns and Fellows are subject to fingerprinting and background checks. Match result and selection decisions are contingent on passing these screens. VA conducts drug screening exams on randomly selected personnel as well as new employees.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Students may now access the AAPI Online ([www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org), click on “AAPI Online”) to create and develop their application for the selection process. In order to apply to VAEKHCS, please complete the APPIC online registration. **In the cover letter, please specify which site (Leavenworth, Topeka, or both) you are applying to.** Additionally, please provide us with three letters of recommendations and your graduate school transcripts. We do not require any supplemental information to the online application. The AAPI Online should be used by students to apply to all APPIC-member internship programs as well as those non-member programs that register to participate in the APPIC Match.

POST APPLICATION PROCESS:

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the VAEKHCS is an equal opportunity employer. VA does not tolerate unlawful discrimination, including workplace harassment, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age (40 or older), disability, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or retaliation for opposing discriminatory practices or participating in the discrimination-complaint process. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, reassignments, training, career development, benefits, and separation.

Training staff recognize the impact of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability, culture, and gender across all levels of psychological theory, research, practice, and education. We seek both staff and interns who are strongly committed to diversity and who are supportive of providing a welcoming
work and training environment. We welcome members of underrepresented groups including women and minorities, and encourage them to apply for positions. The training staff at the VAEKHCS believes that we provide a safe and encouraging environment for the exploration of multicultural and diversity issues.

Each site (COVAMC and DDEVAMC) appoints a minimum of three psychologists to serve on independent Intern Selection Committees. Each member reads, reviews, and scores the applications assigned to them. After all applicants have been reviewed and rank ordered, the top applicants at each site will be offered interviews. Applicants not selected for interviews will be notified (by e-mail) by December 15th that they are no longer candidates for the VAEKHCS internship. On-site interviews will be in early January. Applicants may be offered interviews at one or both sites.

Following the last scheduled applicant interview, the Intern Selection Committees will meet again with additional information gathered during the interviewing process and will rank order their respective candidates. There will be no notification for candidates who are no longer under consideration.

The VAEKHCS submits two lists to the National Matching Service: one list is submitted ranking candidates for the COVAMC (Topeka) program (National Matching Service Number is 130412) and one list for the DDEVAMC (Leavenworth) program (National Matching Service Number is 130411). Lists must be submitted in accordance with yearly dates established by APPIC. Applicants may be listed by one or both sites.

APPIC Match Day is generally in late February, set yearly by APPIC. Following confirmation of match results, the Site Directors will confirm the selection of interns by phone and letter to the applicant and the applicant’s university training director. Selected interns will be asked to provide a written statement officially accepting and committing to the internship training program. Interns will be required to complete an application for federal employment, to include a physical examination, prior to the internship start date. This will be coordinated through VAEKHCS administrative staff. We recommend completing the physical examination at VAEKHCS. Additionally, interns will be assigned computer based training modules to be completed prior to their arrival.

**Psychology Setting**

**VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System**

VAEKHCS is one of eight medical centers in the Heartland Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and is a part of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)—the Nation’s largest integrated health care system. VAEKHCS was created in 1997 by the integration of the Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC in Leavenworth and the Colmery-O’Neil VAMC in Topeka. Although these two hospitals each have a long history of separately providing medical and psychiatric care, they are each strengthened by their integration. Patients who often travel between the two facilities are now assured continuity of care.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower VA in Leavenworth sits on a bluff above the Missouri River in the first town established in Kansas by settlers. The Colmery-O’Neil VA in Topeka, in the Kansas capital, was the first VA internship accredited by APA and the first major training site for psychiatric residents immediately following WWII under the direction of Dr Karl Menninger. Kansas City, the nearest large city, is roughly 30 miles from Leavenworth and 60 miles from Topeka.

**VAEKHCS Mission Statement**

To provide accessible, courteous, comprehensive, and quality health care to veterans in an environment of excellence.
VAEKHCS Vision Statement

WE Will:

PROMOTE the health and wellness of the veteran population we serve.

ACHIEVE distinction as a quality patient-driven health care system that provides the full range of medical, behavioral, rehabilitative, and preventive services to veterans and others.

IMPROVE our clinical care through research, education, and creative administration to become a model for the future.

VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System is designated as a "general-type" hospital and provides comprehensive medical care for many types of disabilities. There are approximately 1,504 FTEE employed by VAEKHCS. The workforce is ethnically diverse and educationally varied. A recognized leader in technology, VAEKHCS developed and implemented two important technology advancements: Bar Code Medication Administration System and Telephone Nurse Triage Program.

The VAEKHCS is described as serving rural, urban, and suburban populations. Patients are predominantly male although 5.4% are female. The average age is 48 (with a range of 18 to late 90s). The veteran ethnic breakdown includes 27% African Americans, 1% Hispanics/Latinos, and 1% Native Americans. For many veterans, the VA is their only source for health care.

VAEKHCS provides training to 170 students of medicine and psychiatry and allied health professions including psychology, social work, nutrition and food service, and horticultural therapy. In addition, members of the Kansas Air National Guard receive clinical training at COVAMC.

The health care system comprises of fourteen Service Lines:

- Administrative
- Behavioral Health
- Clinical Support
- Diagnostic Care
- Facilities Management
- Geriatrics and Extended Care
- Health and Finance
- Human Resources
- Information Management
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Social Work
- Surgery & Surgical Specialties

There are a total of 42 full time psychologists at VA Eastern Kansas Health Care system (23 in Topeka and 19 in Leavenworth). Psychologists have their own administrative service (Psychology Service) but are assigned to Behavioral Health Service Line providing psychiatric care in varied milieu. Psychologists are actively involved as members of multidisciplinary teams. Behavioral Health Service Line consists of a wide range of treatment modalities for short- and long-term patients, and thus a continuum of care for patients. In addition to general psychiatry, there are specialized programs to meet specific patient needs. These programs include inpatient and outpatient PTSD, geropsychiatry, neuropsychiatry, addiction treatment, primary care, and others. Details about these and the other programs can be found in the site-specific descriptions later in the online brochure.
COLMERY-O’NEIL VA MEDICAL CENTER (COVAMC) (TOPEKA)

OVERVIEW:

The COVAMC is located in Topeka, the capital city of the state of Kansas. The COVAMC is officially designated as a “general” type hospital and has a long history of being one of the finest psychiatric treatment centers in the nation.

A BIT OF HISTORY:

As an Army hospital, Winter General Hospital was activated as a new military installation on December 26, 1942. It was transferred to the Veterans Administration (VA) in December 1945. It was the first Army hospital in the nation to be taken over and operated by the VA following World War II. The VA Medical Center was formally dedicated on January 11, 1946, with Dr. Karl A. Menninger, noted psychiatrist and author, as Manager. Under his leadership, the hospital became a model for other VA psychiatric hospitals and a training center for the psychiatrists needed urgently by the VA. In the exciting first year of operation, there were 112 residents in psychiatry, five in surgery, four in medicine, and one in otorhinolaryngology. The number of psychiatrists trained in this hospital exceeded all other hospitals in the United States combined. In addition, specialized training programs were initiated for clinical psychologists, nursing personnel, social workers, corrective therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and music therapists. The buildings transferred to the VA were temporary structures.

Although new buildings were authorized in 1946, it was not until 12 years later that a new, 23 million dollar, 1,011-bed hospital was dedicated on August 24, 1958. Within a six-hour period, the movement of patients and personnel from the old to the new hospital structure was completed. The present hospital, consisting of 20 interconnected buildings and 174 operating beds, is designed to meet the needs of the current patient population.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER VA MEDICAL CENTER (DDEVAMC) (LEAVENWORTH)

OVERVIEW:

Located in Leavenworth, KS, within a short twenty-minute drive from the Kansas City International Airport, the DDEVAMC supports a General Medical and Surgical Hospital, Community Living Center, and Domiciliary. In addition, it supports outpatient, aftercare, and community-based programs in St. Joseph, MO and Kansas City, KS.

A BIT OF HISTORY:

The Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center (DDEVAMC) was established as the Western National Home for Disabled Veterans in 1885. DDEVAMC is set in rural America on a beautiful campus on the rolling bluffs of the Missouri River. Veterans and staff who find the rural way of life less stressful are attracted to this small midwestern Veterans Affairs facility. With fourteen full-time psychologists, interns find they are quickly integrated into the professional culture, and are given opportunities to expand their knowledge base and gain both breadth and depth in clinical training. Veterans and staff alike value the opportunities gained by being part of a psychology internship training facility.

Psychologists have responsibilities in all areas of the hospital. Direct ongoing clinical work, however, is concentrated in the Mental Health Primary Care Clinic (providing outpatient treatment), Addiction Treatment Program, and the Domiciliary, which houses the Homeless Veterans Program, Health Maintenance Program, and the Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Program, and in the Primary Care area of the main hospital. To a lesser degree, there are opportunities for interns to gain experience with specialty areas in Vocational Rehabilitation, Research, and Neuropsychology.
Training Model and Program Philosophy

The basic philosophy underlying the internship training program is grounded in the belief that given academic preparation of nearly a decade of undergraduate and graduate work, interns have attained a certain level of intellectual and emotional maturity which prepares them for the final formal educational and experiential step: the internship year. During the internship year, students are provided a supportive, supervised environment in which they continue to develop competencies while assuming growing responsibility for patients in preparation for functioning independently. Staff interactions with interns encourage movement toward autonomy. Interns are actively involved in selecting supervisors, choosing training assignments, participating in training seminars and workshops, and providing evaluation and input into the internship program.

The VAEKHCS model for training is competency based within a scientist-practitioner framework. Competencies are defined by behavioral markers and are sequential, cumulative, and graded in complexity. Expectations are outlined in each of the competency areas for target level at end of each training period. The training year is divided into three training periods, and the intern is expected to achieve a higher level of competency with each successive training period.

The VAEKHCS is based upon a scientist-practitioner model as defined by several key components. Interns must evidence scientist-practitioner thinking as it applies to clinical work. The use of empirically supported treatments is required as a component of their clinical competencies. Interns will read current psychological literature and to provide one research presentation. Interns will demonstrate competencies in empirical evaluations of their work, as evidenced through monitoring outcomes of their work.

Training occurs through didactic training, clinical experience, ongoing supervision, and periodic evaluations. Interns are prepared for the practice of psychology and thus, to enter the professional field in positions reflective of the training received.

The Psychology Internship Training Program is sponsored by and viewed as an integral part of the VAEKHCS, whose mission is providing excellence in care to veterans, military retirees and dependents. The overarching goal of the training program is to provide professional growth opportunities for the interns and trainees while enhancing the quality of patient care.

VAEKHCS Psychology Internship Training Program values diversity in staff, interns, and Veteran consumers. Our program welcomes people with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. We seek to create a training environment welcoming of diverse interns and to provide clinical care respectful of human diversity. The Medical Center strives to create a therapeutic environment for, and ensure ethical treatment of, patients with diverse backgrounds and characteristics. Thus, an important goal of the training program is to increase interns’ knowledge and skills in working with a wide range of clients from different cultural backgrounds.
Program Goals & Objectives

VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System Psychology Service Training Program Mission Statement:

*Eastern Kansas Health Care System is committed to creating an emotionally supportive and intellectually challenging environment in order to develop competent, caring, and ethical psychologists trained to work with diverse populations. We emphasize quality professional relationships, critical scientific thinking, and high quality supervision across a wide variety of experiences striving to meet the individual needs of each intern.*

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives answer the question as to why we are providing a training program and how we intend to measure our success in meeting the goals.

Goal 1: Increase each intern’s competency over the training year to be ready for the next level of professional development

A. Demonstrate competency in research and scholarly inquiry
B. Demonstrate competency in ethical and legal standards
C. Demonstrate competency in individual and cultural diversity
D. Demonstrate competency in professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
E. Demonstrate competency in interpersonal skills (communication, consultation, and interdisciplinary effectiveness)
F. Demonstrate competency in assessment, conceptualization, and diagnosis
G. Demonstrate competency in intervention

Goal 2: Develop and implement an intern centered training plan

A. Identify training goals of each intern to include strengths, interests, and areas for growth
B. Collaboratively select training experiences balancing the goals of the individual intern in order to help them develop their professional competencies
C. Write a competency development plan for each rotation to identify how competencies will be achieved
D. Foster a safe learning environment where interns are able to explore and grow recognizing that learning takes place outside one’s comfort zone

Goal 3: Provide a broad range of VA experiences in order to prepare the next generation of psychologists to meet the needs of our nations veterans

A. Complete a range of training rotations and experiences allowing for a broad generalist training experience
B. Develop awareness of the unique dynamics of working with the veteran population
C. Balance training with productivity by setting recommended hour targets of 500 hours for the year for direct patient contact, 200 hours for the year of supervision, and 100 hours for the year of didactic training

The underlying philosophy, goals, and objectives profoundly affect the interaction between staff and interns. Interns are trained and encouraged to move toward autonomous functioning as professional psychologists in a scientist-practitioner model. The training program emphasizes the active involvement of the intern in choosing training assignments, participating in training seminars and workshops, and in providing input into the internship program. Interns are provided ongoing evaluation/feedback to assist them with self-monitoring their own progress toward autonomy.
Program Structure

OVERVIEW:

The VAEKHCS Psychology Internship Training Program was officially integrated with the new millennium. The two sites have a long independent APA-accredited history. The COVAMC training program began in 1946, one of the first programs to be started in the Veterans Administration, and was fully accredited by APA in 1974. The DDEVAMC became fully accredited in 1980. Both programs were reaccredited independently in 1999 for the maximum reaccreditation of five years. In May 2001, an APA formal visit took place to review the merger of the two programs into the current joint training program. Notification was received in July 2001 awarding continuing accreditation status as a merged training program. The most recent APA site visit review was completed in 2016.

The Psychology Internship Program is a one-year pre-doctoral internship in professional psychology. The VAEKHCS supports 8 funded doctoral intern positions – 4 are located at the Topeka site and 4 at the Leavenworth site. Each site, historically and culturally different in its approach and training emphasis, recognize common competencies, evaluation and administrative processes.

EXPECTATIONS AND BENEFITS:

1. Length of program: The 2080-hour internship will begin in late July, and will last for one calendar year. It is a 40-hour per week program (and we REALLY mean that!) lasting 12 months.
2. Training Components: Interns are required to complete a minimum of 500 hours of direct patient contact, 200 hours of supervision, and 100 hours of didactic training.
3. Funding: A stipend of $24,014 is provided in 26 bi-weekly payments. Health benefits are available for interested interns. Exceptions: OPM rules state retired Federal Employees are not eligible for funding for this position.
4. The cost of living in this area is VERY reasonable, so the stipend in #3 goes a long way here!
5. Leave and paid time off consist of 10 Federal holidays, 12 days of annual (vacation) leave, and 12 days of sick leave. Authorized Absence is approved by the Site Directors for off-campus workshops and seminars.
6. Interns are strongly encouraged to complete their dissertations so they may be job-ready and begin documenting hours for licensure immediately following completion of the internship and graduation. We support your dissertation efforts STRONGLY while you are with us!
7. Staff and interns each have their own offices. Other training resources include video, audio and reproduction equipment, access to intralibrary loan through the VA, computer literature searches, periodicals and audio/video holdings, and auditorium facilities for meetings.
8. As a Federal Employee, interns will complete pre-employment paperwork and some computer pre-training so that they can hit the ground running when they arrive on site.

INTERNSHIP ROTATIONS AND CASES

During the orientation phase, interns are familiarized with their respective medical center. They visit the various treatment units at their hospital as well as the staff psychologists assigned to those units. During this time, interns attend VA-required New Employee Orientation sessions and consider potential rotation sites and supervisors. Additionally, within the first couple of months interns have opportunities to visit the other site and participate in Psychology Service staff meetings with members from both sites.

Rotation options vary depending on the medical center location. See the specific site for more information on rotations.
SUPERVISION

Supervision is provided both formally and informally during the internship year. In keeping with APA and APPIC standards, a minimum of four hours of formal supervision is scheduled each week. Many additional hours are accumulated and logged through informal or extra scheduled time.

Supervision is provided as follows:

Director of Training: Chad Neal, Ph.D. – Leavenworth Site Director
Associate Director of Training: Jamye Brown, Ph.D. – Topeka Site Director

- Provides general administration of internship
- Provides supervision related to the administrative tasks, and professional development
- Develops and maintains supportive relationship with interns at both sites
- Coordinates the didactic program
- Contributes to the evaluation of the interns
- Oversees completion of competency and minimum requirements
- Chairperson, Psychology Internship Training Committee

Primary Supervisor (assigned during orientation):

- Serves year-long as student advocate
- Provides general (student or issue focused) supervision
- Oversees the progress of competency achievement
- Recommends modification of training plan

Rotation Supervisor(s):

- Integrates activities of intern with rotation staff
- Supervises intern’s rotation related administrative responsibilities
- Participates with intern in co-therapy/co-assessment as appropriate
- Oversees initiation and completion of rotation contracts
- Serves as case supervisor for ongoing psychotherapy and/or assessment cases
- Provides specific (patient focused) supervision of the therapy cases
- Oversees progress of intervention/assessment competencies

Peer Supervision:

- Provides intern opportunity for peer support/bonding
- Encourages opportunity for networking

Group Supervision:

- Site Training Directors meet with their site’s interns to discuss intern class issues, professional development issues, discuss administrative issues, and discuss journal articles on ethics, scientist-practitioner models, etc.

OTHER SUPERVISED TRAINING EXPERIENCES

Whatever roles are attributed to psychologists in professional practice are appropriate training activities during the internship. Specifically, these include assessment, interviewing, psychotherapy, consultation, administration, research, program development, and training. While not all of these experiences may necessarily be gained during the internship, the majority can be gained over the course of the internship through rotation assignments and psychotherapy and assessment casework.
DIDACTIC TRAINING

Formal didactic training addressing each of the seven competency areas is provided weekly. Each session is one hour and is presented through videoconferencing format. Thus, interns from both sites along with psychology staff join together weekly for educational purposes. Each session is facilitated by a senior Psychology staff member or outside mental health professional. In addition to these regularly scheduled seminars, additional opportunities for elective didactic training are provided through Continuing Medical Education, Psychiatry Grand Rounds, special half-day seminars supported by Psychology Service with outside speakers, and/or special presentations by pharmaceutical companies. Online didactic training covering a wide variety of topics is also available. Interns are required to log a minimum of 100 hours of didactic training during the course of the year.

INTERN EVALUATIONS

The evaluation process is an important aspect of the overall training program. It is an ongoing process that allows for quickly identifying and correcting growth areas. Criteria for competencies are outlined in the training manual. There are numerous avenues for demonstrating competencies, including rotation activity, individual cases, and case presentations. Evaluations are formally completed using a set of standardized competency measures and criteria at the end of each training period. This set of measures and criteria, along with a summary graph, guides supervisory feedback during mid-training period evaluations.

1. Entry Level Evaluation: During orientation, the intern is evaluated on entry-level requirements including, to include general knowledge relevant to VA psychology, psychological report writing, and basic therapy skills (knowledge and demonstrated skills).

2. Training period Evaluations: The interns develop rotation contracts with their supervisors at the beginning of a training period. Certain mandatory experiences, as outlined in the training manual, must be successfully completed during the internship year. The intern is evaluated informally midway and formally at the end of each training period (every four months).

3. Case Conference Evaluation: Interns are expected to present two case conferences each year as another means of demonstrating competencies: one assessment-oriented case and one therapy-oriented case.

4. Competency Progress Form: Supervisory Psychology staff and interns meet every four months to formally discuss the progress each intern is making. Criteria documentation, contracts, and case conference evaluations are reviewed with the intern present. Competency Progress is noted and signed off on by all parties. Copies of the Competency Progress Form and summary are made available to the Academic Training Director.
Training Experiences

TOPEKA TRAINING ROTATIONS

Topeka interns will complete three four-month major rotations during the course of their training year. Major rotation experiences are intensive immersion experiences. Majors are 20-hours per week and are selected collaboratively by the intern and supervisor as the training year progresses. Interns will complete a required minor rotation in Evidence Based Practices. Focus of this experience will be Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Integrated Behavioral Couples Therapy, and Conjoint Behavioral Couples Therapy. In addition, interns will have four to six hours allotted to engage in other clinical activities consistent with training goals. These are elective or sampling experiences that offer the intern an opportunity to gain broader experiences in a variety of clinical areas. Elective experiences are dependent upon the major rotation and, like the major, are decided upon collaboratively with supervisors. Past interns have elected to spend hours focusing on experiences in Women’s Health, Geropsychology, Residential Treatment, LGBT Programs, Research, and Addictions. Interns will participate in didactic trainings throughout the year and will train in assessment – including personality testing batteries and compensation/pension examinations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Rotations</th>
<th>Example Elective Experiences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Clinic</td>
<td>Addictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychology</td>
<td>Geropsychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Mental Health Integration</td>
<td>Psychiatric Recovery and Wellness Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress Disorder Treatment Program</td>
<td>Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Health Clinic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Topeka interns will have exposure to diverse populations and diagnoses in a variety of settings. A range of training experiences in intervention and assessment are available throughout the rotations. The table below illustrates how time is allocated to different clinical activities during the internship year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Rotation – 4 months</th>
<th>2nd Rotation – 4 months</th>
<th>3rd Rotation – 4 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Rotation #1</td>
<td>Major Rotation #2</td>
<td>Major Rotation #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective Clinical Experiences</td>
<td>Elective Clinical Experiences</td>
<td>Elective Clinical Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 hours</td>
<td>4-6 hours</td>
<td>4-6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Minor – Evidence Based Practices</td>
<td>6-8 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>4-6 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didactics and Supervision</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Close monitoring of interns rotation and training contracts throughout the year assures that interns complete all the competencies in a timely manner. We believe interns will present to the training program with different strengths and weaknesses reflective of their University or Professional School emphasis in training. Our job is to help interns build on their strengths and efficiently address their growth areas so that they leave internship ready to enter the professional world of psychology.

MAJOR ROTATIONS

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC/ACUTE PSYCHIATRY UNIT

The Mental Health Clinic/Acute Psychiatry Unit rotation delivers services to over 1,800 Veterans. Veterans seeking treatment are evaluated by clinic personnel, after which treatment is provided. Veterans are then assigned to a treatment team consisting of a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, and nurse, as well as students in those disciplines. When Veterans require hospitalization on the Acute Psychiatric units, they are assigned to specialized teams. The patient population includes eligible Veterans; family members are able to participate in treatment if they are worked with in conjunction with the Veteran. A variety of diagnostic categories are represented in this patient population, including schizophrenic disorders, major affective disorders, anxiety disorders (with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder being very common), acute psychosis, substance dependence disorders, and personality disorders.

Interns on this rotation focus on various types of evaluation and treatment. We provide psychological assessment with a heavy reliance on the MMPI-2 and the Rorschach to evaluate psychological functioning; interns also have the opportunity to complete evaluations for transplants, ADHD, pain implant surgery, and bariatric surgery. Interns are also involved in intake assessments for veterans who are new to the VA system. Psychotherapy is available in both the inpatient and outpatient programs. Interns also co-facilitate several psychotherapy/psychoeducational groups and have the opportunity to work with clients in individual/marital psychotherapy. Finally, the intern functions as a team member providing feedback about assessment results, as well as contributing to the treatment planning process. All psychologists on this rotation have been trained by the VA in various evidence-based psychotherapies.

Assessment in this rotation focuses primarily on diagnostic clarification; this involves understanding the uniqueness of each person and integrating salient diversity issues. Provision of treatment recommendations is also important in this process. The group psychotherapy work involves interventions that range from teaching coping skills to cognitive restructuring and working with the emotional aspects of trauma; evidence-based therapies are utilized in this work (e.g., ACT, CPT, CBT-D, CBT-I, IBCT, CBCT for PTSD, MET, MI) as well as other psychotherapies (e.g., General Psychotherapy, an LGBT Group, A DBT Group, a Mindfulness/Skills Groups, an Interdisciplinary Psychoeducational Program on Chronic Pain, and Weight Control Groups). This rotation offers the intern an opportunity to work with persons with varied diagnoses, ethnic backgrounds, and problems.

STRESS DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM (SDTP)
(A PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program)

This program is under the direction of Dr. Gadt-Johnson, who serves as the Program Manager. The SDTP offers a 7-week residential recovery treatment program for Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other stress-related disorders. This 21-bed unit is designed to help male and female Veterans and active duty personnel deal more effectively with traumatic experiences that occurred during their military service. Combat trauma, military sexual trauma (MST), and other kinds of traumas are treated utilizing predominantly Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT). In addition to addressing PTSD symptoms, treatment focuses on evidence based practices for the management of other affective symptoms, dual diagnosis/substance recovery, spiritual growth and healing, stress management, and reintegration into family and community functioning.
The SDTP provides the intern an opportunity to develop numerous psychotherapy and psychodiagnostic skills. The intern is a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team reflecting various approaches in working with the patient population. In addition to contributing to the therapeutic milieu, specific responsibilities include co-leading CPT groups for PTSD, co-leading traditional Yalom-based groups, and leading/participating in psychoeducative modules emphasizing a host of stress-related management issues. The intern is also a participant in regular treatment team meetings.

The intern has the opportunity to develop greater psychodiagnostic skills with group-administered psychological instruments such as the MMPI-2, and individually administered instruments such as the Rorschach, TAT, and a variety of PTSD assessment and screening measures. Interested interns may also work toward developing greater expertise in such areas as program evaluation, staff training, and treatment outcomes.

Veterans are referred to the SDTP by their outpatient providers and come voluntarily to address their issues. The SDTP treatment approach emphasizes active, cognitive-behavioral interventions designed to help Veterans work through trauma issues, restructure their cognitive beliefs about self and others, and learn a host of related emotional, cognitive, and behavioral tools to live a better life. Interns will have the opportunity to train in state of the art techniques and therapies to treat these PTSD-related problems. Working with these Veterans provides interns an opportunity to develop broad-based skills in a number of areas within applied psychology.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

The Neuropsychology Clinic is responsible for the cognitive assessment of adults with known or suspected central nervous system dysfunction. Referrals come to the clinic from throughout the facility and include both inpatients and outpatients. Common clinical populations include traumatic brain injury, dementia, seizure disorder, stroke, neoplasm, and pseudo-neurologic disorders. The clinic utilizes a flexible battery approach to neuropsychological assessment. The test results are combined with medical history, behavioral observations and clinical interviews to formulate a diagnosis and appropriate treatment recommendations. Particular emphasis is placed on writing meaningful reports that are helpful to both the patient and the referral source.

PRIMARY CARE MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

The Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) rotation allows interns to gain experience in delivery of behavioral health interventions in a primary care setting. We work as an integrated member of the medical team alongside physicians, dietitians, medical support assistants, and pharmacists. Referrals will come from a Veteran's primary care provider through a same day appointment or consult. Interns on this rotation will learn how to conduct a focused 30 minute functional assessment. Common presenting complaints include depression, anxiety, trauma, and adjustment problems such as drinking or smoking, poor diabetes management, and weight loss. Additionally, interns will gain exposure to working with bariatric patients, oncology patients, and patients within the chronic disease management clinic. Interns have the opportunity to learn brief intervention strategies such as Motivational Interviewing, Prolonged Exposure - Primary Care, Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, CBT for Chronic Pain and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia. Therapeutic interventions are generally limited to 4 - 6, 30 minute sessions, though some exceptions can be made depending on the goals of the intern. Additionally, there are opportunities to participate in pre-surgical evaluations along with co-facilitating a whole health group for those who struggle with chronic illness.
REQUIRED MINOR ROTATION

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES

The Evidence Based Practices minor rotation is operated within the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT). PCT provides outpatient services for Veterans diagnosed with PTSD and is under the direction of a supervisory psychologist, Dr. Jim Sharpnack. Along with two staff psychologists, a nurse, and consulting prescribers, this multi-disciplinary treatment team provides care to more than 500 male and female Veterans. The mission of the program is to decrease damage caused by PTSD and other mental health problems. Goals include reducing the impact of symptoms upon Veterans’ daily functioning, improving social and family relationships, and advancing overall quality of life.

Interns participating in this minor will develop skills in Evidence Based Practices, including Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Integrated Behavioral Couples Therapy/Conjoint Behavioral Couples Therapy. Depending on Veteran need, other EBPs (e.g., Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) may also be available. The goal of this experience is for interns to develop working knowledge of the protocols and to have opportunities to use these protocols with Veterans across the training year. Assessment is also a component of the EBP minor. Interns will complete intake assessments, which include interviews and a battery of psychological tests designed to assess the Veteran’s symptomology, treatment needs, and strengths. Interns will also use the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) in assessing and diagnosing PTSD.
LEAVENWORTH TRAINING ROTATIONS

Rotations at DDEVAMC are purposefully designed to be flexible yet comprehensive. It is possible to meet all of the competency requirements on each of the required major rotations: Primary Mental Health Care Team, Addiction Treatment Program, and Domiciliary. Interns will be on their major rotation one day per week for the entire year. Interns also have their choice of minor rotations one day per week for at least one training period. Minor rotations are Compensation and Pension Exams (highly recommended for interns considering a VA career), Neuropsychology, Primary Care or Research. Close monitoring of the rotation contracts throughout the year assures that interns complete all the competencies in a timely manner. It is believed that interns will present to the training program with different strengths and weaknesses reflective of their University or Professional School emphasis in training. Therefore, the flexibility allows us to build on their strengths and efficiently address their growth areas. Rotations are selected in the first days of internship. Fridays are reserved for training activities including group supervision, didactics, dissertation work and case conferences.

Here is an example of a possible weekly schedule for an intern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Mental Health Care</td>
<td>Training Period 1</td>
<td>Primary care</td>
<td>Addiction Treatment</td>
<td>Training &amp; Dissertation Work</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neuropsychology</td>
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<td>Training Period 2</td>
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<td>Training Period 3</td>
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<td>Geriatrics</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strong Training Emphasis (You will get this here)</th>
<th>Moderate Training Emphasis (You can get this here)</th>
<th>Not Offered (You won’t get this here)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Individual Therapy Group Therapy Assessment Evidenced Based Treatments Addictions Treatment Trauma &amp; PTSD Outpatient Treatment Personality Disorders Serious Mental Illness</td>
<td>Family Therapy Marital Therapy Interns Providing Supervision Research Neuropsychology Administration / Program Development Health Psychology Geropsychology Compensation and Pension Examinations</td>
<td>Child/Adolescent Treatment Training inside a prison Eating Disorders treatment Active Duty Military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAJOR ROTATIONS OFFERED: (LEAVENWORTH)
Major rotations meet one day per week for the entire year. All interns will complete these rotations.

ADDITION TREATMENT PROGRAM (ATP)

The Addiction Treatment program serves Veterans throughout the medical center who present with concerns related to their substance use, including Veterans accessing residential care through the local
Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (MHRRTP) as well as those living in the community. On this rotation, interns will be involved in a comprehensive substance use disorder (SUD) experience to help prepare them for entry into VA or community-based psychology positions working with individuals with addictive behaviors or dual disorders. Within this rotation, interns will develop skills in group and individual intervention, consultation, crisis management, and ethical decision-making, all within the realm of multi-disciplinary treatment program for SUD.

Evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders and co-occurring conditions, including Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, Contingency Management, and cognitive-behavioral/relapse prevention strategies, are utilized within the individual and group therapies offered in ATP. ATP offers two track-based treatment options (a 4-week intensive addiction treatment program and a 6-week Dialectical Behavior Therapy based track for Veterans with SUD and co-occurring disorders) as well as non-time-limited continuing care groups which are provided as a means of ongoing supportive treatment and therapy for those working toward long-term recovery. Interns will have the opportunity to be involved in the large group, small group, and individual therapy components of the two primary tracks as well as the continuing care groups. ATP psychologists also facilitate groups within the MHRRTP Integrative Medicine treatment track, and interns will have the option of becoming involved in providing services within that program.

OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC (REQUIRED)

Outpatient mental health teams are composed of psychiatry, psychology, social work, and psychiatric nursing. Interns are involved with assessment and therapy, including clinical interviews, treatment planning, individual and group psychotherapy, and possibly team meetings. In addition to traditional individual and couples psychotherapy, VA Evidence-Based Psychotherapies that can be supervised include Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Depression, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Current groups in which interns may be trained include Anger Management, LGBT Safe Space group, Therapeutic Lifestyle Change for Depression, Relationship Skills and groups for Combat-Related Trauma. Interns have the opportunity to start a new group in an area of interest if sufficient clinical need exists to justify it.

Supervision between the intern and the supervisor occurs in several ways: weekly one-on-one discussions, feedback on taped sessions and written reports, serving together on multidisciplinary treatment teams, and acting as co-therapists in group therapy. In addition, supervisors are available to answer questions or provide support throughout the workday. Interns also have the opportunity to provide supervision to psychology practicum students. Mental Health Clinic may be a source of therapy or assessment experiences that can be used for the internship case conference presentations.

PRIMARY CARE

The Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) rotation allows intern to gain experience in behavioral health service delivery in a primary care setting working alongside a variety of different disciplines such as physicians, nurses, dieticians, medical support assistants, and pharmacists. Referrals will come from a veteran’s primary care provider either through a same day appointment or through a consult. Interns on this rotation will learn how to conduct a focused 30 minute assessment. Common presenting complaints include depression, anxiety, health behavior problems such as drinking or smoking, trauma, adjustment problems, and a variety of other concerns. Interns have the opportunity to learn brief interventional strategies such as Motivational Interviewing, Prolonged Exposure- Primary Care, Focused Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, or CBT for Chronic Pain. Therapeutic interventions are generally limited to 4 to 6, 30 minute sessions, though some exceptions can be made depending on the goals of the intern. There may be other assessment opportunities such as learning pre-surgical assessments and capacity evaluations as they are available.
DOMICILIARY

The Domiciliary is a 150-bed general mental health residential rehabilitation treatment program (MHRRTP) with treatment programs for a variety of issues including homelessness, chronic health issues, chronic and persistent mental illness, substance use disorders, employment readiness, and community reintegration. Length of stay ranges from 90-120 days. Veterans served are often homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and seeking assistance in returning to a state of economic independence in the community of their choice. Often they have long-standing medical and psychological issues requiring attention prior to vocational and social issues. Veterans work with multi-disciplinary treatment teams during their domiciliary stay. Team members may include a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, rehabilitation technician vocational rehabilitation specialist, nurse, physician or physician’s assistant, dietitian, and recreational therapist.

Interns in the domiciliary can develop skills in group therapy, multidisciplinary consultation, assessment, crisis management, ethical decision-making, program development, and/or program evaluation and research. Interns will also participate in a variety of other individual training goals. The Building Resiliency Treatment Track is a cognitive behavioral group therapy incorporating skills such as thought records, core belief modification, and behavioral activation strategies. The PTSD Core treatment track is a process oriented curriculum integrating aspects of cognitive processing therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, symptom management, and exposure therapy. Interns may elect to develop and implement new psychotherapeutic group programming. Further, interns may also elect to focus on a variety of personality assessment experiences during this rotation.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

A rotation in Neuropsychology would consist of administering neuropsychological assessment instruments, scoring and interpreting the results, and writing an integrated, meaningful report. The test results are combined with medical history, behavioral observations and clinical interviews to formulate a diagnosis and appropriate treatment recommendations. Feedback and education would then be provided by the intern to the referring source, as well as to the veteran and possibly his/her family.

MINOR ROTATIONS OFFERED:

In addition to the preceding programs, minor rotations for interns with special interests in the following areas may be considered. Minor rotations last one day per week for a single four month training period. Examples of such minor rotations include the following:

COMPENSATION AND PENSION EXAMINATIONS

The compensation and pension examination is the Veterans Affairs’ version of a disability assessment. A question is posed by the VA Regional Office; the task is to respond quickly and succinctly to this question. Unlike the traditional psychological assessment, this examination does not focus on treatment potential. The sole purpose is, in most instances, to determine whether the person has an emotional problem that can be traced back to experiences in the military and, if so, what has been the impact of this service experience on the person’s life. This rotation is highly recommended for interns considering a VA career.

RESEARCH

The VA has a longstanding history of excellence in research. Research on psychological assessments, addictions, trauma and homeless veterans have been favorite topic areas in the recent past. Interns work with a supervisor to seek approval of and oversee the research projects. In addition, general oversight of behavioral health research and the minor internship research rotation is provided by Dr. Mary Oehlert and, through the VA, interns have access to the nationwide VINCI database as well as dozens of basic and advanced statistical software packaged for use towards the completion of approved projects. Interns
choosing a research rotation can, after obtaining IRB approval, gain access to large databases. It is entirely possible for an intern to complete a research project from start to finish during the internship year.
Requirements for Completion—LEAVENWORTH AND TOPEKA

COMPETENCY-BASED MODEL

The training program is a sequentially graded competency-based model culminating in the production of scientist-practitioner psychologists. Competency evaluation begins with orientation and ends with year-end evaluations.

Specific criteria for demonstrating competencies are provided in the training manual that each intern receives during orientation week. Criteria include demonstration of competencies in assessment and diagnosis, intervention, consultation and communication, professional and ethical behavior, human diversity, research and scholarly inquiry, and supervision and program evaluation. Demonstrated competency in these areas is required for successful completion of the internship.

Competency evaluation begins during orientation with which each intern provided the opportunity to demonstrate criteria-based competency in administration and scoring of selected psychological instruments as well as psychological report writing. Additionally, interns are provided the opportunity to demonstrate basic therapy knowledge and skills of therapeutic interventions. Seminars and skills training are provided to work on and correct any entry-level deficits.

The specific criteria for competencies to be achieved during the year are made available to the interns in the training manual. While some competencies may be achieved on more than one rotation (e.g., intervention competency may be achieved in the Mental Health Clinic, PTSD Unit, and other treatment areas), other competencies may only be gained in specific labs (e.g., Neuropsychology Lab, Biofeedback Lab, Motivational Interviewing with Addicted Individuals). While all interns must achieve a targeted level of competence, at the intern’s initiative, other competencies may be achieved by meeting established criteria set forth in the training manual and specialized competencies may be acquired with the approval of rotation and case supervisors and the director of training.
Facility and Training Resources

All interns at VA Eastern Kansas Health Care system have a private furnished office with computer access. All computers come loaded with the VA electronic records system and Microsoft Office software. Computers do have access to the internet, and there is access to an online research database.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The COVAMC contracts with New Directions to provide employee assistance. Services are confidential and range from helping with placement of elderly family members in another state to crisis intervention for a staff member. There is no cost to staff or interns for this service.
Administrative Policies and Procedures

INTERN AND EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES

It is the policy of the VAEKHCS to identify and make reasonable and proper efforts to correct causes of employee dissatisfaction on the job. Careful consideration will be given to intern and employee grievances. The interns and staff use the formal grievance procedure of the VAMC should such an issue arise. There is also a formal process to monitor intern progress and remediate academic problems. The policies and procedures are delineated in the intern manual which each intern receives during orientation.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The VAEKHCS Psychology Internship Training Program abides by APA, APPIC, and National Matching Service (NMS) guidelines in the selection of interns. Furthermore, VAEKHCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. VAEKHCS does not tolerate unlawful discrimination, including workplace harassment, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age (40 or older), disability, genetic information, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, or retaliation for opposing discriminatory practices or participating in the discrimination-complaint process. This applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, reassignments, training, career development, benefits, and separation.

APPIC provides their policies and procedures and the NMS policies on the website: www.appic.org. The website also provides information on filing grievances with the APPIC Standard and Review Committee should applicants perceive that policies have been violated.

This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept, or use any ranking-related information from any intern applicant.
Training Staff

PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING STAFF (TOPEKA)

Brad Anderson, Ph.D. (Neuropsychology):
Dr. Anderson was raised on an Illinois farm and received his A.B. from Augustana College, where he played basketball and double majored in Psychology and Philosophy. He pursued a career in psychology after learning that philosophy ranked just below wizardry in employment opportunities, and he earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School with an emphasis in neuropsychology and Chicago-style pizza. Internship was completed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he attended the Oklahoma State Prison Rodeo (as a spectator) and was mentored by Russell Adams and the late great Oscar Parsons. In a successful effort to delay financial gratification, the next two years were spent completing a neuropsychology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. During this time he proposed to his future wife at the top of a roller coaster (she said yes between gravity-induced screams) and convinced her to join him in Kansas – home of the world’s largest hand dug well, the world’s largest ball of twine, and the world’s largest prairie dog (spoiler alert: it’s a concrete statue). Dr. Anderson was first employed as the neuropsychologist of an acute head injury rehabilitation hospital in Overland Park, where he worked for two years prior to joining the Topeka VA in 1995. Youthful activities that extended through graduate school (hot-rod ding a 1968 Mustang, solo backpacking and climbing trips, and a secretive stint behind the wheel of a stock car) have given way to more responsible pastimes, including boating, canoeing, fly fishing, and attending his children’s numerous sporting events. He cannot be found on Facebook, Twitter, or watching “reality” television shows. He frequents the western prairies in the fall, the Rocky Mountains anytime, and the engine compartment of a cantankerous Jeep. Dr. Anderson shares a country home with his wife (Caryn – who still loves roller coasters and Kansas), their two children (Eliza and Connor), two semi-trained dogs (“Monty” the English cocker spaniel and “Sadie” the British Lab), and assorted wild creatures that roam their property.

Jamye B. Brown, Ph.D. (Topeka Director of Clinical Training/PTSD Clinical Team):
Dr. Brown grew up on a ranch in northeastern Oklahoma. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tulsa. She then headed for the “most beautiful village on the plains” - Auburn University. There, she became a Toomer-Tree hugging (RIP poor oaks), War-Eagle cheering, orange-and-blue-wearing Tiger fan. While at Auburn, Dr. Brown also studied up on all the good things to eat in the South – she discovered that grits aren’t just for breakfast, butter really IS its own food group, and anything can be deep-fried (and it will taste amazing!). While the gridiron and the gluttony did keep her pretty busy, she was able to squeeze in time for a fellowship with the Infantry Forces Research Unit at Fort Benning and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. Dr. Brown wanted a career in the VA, and she was lucky enough to be selected as an intern at the Topeka VAMC (her top choice of the 19 different VAs at which she interviewed!). After internship, she went to prison for her post-doc requirements. Dr. Brown worked at the Lansing Correctional Facility in the Maximum Security Area as the Program Director of a special housing unit for severely and persistently mentally ill inmates. Two years at Lansing was enough hard time, and she was freed by an opportunity to return to the Topeka VA as a staff psychologist in 2001. Aside from work, Dr. Brown lives with her husband, Cody, on a small hobby farm where she gardens and attempts home improvement projects. Additional residents on her farm include: Gracie the Great Pyrenees, two rehabilitated stray cats (Lucky and Tatiana), and a small flock of free-range poultry (each named after a fashion designer - Ferragamo, Yves, Dior, Chloe, Chanel, etc). Dr. Brown likes music and shopping for shoes. She also enjoys hot yoga, kayaking, and hiking. She aspires to travel more – and visits at least one National Park per year. She loves to cook – and she can’t seem to break off her dysfunctional relationships with butter and the deep fryer. She continues to be an avid supporter of Auburn Tiger Football. Dr. Brown works in PCT and is the Director of Clinical Training in Topeka. She is credentialed in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain. She is also trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing.
Stephanie LaRue Davis, Ph.D. (Suicide Prevention Coordinator)
University of Kansas, 2002. (Rock Chalk!) Licensed Psychologist in Kansas. Suicide Prevention Coordinator. She is VA-trained in several empirically-based psychotherapies for PTSD including Prolonged Exposure therapy, Cognitive Processing Therapy, Seeking Safety, and also Problem-Solving Training. Her outside interests include cycling and running, which come in handy for corralling her four-year-old daughter and two dogs!

Kalyn Diamond, Ph.D. (Home-Based Primary Care)
Born in Houston, TX, she grew up in a farming community in South Central Oklahoma. After high school graduation (32 in her class), she ventured to the still small, but larger Stillwater, Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma State University as an undecided major. After talking with the Psychology department, she eventually settled on an elementary education degree, and afterwards set off for Alaska as an adventure, teaching elementary school for 12 years on the Kenai Peninsula. While there, she caught a 60 pound halibut, snow machined in the Caribou Hills, took a small dory across the 35 miles to the other side of the Cook Inlet (very dangerous and unwise in retrospect due to the unpredictability of the Gulf of Alaska, but made it there and back safely), walked on beautiful blue-green glaciers, ate much salmon, caught dungeoness crab with a fishing pole and tangled fishing line off the Homer Spit, watched glaciers breaking off and crashing into the Gulf of Alaska, had a mother moose and her twin calves sleep in her back yard one winter, watched killer whales swimming in the Gulf, beluga whales swimming up the mouth of the Kenai River, sea otters swimming on their backs eating shellfish, and pronghorn sheep perched on rocky cliffs. After her mom’s heart attack, she took a year’s leave from her teaching job to return to Oklahoma so her young son could get to know his grandparents. While there, she returned to OSU as a master’s student in Counseling as she felt this would help her be a better teacher. While she enjoyed teaching a great deal, she found she loved psychology even more so, and took a second year’s leave to complete her M.S. However, instead of returning to her Alaska teaching job that fall, she moved to Kansas to begin her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Kansas. At KU, she completed a paid summer traineeship, her year long doctoral practicum, and an additional assessment practicum at the Topeka VA. After completing her internship at the Missouri Health Sciences Psychology Consortium, finishing her dissertation study, and obtaining her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology with a minor in Health Psychology in 2007, she returned to VA Eastern Kansas as the Home Based Primary Care and Palliative Care psychologist. She is VA credentialed in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain, Problem Solving Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia. Her training and interests include health psychology, rehabilitation psychology, neuropsychology, and gerropsychology, and she enjoys the variety in these areas as well as pain management, coping with chronic medical illness, adherence to medical regimen, end of life issues, assessment of capacity, and dementia assessment working in Home Based Primary Care.

Jonathan Farrell-Higgins, Ph.D. (Topeka Supervisory Psychologist; Stress Disorder Treatment Program):
Dr. Farrell-Higgins is a preacher’s kid (one of six children) originally from a tiny town in Southeast Ohio. He later moved to Illinois where he developed a life-long obsession with Abe Lincoln and anything and everything related to the Civil War. Eventually he earned Bachelor Degrees in Psychology and Economics at the University of Illinois. There he encountered one of his first major life decisions: to pursue a life of financial freedom and stability, or be a psychologist? Choosing the latter, he met his future wife Toni at the U of I on the day she completed her Master’s Degree. She was thrilled to learn that he had at least five years of graduate school ahead of him, and in Kansas at that. Undaunted, she accompanied him to Lawrence, Kansas, where he earned his Ph.D in Clinical Psychology at KU. He quickly learned three things about Kansas—the “Oz” thing is way overdone, Northeast Kansas is a hidden gem, and one can never overdo one’s allegiance to KU basketball. Dr. Farrell-Higgins is the proud father of three young women. His two eldest attended KU for their undergraduate degrees. One since returned there for her Masters in Counseling Psychology (not his fault, he swears), while the eldest has departed from her work at Planned Parenthood for her Ph.D. in Women’s Studies at K.U.. His youngest completed her undergraduate education in the mother country (Ohio) and has been teaching school in Guatemala City for 2+ years and speaks perfect Spanish. She’s contemplating a return to the states for graduate school in ‘18 (maybe in psychology--not his fault, he swears). No surprise (says his wife) that all three are in people fields and “talk for a living!” Back at the ranch, his wife operates her own home/room redesign and redecorate business. She has an eye for color and design, and a green thumb to boot, and gets to
Chalisa D. Gad-Johnson, Ph.D. (Chief, Stress Disorder Treatment Program):
Dr. Gad-Johnson received her B.A. in Psychology and Criminology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where she spent much of her northern years just trying to keep warm. In an effort to defrost, she moved south to obtain her M.A. in General Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and then her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas (2003). It was during her years at KU that her obsession with Jayhawk basketball was born. She completed her internship at the Colmery-O’Neil VAMC and then her postdoc at the Kansas City VAMC. After working in private practice for several years in both Olathe and Lawrence, Kansas, she returned with glee to the Colmery-O’Neil VAMC to work in the Stress Disorder Treatment Program. She is credentialed in Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Dr. Gad-Johnson is married and has a daughter and in her spare time (what spare time??), she enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, and of course watching her Kansas Jayhawks own the court each November through April.

Dawn S. Gettman, Psy.D. (Mental Health)
Dawn Gettman grew up in Boulder County, Colorado. While growing up, she enjoyed hiking and camping in the mountains. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado. Her doctorate in Clinical Psychology was received at the University of Denver School of Professional Psychology in 1997. She completed her internship and post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. Her post doctorate fellowship training specialized in eating disorders. She was licensed as a psychologist in Kansas in 1998 and has remained in Kansas throughout her career. She worked in Wichita at Prairie View Inc. and conducted private practice in Lawrence. She joined the psychology staff at the Topeka VA in March 2008. Dr. Gettman is a Staff Psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic. She holds a number of VA EBP certifications including Cognitive Processing Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia, Social Skills Training and Motivational Interviewing. She is interested in complementary medicine and conducts a group on Mindful Meditation. She also conducts an interdisciplinary psychoeducational Pain School, with a focus on the self-management of chronic pain. Dr. Gettman to play with her Australian Shepard.

Michelle Haines, Ph.D. (SUD/PTSD)
Counseling Psychology, Colorado State University, 2000. Staff Psychologist: Substance Use Disorder/PTSD Specialist. Fields of specialization – Substance use disorders and recovery, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, individual and group psychotherapies. In her spare time, she hangs out with Guy Noir searching for the answers to life’s perpetual questions or tagging along on Clive Cussler’s adventures. She daydreams of hiking the John Muir Trail, rafting Cataract Canyon, and running the Ragnar Relay, but is more likely to be found thumbing through Cooking Light while enjoying a larger bowl of Breyer's Natural Vanilla ice cream (with real vanilla bean specks!) than she had planned.

Kristin Hines, Ph.D. (Stress Disorder Treatment Program)
Dr. Hines was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas until the ripe age of 18 when she and her BFF packed up all of their worldly belongings, which combined—filled a Honda Civic, and headed west. Having grown up landlocked, she moved around to various coasts to see what she had been missing. During the next decade or so of wanderlust, Kristin managed to find time for college, got a couple of degrees, and taught English in the U.S. and abroad. In the spirit of self-actualization, she second-guessed her career path and decided to give up the glamorous life of teaching in Southern California, an endless supply of red pens, and summers off (what was she thinking?) and returned home to pursue a doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Kansas. She met a fella, fell in love, and had two babies while in grad school, because grad school apparently was not difficult enough. Before kids, she used to have hobbies such as reading for pleasure, being current on music, going to shows, staying up
past 10, watching anything related to crime, doing yoga, and sometimes even doing nothing at all. After
kids, well—she basically hangs out with the littles pointing out birds and bunnies to the baby, debating the
finer points with her 4 y/o like why Scooby doo is sooo predictable or why broccoli really is good, even if it
smells funny. Having grown up on KU basketball, she still finds time to watch the Jayhawks (dominate)
and enjoys a little smack talk during the only sport season she acknowledges (duh, basketball season!).
Kristin wanted to be a Psychologist at the Topeka VAMC so badly that she just kept coming back
(practicum student x2; intern) figuring if she played the long game, someone would eventually have to
hire her. Her plan paid off—here she is!

Danna Letsch, Ph.D.
Dr. Letsch was born in Iowa but spent most of her childhood and adolescence on her family's farm in rural
Missouri. And by rural, she means the nearest town never reached a population of 100 and Wal-Mart was
a 30-minute drive. As such, she spent most of her time outdoors and started driving a tractor in 6th grade.
When not working or playing outdoors, she loved watching MTV and BET music videos. She attended
University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, where she majored in Psychology, minored in Spanish,
and worked as a community advisor for the residence halls. Following her undergraduate degree, she
attended University of Kansas in Lawrence to obtain her Master's and doctoral degrees. Throughout
practicum experiences, she developed an interest for interdisciplinary collaboration and working with
Veterans. She completed two years of practicum at the Topeka VA with the PCT clinic, and loved it so
much that she returned to complete her internship year! During internship year, she expanded beyond
trauma work and completed rotations on SDTP, Neuropsychology, and MHC with elective experiences in
Fresh Start, PRWP, and Primary Care. As internship neared ending (the year goes by quickly!), a
psychologist position posted, and Dr. Letsch jumped at the opportunity to join the wonderful Topeka VA
staff. Now that homework and dissertation no longer vie for her time, she lifts weights, attends yoga
classes, cooks/bakes, scrapbooks, paints, organizes, (a weird, but rewarding hobby), attends art fairs,
and enjoys restaurants with her husband and friends.

Kelly Lora Lewis, Ph.D., VHA-CM, VHA LHC YB (Neuropsychology Clinic)
Dr. Lewis is a Clinical Neuropsychologist at the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System. She began her
federal career at VAEKHCS in 2008 following completion of her postdoctoral residency. In her role, she
performs neuropsychological assessments and conducts VA evidence-based psychotherapy. She also
serves as the Ethics Consultation Coordinator and manages the facility's Ethics Consultation Service.
She is a VISN 15 Facilitator and has led/facilitated a number of diverse community activities in the past
including Chair of the Research and Development Committee (R&DC), Voting Member of the Institutional
Review Board (IRB), Co-Chair of the Systems Redesign Committee, and Preventive Ethics Coordinator.
She has received VHA Mentor Certification at the Fellow level (VHA-CM), VA Healthcare Analytics
Certificate from Nebraska Methodist College, Center for Health Engineering VHA Lean Healthcare Yellow
Belt Certification (VHA LHC YB), and VA-CASE VERC Lean Green Belt (Healthcare) Certification. She
was awarded the second annual VISN 15 silver medal for her Lean Yellow Belt Project (Informed
Consent for Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain) and received an honorable mention for the third annual
VISN 15 lean awards (Behavioral Health Encounters Green Belt Project). She completed the facility and
VISN 15 Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability, and Development Programs (LEAD) in 2012 and
2014, respectively and was selected as a Leadership VA (LVA) fellow for the Class of 2017 through a
rigorous application and merit selection process. Dr. Lewis received her Bachelor's degree in psychology
and anthropology from the University of Rhode Island and earned her Master’s and Doctoral degrees
from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Missouri
Health Sciences Consortium and her two-year postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology and
rehabilitation psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2008. Licensed as a Psychologist in
Kansas and Missouri, her fields of specialization include neuropsychological assessment, rehabilitation
psychology, capacity, ethics, informed consent, traumatic brain injury, and dementia. Off duty, she enjoys
reading classical literature and science fiction novels, running, biking, and spending time with her
husband and family.
Leif Frederick (Eric) Lyche, Ph.D. (Compensation and Pension Examiner/Primary Care):
Dr. Lyche was born in California but primarily grew up in Europe. His parents were both from Norway. He came back to the U.S. to complete high school in Lake Jackson, Texas. He then attended the University of Texas in Austin and received his B.B.A. degree with a concentration in Finance. After college he moved back to California and worked three years for the Internal Revenue Service before going back to Tulane University and receiving an M.B.A. with concentrations in Finance and Human Resources Management. He met his wife while living in California. They now have four children and two guinea pigs. After several jobs in the business field he decided to make a career switch and went back to school at San Diego State University and received his M.A. degree in Psychology before moving to Kansas to start a Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Kansas. He graduated with his doctorate in 2012 after completing an internship at Northwest Missouri Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center. Subsequently he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Larned State Hospital in their Psychiatric Services Program. After living a year in Larned he was happy to be able to come back to Lawrence and start working at the Colmery-O’Neil VA Medical Center where he had previously worked as a practicum student while attending KU. He is now primarily doing C&P examinations but also does some counseling. They now have four children in college. Their oldest daughter is finishing up her last year at Texas A&M University in Amarillo. Their two sons are both going to KU and their youngest daughter is at Johnson Community College.

Jessica Modrell, Psy.D. (Primary Care Mental Health Integration)
Dr. Modrell was born in Fort Collins, CO and raised in Norfolk, Nebraska. Growing up in Nebraska exposed her to the importance of number two yellow dent corn, cow tipping, and of course Husker football. She is the oldest of two children and is happily married to her husband, Justin. They have one son, Samuel, and another baby boy on the way. She attended George Fox University in Portland, Oregon where she earned her doctorate in being hipster and ethically raised, organic meat along with clinical psychology. She has a passion for mental health in primary care, working within a multidisciplinary setting, and training students at the Topeka VA. In her spare time she likes to play basketball and tennis, participate in spin class, watch way too much television, and spend time with her family. She is passionate about her work with the Veteran population and adores every minute of being a mom.

Noah Mosier, Ph.D. (PTSD Clinical Team)
Dr. Mosier was raised in eastern Kansas and is a graduate of Kansas State University. He earned a MS at Southwest Missouri State University in 2003 and a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2008. He returned to Kansas in 2007 as an intern at the Leavenworth VAMC, and the following year joined the Topeka VAMC as a staff member. He currently works with the PTSD Clinic Team, and serves as the Topeka VAMC Local Evidence Based Psychotherapy Coordinator. One of his greatest talents is feigning empathy for colleagues when KU’s major sports teams are embarrassed by K-State (aka Big Brother). He even goes so far as to ask seemingly sincere questions related to how long it will take, “if everything goes perfectly,” for the Jayhawks to win a Big 12 football game. Other professional interests include program evaluation, emotion regulation, and implementation of evidence based psychotherapies. Outside of work he enjoys guitar flatpicking, mid 90’s indie rock, and anything that involves getting his kids outside.

Sue Ohlde-Isbell, Ph.D. (Mental Health Clinic/Acute Psychiatry)
I started my training in psychology by training my dog from a book I obtained as a free offer off of dog food labels. After winning first place in a dog show, it’s been downhill ever since. I received my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Illinois, a place that is so flat there is nothing else to do but study. I worked for a community mental health agency for several years, seeing clients 40 hours per week. These clients did not have access to medication, so much of my time was spent trying to keep depressed and suicidal clients alive. It was the hardest job I ever had. I then had three children and decided to work on a Ph.D. when the youngest was one year old (this was a planned venture, believe it or not). I worked at a community mental health center during those years also. I was fortunate enough to get an internship at the Topeka VA and gain fulltime employment there. Even though psychotherapy was my love during my years prior to this job, I was hired to spend a good portion of my time in assessment, which I learned was also a love. With my present job, I spend my time specializing in assessment, psychotherapy (am VA-certified in ACT and CPT and also use IBCT and CBCT for PTSD), training students, serving as a coordinator for the Acute Psych unit and the Mental Health Clinic, and teaching
obesity treatment (based on a program I developed and researched). I have retired from bringing up wonderful (I might be biased) children and have replaced them with two beagles, eight grandchildren, and an addiction (or “collection”) to scarves—much less drama.

**Timothy P. Rot, Psy.D. (Compensation and Pension Examiner)**

Dr Rot grew up in Chicago, moving 4 times before graduating from high school. (This will be a trend). He attended Trinity Christian College in one of the Chicago suburbs and received his BA in Liberal Arts in 1975. It was a small school, only 49 in his graduating class. He then started moving around, to Michigan and on to Colorado. He received his MSW from the University of Denver in 1981. Again he started moving around, back to the Chicago area and on to Florida. He was tired of “finding shoes for people” as a social worker and went on to the Florida Institute of Technology. He received his MS (1987) and Psy.D. (1989) in Clinical Psychology. He did his internship at the Topeka State Hospital, where he was warned by his supervisor that he may get caught in the Topeka Triangle and never leave, as his supervisor did coming from LA. Tim did leave going back to Florida for 15 months before hearing the siren call of Kansas again (loud and not subtle). Being in Topeka is now the longest period of time Dr Rot has lived anywhere. He has been a Supervisor, Behavioral Health Services. He now works full time doing C&P exams. He is a Licensed Psychologist in Florida and Kansas. Field of specialization – Clinical Psychology; family/marital, individual and group therapy, supervision, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Maureen E. Ruh, Psy.D. (Compensation and Pension Examiner)**


**Minervia Scott-Gray, Ph.D. (Mental Health Clinic/Acute Psychiatry/Women’s Health)**

Dr. Scott-Gray was born in Centerville, IL. and raised in Shuqualak, MS. Immediately (less than a week) following high school graduation she ventured to Jackson State University (JSU) where she majored in psychology and sociology. During this time, she volunteered for Contact Crisis Hotline and completed two summer research positions, first at Western Kentucky University and then at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her research endeavors not only provided opportunities to present research across the United States, but also broadened her horizon in regards to living in different cities and adjusting to living miles away from home (this would serve beneficial later in life). She met her husband during her freshman year of college. After graduating in 2005, they were married and she enrolled as a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology Program at JSU, which focused on research and multicultural issues with grounding in objective assessment and intervention. In addition, she taught introductory psychology courses, assisted undergraduates with research projects, and began her career as a generalist, providing treatment to several populations including substance abuse, serious mental illness, trauma, children, adolescents, college students, and dual diagnosis in both inpatient and outpatient settings. In June of 2010, she moved to Topeka, Kansas to complete an internship at Colmery-O’Neil VAMC, her husband graciously accompanying her. She later accepted a position as a School Based Coordinator in Emporia, Kansas where she commuted for a year and a half prior to happily returning to VA Eastern Kansas as generalist psychologist in the Mental Health Clinic (MHC). She continues to enjoy the variety of interventions (intakes, individual, couples, and group therapy, psychological evaluations) and diversity in populations associated with her position as a staff psychologist in the MHC; however will move into a new role as the primary psychologist for the Women’s Health Clinic (WHC). In addition, to women’s issues, she has other specific clinical interests in mood disorders, PTSD, minority mental health, and couple’s therapy. She lives in Topeka with her husband and their two children and enjoys reading, church activities, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends.

**Jim Sharpnack, Ph.D. (PTSD Clinical Team Program Manager)**

Dr. Sharpnack was raised in Hominy, Oklahoma which is a sprawling metropolis of 3,565 individuals, but this number may be inflated due to the possible inclusion of prisoners at a local medium security prison located outside of town. It should be immediately noted that Hominy is an Osage term meaning “Night Walker” and not a reference to a canned form of corn. Another interesting trivia fact involves the Hominy
Indians, a professional football team, defeated the World Champion New York Giants 13-6 on December 26, 1927 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the city where he was born. He later attended the University of Oklahoma where he played trombone in the Pride of Oklahoma marching band for two years while cheering on his beloved Sooners during times of great elation and resounding defeat. He met his wife during their freshman years, and they began attending Sooner basketball games. After graduating in 1993, they were married and moved to Logan, Utah where he enrolled as a graduate student in the Combined Professional Scientific Psychology program, a combination of clinical, counseling, and school psychology approaches, at Utah State University. He was commissioned as a Captain in the Air Force for his 1 year internship at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, and he served his remaining 3 years at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, New Mexico. After leaving the Air Force, he worked as an outpatient therapist and in various administrative duties at the Guidance Center in Leavenworth, Kansas. He began working at the Topeka VA in 2007 in the PCT program and became program manager in April 2012. He enjoys doing couples and family therapy because relationships are often the focus of treatment. He lives in Shawnee with his wife, Donna, and their 2 children, Logan, possibly named after the Canadian born X Man, and Mary Jane, who coincidentally shares the same name as Spider-man's famous girlfriend/wife depending on what era of comics you are reading. Donna is a math teacher at a St. James Academy in Lenexa. He enjoys reading comics, going to the library, reading science fiction and fantasy, attending comic book conventions, going to the movies, watching comic book inspired TV shows, cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners/Oklahoma City Thunder/ Pittsburgh Steelers/ Pittsburgh Pirates/Pittsburgh Penguins (he does acknowledge that Oklahoma and Pennsylvania don’t share a border), and attending his children’s sporting events. His greatest influences were living in a small town, seeing Jaws at a drive in theater when he was 4 years old, and avoiding the sun at all costs.

Andrew Schauer, Ph.D. (Mental Health Clinic/Acute Psychiatry)

Born during the Eisenhower administration, Dr. Schauer grew up on the West Coast negotiating the war protests and civil rights issues of California life in the late 1960s - early 1970s. Only his beard commemorates that pivotal time of development. Bent on a PhD in early American History, he earned an undergraduate History degree at California State University – Sacramento. The promise of driving a cab in LA with a PhD in History, prompted him to stay on for a fifth year earning a Psychology Degree (1976). The lure of $84 a semester (parking $15) kept him at Cal State achieving an MA in Psychology (1978). Never wanting to work in a hospital setting (where he's been working since 1981) and to focus on more "normal" people (still looking), he pursued a PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Pushed hard by his training director, he reluctantly came to the Topeka VA to complete an internship and his PhD (1981). He planned to go back West. Life intervened and he stayed on VA staff for the next 4 years leaving for private practice / community hospital practice when threatened with VA leadership training. For the next 25+ years, he worked primarily in a community hospital serving as a voting member in early heart transplant teams, participating on various gastric procedure teams, providing in-house staff consultation as well as stress debriefings, and working with medical patients. His early work and publications (with other Topeka VA PhDs) focusing on Vietnam Vets – a time where limited PTSD understanding existed – prompted a wish to return to work (2010) with PTSD Veterans given a new body of literature and interventions. Currently, his primary tasks include Compensations and Pension evaluations, tele-psychology (group, individual, Prolonged Exposure therapies), CBT-I, and psychological "utility" player within the Mental Health Outpatient Clinic. He continues married with two sons and a daughter (at last, someone will come to visit when he's in the nursing home) – all in some form of college. Hobbies include, reading, church activities, playing the piano (poorly), and fly fishing (fish need not fear).

Kirsten Watkins, Psy.D. (Stress Disorder Treatment Program)

Kirsten Watkins, Psy.D was born in Phoenix, Arizona but grew up (mostly) in Austin, Texas. She went to Southwestern University where she majored in Psychology, minored in Spanish, and specialized in throwing parties. She played many sports, including college soccer, and managed to squeak by with no significant traumatic brain injuries. After a year of living in Spain and realizing that a BA in Psychology didn’t exactly open doors, she went to the University of North Texas and completed her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. Next, she moved to a cooler place (in many ways) and completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Denver. While in Denver, she developed an interest in trauma treatment and began to seek out opportunities to learn more about treatment of PTSD.
Although Denver is called “Men-ver” to some, the only man she could think about was in Lawrence, Kansas. So, she applied to be an intern at the Colmery-O’Neil VAMC and was incredibly happy to make the move to Kansas. While interning at the Topeka VA, she honed her skills in psychological testing, evidence based treatment, and KU basketball. Next, she went to the Kansas City VAMC for a post-doctoral fellowship and an opportunity to continue her training in evidence based treatment for PTSD. When the postdoc ended, she went to prison. Literally. She worked at the State women’s prison in Kansas and spent her time trying to provide treatment and create programming for women prisoners. Prison time was rough on this psychologist and she longed to return to her beloved Topeka VA. Amazingly, a job opened up and she jumped at the chance to return to work with Veterans and to specialize in treatment of PTSD. In her spare time, she enjoys life with her sweet husband, kids, and dog.
PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING STAFF (LEAVENWORTH)

**Michael Black, Ph.D.,** University of Kansas, 2006. Staff Psychologist: Outpatient Mental Health. Post-doctoral training in neuropsychological assessment and primary care psychology. Specializations: prolonged exposure, mindfulness, emotion regulation, attachment theory, and judgment and decision-making. I am also interested in heart rate variability biofeedback. Apart from my professional life, I am a collector of records, matchbooks, and bottle caps. I am also interested in all genres of film, but especially zombie movies and how they depict our relationship to various psychological problems, such as problem-solving under extreme stress, effective cooperation with others, and the important role of emotion in our definition of what it means to be human. You know, stuff like that.

**Kylie Dowell, Psy.D.,** Alliant International University, 2011. Staff Psychologist, Addiction Treatment Program. Licensed Psychologist in Missouri. Specializations: group psychotherapy, forensic psychology, individual psychotherapy, psychological assessment, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, VA-trained Cognitive Processing Therapist. Interests: non-fiction, forensic psychology-related books, watching baseball and football (especially the KC Royals, KC Chiefs, and University of Missouri-Columbia), and playing with my daughter and two dogs.

**Melinda Gaddy, Ph.D.,** University of Kansas, 2013. Licensed Psychologist, Addiction Treatment Program. Specializations: treatment of substance use disorders, cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure therapy, DBT, and integrative medicine approaches. Additional VA activities include serving as a National VA Consultant for CBT-SUD and serving as Alternate Chair to the VAEKHCS Research & Development Committee. General interests: singing, philosophy, fossils, watching documentaries, and spending time with my husband and pets.

**Amber D. Guzmán, Psy.D.,** Clinical Psychologist, Geropsychology. Dr. Guzmán resides by a pond with her husband, three dogs, cat, 26 chickens, two geese, two ducks, and two goats. Dr. Guzmán graduated from the American School of Professional Psychology, Washington DC, with a PsyD in Clinical Psychology, and completed her internship at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC. In her past life, she moved around the country and world like a postage stamp, learning multiple languages and fostering adaptation skills (as well as a personal travel bug). Upon her return from living in Germany as a military wife, Dr. Guzmán returned to school with plans to become a forensic pathologist, because dead patients can’t complain. But after a psychology of death class, she was hooked, and instead became a Thanatologist before pursuing her graduate studies. She enjoys reading books about death and dying, (especially zombie books), making jewelry, painting, playing piano, PC and Xbox gaming, and spending time with her menagerie of pets and husband. Dr. Guzmán provides therapy and assessment services in Geriatric Extended Care Service, where she offers individual and group psychological interventions including Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Enhancement Therapy for Substance Use Disorders, and mindfulness-based approaches for grief, chronic pain management, and other challenges. She also provides staff training and staff/community presentations on various topics including mindfulness, managing difficult behaviors, and effectively interacting with individuals with neurocognitive disorders.


**Suzanne Heflin, Ph.D.,** Psychologist, Domiciliary. Her first career was in computer programming. After spending 10 years in that field, she decided to switch gears and become a Psychologist. She obtained her master’s degree from the University of Central Oklahoma, and her doctorate degree from the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Her primary theory of orientation is Emotion Focused Therapy, but in session she regularly uses Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. In her spare time, she enjoys cheering her spouse and kids on at various sporting events, and teaching kids mindfulness skills in a local dojo.
**Lea Lavish, Ph.D.**, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2006. Compensation and pension evaluations, individual psychotherapy and equine assisted psychotherapy. Specializations – Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Certification, Cognitive Processing Therapy Certification, Stanford Health Living, Motivational Interviewing, Multiculturalism, Positive Psychology. I am a retired actor/performer and have found my past experiences have prepared me in ways I could not have imagined for my current career as a psychologist. I spend down time dreaming of my future animal rescue farm, taking care of my geriatric Neapolitan Mastiff (167 pounds!), gardening (just don’t look at my yard for proof!), waiting to adopt my baby Greenwing Macaw and spending time with family and friends.

**Rebecca L. Moberly, PhD**, University of Kansas, 2001. Licensed Psychologist, Women’s Health Center. Dr. Moberly is new to the Leavenworth VA and previously spent over 10 years on the Spinal Cord Injury Unit in Augusta, Georgia. She has experience working in the schools, with children and families, in outpatient mental health, doing disability evaluations, and with state and federal corrections. She is an avid amateur genealogist and loves to read. She loves boxers—even the one that set her house on fire last year.

**P. Chad Neal, Ph.D.**, Oklahoma State University, 2005. **Director of Training/Site Director** DDEVAMC. Licensed Psychologist in Kansas. Primary Care Mental Health Integration. Specializations: counseling psychology; certified Prolonged Exposure provider and national VA consultant for the Prolonged Exposure training initiative; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; group therapy; gay, lesbian, bisexual issues; brief psychological assessment; training & research. Dr. Neal enjoys science fiction, cooking, RV camping and spending time with his spouse, Richie, and their dogs Rocket and Boomer. Please note, the name Boomer has nothing to do with OU- not that there is anything wrong with OU.

**Mary E. Oehlert, Ph.D.** (Associate Chief of Staff for Research) As a native of Lawrence, Kansas, Dr. Oehlert is happiest during basketball season and less happy during football season. But that too can change! She has nine biological siblings (she is number 3) as well as two half-sisters, a half-brother, and 2 step-brothers and 63 first cousins (that only counts her mother’s side of the family, she has 2 on her dad’s side). She lives on five acres in rural Kansas City with a pond attached. She enjoys walking and bicycling particularly on trails converted from old railroad beds( [http://www.railstotrails.org/index.html](http://www.railstotrails.org/index.html) ) Dr. Oehlert received her doctorate from University of Kansas, 1989. Her associate degree is from Central Christian College of Kansas where she has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for over 25 years. Areas of interest include: Telemedicine, Mega Database Research, Multidisciplinary Training in Research, and Primary Care Psychologist.

**Susan Paolo, Ph.D.**, University of Kansas, 1990. Clinical Psychologist in Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. Licensed in Kansas. Local Evidence Based Psychotherapy coordinator. She has VA EBP training in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and also uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. She enjoys collecting and sharing practical clinical resources. Her husband is a psychologist who does program evaluation at KU Medical School. Their daughter lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. During nice weather, weekends are spent in the Kansas countryside helping to care for family property. Quilting and gardening are current creative pursuits.

**Zachary Parrett, Ph.D.**, is one of the newest members to the EKHCS Behavioral Health team as the Leavenworth-stationed Home Based Primary Care psychologist. In this role, Dr. Parrett provides a broad spectrum of mental health services entirely in veterans’ homes and, increasingly, through telehealth services. Dr. Parrett is a proud Hoosier from the state of Indiana, though he has heard rumors that this term is used derogatively in the Missouri/Kansas area. He is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis Clinical Psychology program, completing his internship in neuropsychology with the University of Missouri Health Psychology Consortium. He completed two postdoctoral fellowship positions, initially in pediatric medical inpatient and health psychology at St. Mary’s Center for Children in Evansville, Indiana, and his most recent experience as the Neurorehabilitation Psychology Fellow at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Outside of work, Dr. Parrett is an avid Butler University basketball and Indianapolis Colts fan, and enjoys spending time with his growing family and Scooby, his Great Dane.

Codi Schale, Ph.D., (Supervisory Psychologist) Dr. Schale grew up in a small Kansas town with no stoplight (which, besides her slight southern drawl, classifies her as “country”). She traded in her 4-H pigs and purple ribbons to attend college at a slightly larger Kansas town in Pittsburg, KS. Although she later attended graduate school in Kangaroo country at the University of Kansas City, MO, she is and will always be a PSU Gorilla at heart. (Go Rillas!) In 2010 she graduated with a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. She worked for a short time at the Leavenworth United States Penitentiary and at Fort Leavenworth doing substance abuse treatment for two very different types of men in uniform. She then joined the VA to do Compensation and Pension evaluations before becoming the Leavenworth Supervisory Psychologist. At current, she oversees the major psychology programming areas on the Leavenworth campus. Outside of work, she enjoys running ½ marathons, running after her twins, and running to various travel destinations in the U.S. and beyond.

Scott Sumerall, Ph.D., ABPP, University of North Dakota, 1993. Licensed Psychologist in Missouri and North Dakota. Supervisory Psychologist. Specializations: rehabilitation psychology, neuropsychological evaluation, biofeedback, and pain management. He has a voracious appetite for reading and his book shelves are grateful he now has a Kindle and an iPad.
Local Information

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TOPEKA

The Community and Surrounding Area
Topeka is located in northeastern Kansas near the geographical center of the contiguous United States. The city grew along the Kansas River as a transportation center for the West and its location on Interstate 70 continues the tradition. The city's population is over 120,000 with approximately 180,000 people residing in the metropolitan area. Lawrence (pop. approx. 80,000) is 25 miles east and metropolitan Kansas City is less than 60 miles east on Interstate 70. Topeka residents enjoy a variable climate characterized by moderate winters and hot summers, with pleasant spring and autumn months.

Housing
The Medical Center is easily accessible to other parts of the city. A range of housing options can be found in Topeka that are typical in cities of comparable size. Topeka housing is very affordable with rental and purchase prices somewhat below the national average.

Educational Facilities
The Topeka area is served by four school districts which have been nationally recognized for their educational excellence. In addition, there are several private schools and a parochial school system which provides classes through Grade 12. Washburn University is considered one of the Midwest's finest urban universities and offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Its School of Law and Business are nationally known. Kansas State University is 60 miles west in Manhattan, and the University of Kansas is in Lawrence, 25 miles east.

Culture
Topeka has a symphony orchestra, two dinner theaters, a ballet company, a nationally recognized zoo, and also boasts a large public library system. The Mulvane Art Center at Washburn University houses a permanent collection of American painting and sculpture, and the Kansas State Historical Society Museum gives visitors a panorama of the state's past. A number of seasonal events celebrate the area's culture and heritage. In addition, the Kansas Expocentre and Topeka Performing Arts Center provides an excellent forum for headline entertainers throughout the year.

Recreation
Topeka offers its residents a wide variety of recreational activities. The area has five public and four private golf courses. An excellent Parks and Recreation program sponsors team/individual sports of all kinds, including a huge softball program that made Topeka the "softball capital of the world." There are numerous public tennis courts, swimming pools, and health/fitness centers. Within 50 miles of the city are five large lakes and reservoirs ideal for swimming, boating, skiing, and fishing. Hunters find many opportunities to pursue their sport in the surrounding countryside. Collegiate sports of all kinds are available locally and in Lawrence and Manhattan. Topeka is the proud home of a new minor-league hockey team. In addition, other professional team sports and the Kansas Motor Speedway can be seen one hour away in Kansas City. Topeka is also home to one of the country's newest, state-of-the-art motorsports complexes that features a unique 2.5-mile road course and a 1/4-mile dragstrip and brings in races from NASCAR and NHRA.

Other General Information
The Topeka area is served by a daily newspaper, television stations for the three major networks, and a public television station, cable TV service, and nine local AM and FM radio stations, and a National Public Radio station. Nearly 200 area churches represent a variety of faiths and denominations. Topeka is a regional medical center, and the local economy is strong with state government providing a secure base in addition to several large industries. The city has excellent shopping facilities, including two major regional malls.
Topeka Historical Facts
Topeka became the capital of the State of Kansas in 1861. Its name is actually a Kansas Native-American tribe name and means "a good place to dig potatoes."

Linda Brown's court case was responsible for eliminating the standard of "separate but equal" requiring racial integration in American public schools in the landmark case of Brown vs. Board of Education.

The Fortune 500 companies that are located in Topeka include The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Hallmark Cards and Frito-Lay.

Washburn University, the only municipally owned university in the country, is in Topeka and is home to over 6,545 students.

Topeka was home for many years to Carrie Nation, the temperance crusader, and her hatchet. Mrs. Nation supported herself with income from her newspaper, The Smasher's Mail, which was published in Topeka.

Famous Topekans:

- Karl Augustus Menninger, M.D. (1893-1990) Dr. Karl and his brother, Dr. William Claire Menninger, co-founded The Menninger Clinic with their father, Dr. C. F. Menninger, and became leaders in the treatment and prevention of mental illness.

- Aaron Douglas (1899-1979), an American painter and illustrator, was born in Topeka on April 27, 1899. A leading artist of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s, Douglas has been called the father of African American art.

- Actress Annette Bening was born in Topeka in 1958 before moving to Wichita, then to San Diego. She has been nominated for an Academy Award four times for her roles in The Grifters, American Beauty, Being Julia and The Kids are All Right.

- Poet Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000), a Pulitzer Prize-winner for her 1950 book Annie Allen, was born in Topeka to a former schoolteacher and the son of a runaway slave who fought in the Civil War.

- Topeka is the boyhood home of Rex Stout, author of the Nero Wolfe novels.

- Topeka was home to the first all-female mariachi band, Mariachi Estrella, when seven women from the Our Lady of Guadalupe came together in the 1970s to form a group.

- Before he went on to become the legendary coach for the University of North Carolina, Dean Smith was a four-year letter winner at Topeka High School.

- Topeka was the home of Alfred E Newman, the logo character from Mad Magazine. A Topeka dentist used his face for his logo, declaring that his services "didn't hurt a bit!" and a star was born!

Things To Do
The Combat Air Museum is one of a handful of major aviation museums in the U.S. located on an active air field and displays over 30 military aircraft, from WWI to the present day.

The Topeka Zoo which features more than 380 animals has been a favorite destination for kids and adults alike since the 1930s.

Visitors will find approximately 30 different rare Harley-Davidson's along with many pictures, tools, and collectibles displaying the store's and Harley-Davidson's history.
The Heartland Park Topeka motorsports track complex features a 2.5 mile road race course, a 3/8 mile dirt track and a world class NHRA drag strip that draws over 250,000 people annually.

Topeka’s First Friday event coordinated by ArtsConnect attracts people to the multitude of art galleries throughout the city.

**Other Locations of Interest**
The community of Lawrence, home of the University of Kansas, is only about 30 minutes to the East and offers endless opportunities for historical explorations, beautiful scenery, incredible arts, entertainment venues, and delicious restaurants.

Kansas City is about 1 hour away to the East and offers attractions such as the Legends Outlet Stores, professional sports teams, great BBQ, and the opportunities presented by a diverse, urban area.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LEAVENWORTH:**
The small community of Leavenworth (population 43,000) has many events and festivals throughout the year. Some of the more noted ones include the Hidden Art Locked Away, Frontier Army Encampment, Great American Yard Sale at Ft. Leavenworth, Annual Herb Market, County Fair, Antique Shows, Festival of Trees, Haunted Houses of Ft. Leavenworth, lots of parades, and the Candlelight Vintage Home Tours. Other tours available include the Victorian Carroll Mansion and Museum, Ft. Leavenworth, Frontier Army Museum, St. Mary College, Heimhof Winery, and First City Museum. These are all in town. Nearby Weston offers antiques and small town winery and hometown atmosphere or if the big city is more to your calling, DDEVAMC is an easy half hour drive to the Metropolitan Kansas City area with more, more, and much more to keep you busy.

**Housing**
Rental housing is available in the Leavenworth/Lansing area. However, many students prefer to live in the larger city where options are plentiful. Staff live in Leavenworth or commute from Kansas City, KS; North Kansas City, MO; Overland Park, KS and Lawrence, KS. The DDEVAMC is ideally located with a 25-30 minute drive from the Kansas City Metro area as well as the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

**Airport**
The Kansas City International Airport is approximately 20 miles (25 minutes) north of the Leavenworth community.

**Culture**
Whether it is jazz or baseball, you can find it in Kansas City. And at 18th and Vine in downtown Kansas City, MO, you will find the phenomenal Jazz Museum featuring art and music by Jazz artists of Kansas City housed next to the Negro Baseball Hall of Fame. Kansas City has a professional baseball team (Royals), professional football team (Chiefs), hockey (Blades) and indoor soccer team (Wizards), minor league basketball team (Knights), and the T-Bones, a AAA minor-league baseball team. Recently Kansas City has added a soccer team, Sporting KC and a NASCAR race track. The Kansas City area has a lot to offer for art, theater and live music. There are several large art festivals held yearly including the Plaza Art Fair, Wesport Art Fair and the Brookside Art Fair. “First Fridays” are held on the first Friday of many months where people stroll through the many art galleries in the area. Just outside Leavenworth is a large Renessance Festival which happens in the fall. Kansas City also has a thriving live theater scene including the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and the Sprint Center which hosts large concerts. Music, food (including world-famous BBQ and dozens of Michelin Star restaurants), diversity, religious opportunities, groups, clubs, and ethnic food festivals are all part of life in the KC metro area.
**Did you know……**

Leavenworth is well known for being the first city of Kansas (1854). Leavenworth is also known in the movies for the many prisons it hosts including United States Federal Penitentiary (long time home of Bird Man of Alcatraz), United States Disciplinary Barracks (operating since 1885 and the only maximum security prison in operation within the Department of Defense), the US Marshal Service Detention Center, and the Kansas State Penitentiary/Leavenworth Correctional Facility. DDEVAMC has several buildings on the National Register and a Chapel House that has been featured in Ripley’s Believe it or Not (come visit to find out why!). The “Harvey Girls” will serve you lunch at the Union Depot created in 1888. Attractions at Fort Leavenworth include the Buffalo Soldier’s monument, the Berlin Wall monument, a portrait of Henry Leavenworth and the U.S. Grant memorial.