To fulfill President Lincoln’s promise “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan” by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans.
The purpose of the Mental Health Summit is to bring together key stakeholders in the community with the goal of enhancing access to mental health services and to address the mental healthcare needs of Veterans and their family members residing in Central California.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker and Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony&lt;br&gt;Executive Welcome&lt;br&gt;National Anthem&lt;br&gt;Prayer&lt;br&gt;Housekeeping&lt;br&gt;Thanking speakers and organizers</td>
<td>Will McCullough&lt;br&gt;Nestor Manzano, MD&lt;br&gt;Terry Rommereim, DMin&lt;br&gt;Pauline Huynh, LCSW</td>
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<td>9:15 - 10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Strategies for Racial Healing and Sensitivity with Therapy Context</td>
<td>Josephine Ridley, PhD&lt;br&gt;Kenny R. Dison&lt;br&gt;Maheen Mausoof Adamson, MD&lt;br&gt;Paul Passion-Gonzales, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>10:15 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Center for Minority Veterans Justice Involved Veterans Homeless Veterans Outreach</td>
<td>Kenny R. Dison&lt;br&gt;Maheen Mausoof Adamson, MD&lt;br&gt;Paul Passion-Gonzales, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:40 - 12:35 p.m.</td>
<td>VITAL Program &amp; Community Resources</td>
<td>Paul Passion-Gonzales, Ph.D.&lt;br&gt;Ger Xiong, M.A.&lt;br&gt;Ashley Martinez&lt;br&gt;Samantha Norment</td>
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<td>12:35 - 12:50 p.m.</td>
<td>One Veteran's Journey</td>
<td>Samantha Norment&lt;br&gt;Lianna Evans, PsyD</td>
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<td>Final Announcements and Adjourn</td>
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VA 2021 MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT SPEAKERS

**Josephine Ridley, PhD**  
Assistant Chief, Psychology Service  
Cleveland VA Medical Center  
Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology  
Case Western Reserve University  

**9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**  
_**Strategies for Racial Healing and Sensitivity with Therapy Context**_

Dr. Josephine Ridley received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University, completed her psychology internship at the Cleveland VAMC with rotations in health psychology, PTSD, neuropsychology and inpatient psychiatry, and has worked at several sites in the VA including the Gambling Treatment Program, residential rehabilitation and more recently as program manager for a partial hospitalization program for individuals with severe mental illness. She currently serves as Assistant Chief of Psychology at the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and is active in private practice where she works with adolescents, adults, and geriatric clients. She is Program Director for the Cleveland VA’s Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Residency, founding chair of the Cleveland VA’s Psychology Service Diversity Committee, and Co-Coordinator of the Mentoring Subcommittee for the Association of VA Psychology Leaders Psychologists of Color & Allies Special Interest Group. She is also Vice President of the Association of Black Psychologists, Greater Cleveland Chapter. Dr. Ridley Co-Chairs the Cleveland VA Institutional Review Board (IRB) and is Co-Editor of the International British Journal of Guidance and Counselling. She was most recently appointed as Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Executive Leadership Advisory Board.

Dr. Ridley also serves on multiple VA Medical Center committees including the Psychology Training Committee and has conducted workshops and seminars nationally for a variety of organizations and conferences. She is published in peer-reviewed journals in the areas of suicide, depression, and anxiety, has co-authored book chapters on suicide and mood disorders, and is active in research on depression and suicide. She served on the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation Advisory Committee and is certified by the Zero Suicide Institute as a Master Trainer of Trainers in Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk Workshop.

**Kenny R. Dison**  
Minority Veterans Programs Coordinator, VISN 21

**10:15 - 10:30 a.m.**  
_Center for Minority Veterans_  
_Justice Involved Veterans_  
_Homeless Veterans Outreach_

Mr. Kenny Dison is currently serving as the Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Veteran Affairs, Veteran Benefits Administration. His outreach provides assistance to homeless or potentially homeless Veterans, along with outreach to justice-involved Veterans. He is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corp and has more than 10 years of experience in helping Veterans access the benefits they not only deserve but have earned.

**Maheen Mausoof Adamson, MD**  
Director Clinical Research, Rehabilitation, VAPAHC  
Clinical Associate Professor (Affiliated),  
Neurosurgery, Stanford University School of Medicine

**10:35 - 11:30 a.m.**  
_Traumatic Brain Injury: New Treatments from the Global Pandemic_

After completing undergraduates degrees in Biology and Women’s Studies at UC Irvine, Dr. Adamson completed a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Southern California, followed by a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Psychiatry at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System & Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Adamson is a world-class neuroscientist and neuroimaging expert, whose research interests include the neurological impact of COVID-19, traumatic brain injury, pain, and Alzheimer’s disease. She’s a leader in healthcare innovation, entrepreneurship, and translational neuroscience.

A passionate advocate for healthcare gender equality and policy change committed to the development of novel therapeutic approaches such as brain stimulation and virtual reality.

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Paul Passion-Gonzales, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist, VACCHCS  
Ger Xiong, M.A.  
Director, SSSP and SSSV, CA State University, Fresno  
Ashley Martinez  
Veterans Coordinator, College of the Sequoias

11:40 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.  
VITAL Program & Community Resources

Dr. Pasion-Gonzales has worked as a psychologist for 25 years in various settings including the VA where he currently runs the VITAL program (Veteran’s Integration to Academic Leadership), Lemoore Naval Air Station and community health clinic as a behavioral health consultant, community mental health clinic as senior psychologist, and university counseling centers at UCLA, UC Riverside, and CSU Dominguez Hills. He is an adjunct faculty at College of the Sequoias, held a private practice, and coaches high school football.

Ger Xiong serves as Director for the TRIO Student Support Services (SSSP) and Student Support Services Veterans programs (SSSV) at Fresno State. TRIO SSSP/SSSV are federally funded grant programs, focused on the retention and academic success of students who are first-generation, from low-income families, and/or students with disabilities. Prior to Fresno State, she taught as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She graduated from UCLA with a Master of Arts in Asian American Studies with vast research interests in reproductive rights, educational equity, and service-learning.

Ashley Martinez is the Veterans Coordinator at College of the Sequoias (COS). She holds a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration and Leadership and has been at COS since 2013. She has spent the last 8 years advocating for Veteran Students on her campus and in the community. She is also the Region V rep to the California Community College Chancellors Office and an active member of the Citizens Assisting Local Veterans In Need (CALVIN) collaborative in Tulare County.

In addition to her work with Veterans at COS, Ashley volunteers her time with a local veterans organization called A Combat Veterans Hope (ACVH). ACVH’s mission is to empower combat veterans through engagement to ensure that every generation of combat veterans successfully integrates back into their local community. Ashley is the Family Support Manager providing programs that enhance the quality of life for combat veterans and their families.

Samantha Norment  
Peer Support Specialist, VACCHCS

12:35 - 12:50 p.m.  
One Veteran’s Journey

Samantha Norment is a US Army OIF veteran who served on active duty between 2001-2003, and in the US Army Reserves from 2005-2010. She is a mother to three girls and she is in her 4th year of recovery from homelessness and substance use. Currently, she is utilizing the VA’s mental health services. Ms. Norment is also a survivor of domestic violence and child abuse. On February 2019, she began working for VACCHCS as an administrative support clerk. She became a certified Peer Support Specialist in July 2020. Currently, she is a Peer Support Specialist in Mental Health Service, working at the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center (PRRC) for the VACCHCS. In collaboration with her supervisor, Dr. Kristy Klein, she developed the Women’s Recovery Group to provide a platform for them to openly discuss issues relating to self-esteem, relationships, sexuality, military sexual trauma and spirituality.

Lianna Evans, PsyD  
VISN 21 CEAT Psychologist

12:50 - 1:00 p.m.  
Final Announcements and Adjournment