

PAUL J. HARRIGAN, PH.D.
Licensed Psychologist (NY 018266)
US Army Reserve Retired (Major)
465 N 4th Street
Lewiston, New York 14092
(716) 946-7451
paul.j.harrigan.mil@mail.mil

EDUCATION

- University of Miami – Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, Jun 2007, GPA: 3.88
 - American Psychological Association (APA) Accredited Doctoral Program
 - Dissertation Title: *Examining the Relationship between Shame, Guilt, Attributions, and Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder among Male Vietnam Veterans.*
- Columbia University, Teachers College - M.A., Mental Health Counseling, May 1999, GPA: 3.91
- Niagara University – B.A., Psychology, Minor in Sociology, May 1997, GPA: 4.00

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Psychologist, Private Practice, Family Counseling Associates

Tonawanda, NY, July 2023 -present

- Provide full range of clinical psychology treatment for adult patients in Western New York.
- Utilize interpersonal, humanistic, and cognitive behavioral treatment of practice.
- Specialize in treatment of psychological trauma and grief, but able to provide care for all concerns presented.
- Manage billing, administration, scheduling among other duties for self employed private practice.

Supervisory Psychologist / Program Manager for Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) and Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) Behavioral Health (GS 14)

Buffalo, NY, Oct 2018 – Jul 2023

Supervisor: Barbara Nelson-Thomas, PhD, VA Western New York Behavioral Health Careline Manager.
Full time, 40 hours a week

- Provides program management of CBOC/PCMHI teams located in hospital Primary Care Clinics as well as seven CBOC locations across Western New York(WNY).
- Responsible for the operation and management of key clinical, training, and administrative programs being the facility PCMHI Trainer.
- Oversight of administrative and program resources for the mental health staff to ensure the delivery of highly specialized mental health services within Primary Care Teams.
- Collaborates with the Behavioral Health Careline Manager, hospital, and VISN Leadership ensuring policy compliance, access, productivity, while continually seeking program improvement.
- Responsible for ensuring staff member safe practices, complying with all EEO and patient safety goals.
- Assisted hospital during COVID 19 pandemic with moving all behavioral health face to face visits to virtual care and currently manage the hybrid system of offering Veteran's face to face or Video per their choice and safety.
- Often serve as Acting Careline Manager for Behavioral Health when called upon, responsible for program management and respond to any concerns requested when on duty.

- Provide two days a week direct clinical services at the Niagara Falls CBOC providing full range of psychological services to those in need, while working with the Primary Care team there.
- Collaborate with Suicide Prevention and Chief of Psychiatry to ensure proper psychiatric coverage across all sites.
- Establish community partnerships with local State, Federal, and Community agencies that support Veteran recovery across WNY (i.e., Vet Center, Catholic Charities, Veteran's One Stop Center, Veteran Service Organizations, etc.).

Acting Associate District Director/Clinical (ADD/C) (GS 13)

St. Petersburg, FL, Jan 2018 – Oct 2018

Readjustment Counseling Services (RCS) Southeast District 2, District Office

Supervisor: Sarita Figueroa, MBA, District Director, RCS District 2

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Responsible for the clinical operation and growth of forty-one Vet Centers, that includes three hundred team members, in the Southeast United States that provides high quality readjustment counseling services for combat Veterans, Service Members, those who experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST), bereavement services, and support for their families.
- Provided standardized Vet Center clinical site inspections to ensure adherence to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Policy 1500.01., RCS Operational Handbook, and when deficiencies identified, educate the teams on methods for correction that promoted organizational growth.
- Facilitate collaboration for District Vet Centers with stakeholders, internal and external to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), such as the Department of Defense (DOD), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veteran Service Organizations, and other community supports that enhance service delivery across broad geographic areas.
- Collaborated closely with and advised RCS Central Office on clinical matters with National Clinical Team.
- Supervised teams on clinical matters to include crisis intervention management, evidence-based practices for treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), MST, bereavement, and other mild, moderate, and severe readjustment counseling concerns for those seeking Vet Center services and for their family members.
- Leader for fact finding and administrative investigations when called upon.
- District Lead for assisting with conflict resolution among Vet Center team members.
- Promoted creative use of traditional and nontraditional counseling interventions geared toward activity and events that embrace local community and culture that invited more positive interaction with Vet Center teams.
- Mentored Team Leaders and team members in many areas of professional development that increased overall morale and dedication to mission promoting fairness in the workplace and adherence to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).
- Effectively sought opportunity to utilize and deploy the Mobile Vet Centers (MVC's) for outreach and service delivery, particularly in hard-to-reach areas and for Disaster Response (i.e., Hurricanes Disasters, Community Violence, etc.).
- Developed with District Team Regional Clinical Trainings for the Clinical and Outreach Team staff (i.e., Whole Health Training, Assessment Training, Suicide Prevention, etc.).
- Organized and led multiple Mortality and Morbidity (M&M) review team reviews for completed suicide and other high-risk events contributing to systems improvements for increased prevention potential.
- Develop and implemented ongoing clinical training for Vet Center Teams to promoted continuing education and skills building to include earning Continuing Education Credits.

- Veterans' Health Administration (VHA) trained and certified Administrative Investigator (AI) that conducted informal and formal investigation within organization for concerns presented.
- Manager of District Professional Standard Board (PSB) review teams for all Hybrid Title 38 employees.
- Member of Department of Veteran Affairs, Undersecretary of Health, PTSD Advisory Committee, as RCS Central Office appointed representative.
- Research Advisor for National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study follow up as RCS CO appointed team member.

Vet Center Director/Supervisory Psychologist (GS 13)

Miami, FL, May 2017 – Jan 2018

Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS), Miami Vet Center

Supervisor: Gregory Burt, MA, Associate Director RCS Southeast

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Successful oversight and service delivery of Vet Center services in Miami, Florida, in accordance with VHA Handbook 1500.01 as demonstrated by positive feedback received during annual RCS (Vet Center) Administrative and Clinical Site reviews.
- Supervised six clinical staff by conducting regular chart audits, monitoring direct service and total service activity time, and having weekly individual and group meetings.
- Implemented sound fiscal management aided by support of VA Fiscal Team and Vet Center Office Manager to meet goal of zero balances for each quarter as directed.
- Developed excellent network and working relationships internal and external to the Vet Center such as the VA Medical Center, the VBA, DOD, Veteran Service Organization, Florida State Veterans Affairs, Veterans Treatment Courts, institutions of higher learning, and community-based agencies that enhanced service delivery.
- Initiated outreach and support of Veterans from diverse racial, ethnic, economic background, as well as those of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) community with positive result.
- Provides full range of psychological care and interventions for Veterans, Service Members, and their family members utilizing Evidence Based Treatment (EBT) and other modalities delivered in kind and caring manner.
- Certified in PTSD focused EBT to include Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and trained in multiple other therapeutic interventions that includes Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT), Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Stress Reduction, and more.

Associate Regional Manager for Counseling (ARM/C) (GS 13)

Auburn, NH, Apr 2015 – May 2017

Readjustment Counseling Services (RCS) Northeast District, Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

Supervisor: Johnathan Martin, MBA, Acting Regional Manager, Zone 1 & Zone 2, Northeast District

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Responsible for the clinical operation and growth of forty-one Vet Centers, that includes three hundred team members, in the Northeastern United States that provides high quality readjustment counseling services for combat Veterans, Service Members, those who experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST), bereavement services, and support for their families.
- Provided standardized Vet Center clinical site inspections to ensure adherence to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Policy 1500.01., RCS Operational Handbook, and when deficiencies identified, educate the teams on methods for correction that promoted organizational growth.
- Facilitate collaboration for District Vet Centers with stakeholders, internal and external to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), such as the Department of Defense (DOD), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veteran Service Organizations, and other community supports that enhance service delivery across broad geographic areas.
- Supervised teams on clinical matters to include crisis intervention management, evidence-based practices for treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), MST, bereavement, and other mild,

moderate, and severe readjustment counseling concerns for those seeking Vet Center services and for their family members.

- Promoted creative use of traditional and nontraditional counseling interventions geared toward activity and events that embrace local community and culture that invited more positive interaction with Vet Center teams.
- Mentored Team Leaders and team members in many areas of professional development that increased overall morale and dedication to mission promoting fairness in the workplace and adherence to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).
- Effectively sought opportunity to utilize and deploy the Mobile Vet Centers (MVC's) for outreach and service delivery, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.
- Organized and led multiple Mortality and Morbidity (M&M) review team reviews for completed suicide and other high-risk events contributing to systems improvements for increased prevention potential.
- Regional lead for conflict resolution among Vet Center team members when would arise.
- Advised and assisted RCS Central Office Team with development and implantation of improved clinical practices.
- Developed Evidence Based Therapy and other Regional Trainings (i.e., CPT, Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused Interventions, etc.).
- Develop and implemented ongoing clinical training for Vet Center Teams to promoted continuing education and skills building to include earning Continuing Education Credits.
- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) trained and certified Administrative Investigator (AI) that conducted informal and formal investigation within organization for concerns presented.
- Manager of District Professional Standard Board (PSB) review teams for all Hybrid Title 38 employees.

Team Leader/Supervisory Psychologist (GS 13)

Buffalo, NY, Apr 2011 – Apr 2015

Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS), Buffalo Vet Center

Supervisor: Steve Reeves, Acting Regional Manager, Northeast Region 1A RCS

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Successful oversight and service delivery of Vet Center services in Western New York in accordance with VHA Handbook 1500.01 as demonstrated by positive feedback received during annual RCS (Vet Center) Administrative and Clinical Site reviews.
- Developed team into a highly motivated and productive unit that increased participant visits from approximately 4000 to 7000 annually over a four-year period averaging 30 referrals per month.
- Lead staff by example carrying a regular case load average of sixty Vet Center participants (Direct Service > 50 %) while managing other Vet Center administrative duties fostering a collaborative teamwork environment.
- Team members reported high Quality of Work Environment during annually review while meeting individual productivity requirements.
- Supervised six clinical staff by conducting regular chart audits, monitoring direct service and total service activity time, and having weekly individual and group meetings.
- Implemented sound fiscal management aided by support of VA Fiscal Team and Vet Center Office Manager to meet goal of zero balances for each quarter as directed.
- Developed excellent network and working relationships internal and external to the Vet Center such as the VA Medical Center, the VBA, DOD, Veteran Service Organization, New York State Veterans Affairs, Veterans Treatment Courts, institutions of higher learning, and community-based agencies that enhanced service delivery.

- Maintained unending efforts to raise awareness for Veteran suicide prevention, awareness, and treatment for those who survived attempts with integrated Vet Center, VA Medical Center, and community supports.
- Initiated outreach and support of Veterans from diverse racial, ethnic, economic background, as well as those of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) community with positive result.
- Served as a consultant and subject matter expert to programs and resources internal and external to the Vet Center on matters of readjustment needs of Combat Veterans, those who experience MST, the bereaved, and their loved ones.
- Provides full range of psychological care and interventions for Veterans, Service Members, and their family members utilizing Evidence Based Treatment (EBT) and other modalities delivered in kind and caring manner.
- Certified in PTSD focused EBT to include Prolonged Exposure (PE), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), and trained in multiple other therapeutic interventions that includes Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT), Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Stress Reduction, and more.

Program Coordinator / PTSD and Substance Abuse Psychologist (GS 13)

Batavia, NY, Oct 2008 – Apr 2011

Batavia VAMC PTSD Inpatient/Outpatient Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program

Supervisor: Lauretta Lascu, PsyD, Supervisory Psychologist

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Managed outpatient Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT) program in collaboration with Behavior Health Careline Manager.
- Supervise PCT clinical and non-clinical staff ensuring timely service delivery and documentation.
- Provides clinically indicated psychological evaluations for residential and outpatient Veterans coping with PTSD and related concerns such as Substance Use Disorder (SUD).
- Provides a full range of therapeutic interventions including individual therapy, group therapy, and psycho-education classes for Veterans with SUD and PTSD. Best practices, practice guidelines and evidence-based treatment protocols are utilized to the extent feasible in all therapeutic interventions.
- Conducted evaluations to aid in the differential diagnosis of complex cases, where SUD, PTSD, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) were suspected.
- Provides Suicide assessment and prevention and coordinates services.
- Instructor for Quit Smart, smoking cessation program for Veterans.
- Consults with medical staff on a variety of patient care issues, specific to Veterans with PTSD and SUD diagnosis.
- Coordinator between VA Medical Center and local community (Vet Court/ Mental Health Association) agencies to reinforce support for Veterans in the community.

Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Psychologist (GS 13)

Bath, NY, Sep 2007 – Oct 2008

Bath VA Medical Center HBPC Program

Supervisor: James Kittleson, PhD, Supervisory Psychologist

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Promote the detection and treatment of mental health problems among Veteran's enrolled in the Home Based Primary Care Clinic (HBPC) and Geriatric Program.
- Serve as a core member of HBPC team and contribute to interdisciplinary treatment issues.
- Conduct Psychological assessment to include psycho-diagnostic, cognitive screening, and capacity assessment.
- Provide counseling prevention and intervention for depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other mental health conditions.
- Provide interventions to address grief and loss associated with disability and other life transitions.

- Assist family members for Veterans with dementia on proper behavioral management.
- Conduct psychological interventions that address relationship difficulties and provide supportive services for the caregivers.
- Facilitate PTSD individual and group therapy in mental health clinic.
- Provide seamless transition services and mental health briefings for OIF/OEF Veterans.

Senior Counselor

Buffalo, NY, Sep 2006 – Sep 2007

Horizon Health Services Community Mental Health Center

Supervisor: Christopher Frigon, LCSW

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Provide individual, group, and psych-educational counseling at community mental health center.
- Conduct intake assessment and provide treatment recommendations.
- Assist clients with medication management and health care referrals.
- Ensured accurate and ethical documentation of all services provided.
- Provided clinical supervision for counselors.

Predoctoral Psychology Intern (Intern)

Miami, FL, Aug 2003 – Aug 2004

Miami VA Medical Center

Training Director: Timothy Lawler, Ph.D.

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Psychology Intern responsible for patient assessment/diagnosis, individual and group interventions, and professional consultation.
- Assumed professional role as psychologist espousing competency in ethical code, cultural diversity, and research/scholarly inquiry.
- Proficiency gained in conducting full psychological assessment batteries and report writing in addition to expert clinical skills for broad range of psychological conditions.
- Completed internship clinical rotation with the PTSD-Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP), PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) outpatient program; Pain Clinic; Primary Care Psychology Team (PRIME); and Neuropsychology gaining invaluable skills with each experience.

Readjustment Counseling Therapist (GS 9)

Miami, FL May 2001 – Aug 2003

Miami Vet Center

Aug 2004 – Jan 2006

Supervisor: Patrick Declan Murphy, LCSW, Team Leader

Full time, 40 hours a week

- Provided individual and group counseling interventions for combat Veterans coping with post war readjustment concerns, those coping with MST, and bereavement services.
- Responsible for client psychological assessment, care planning, and professional consultation for combat Veterans and their family members.
- Conducted innovative outreach events to reach Veterans in rural and urban areas located in diverse South Florida areas by coordinating with community groups such as churches, migrant worker services, United Way, Jewish Family Services, educational institutions, and the local DOD units.
- Developed a family support team in conjunction with the American Red Cross, to support the loved ones of Service Members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Facilitated care coordination between Miami Vet Center and VA Medical Center, particularly those related to substance abuse service, homeless, and behavioral health.
- Provided weekly psychoeducation class for Miami Veterans Hospital Residential PTSD program.
- Coordinated WWII Hispanic Veteran Oral History Project in collaboration with the University of Texas, Austin.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Behavioral Health Officer in Charge (OIC) - Major

COVID 19 Federal Emergency Response / Urban Augmentation Medical Task Force (UAMTF) 332-1
Newark, NJ Mar 2020 – July 2020

Supervisor: Major Erin Velasquez

- Deployed with eighty-five (85) medical Soldiers of the 332nd Medical Brigade for emergency COVID 19 Federal Response embedding at University Hospital Newark NJ that was 150% over capacity with COVID 19 patients.
- A completely new and innovative use of US Army Medical Soldiers developed a Standard Operating Procedure for behavioral health care of the Soldiers, civilian hospital staff, and patients at this hospital.
- Developed “Soldier Check-In” procedure so each day all Soldiers had contact with their leadership and support.
- There was a very high loss of life at this site, nearly 100 persons a day, so assisted with the organization and management of the Morgue Team operations.
- Worked with hospital Chief of Nursing and Chaplain to implement a hospital staff support plan where we visited all teams throughout the day offering support.
- Provided direct palliative care holding Ipads in patient rooms who were expectant so the families could say goodbye remotely.
- Created at hospital and at hotel wellness and religious programming.
- Responded to any mental health crisis with team when arose at hospital or in Soldier hotel locations.
- Worked with the 332-1 Commander and all Brigade Leadership to continually enhance and improve operations.
- Following deployment developed a 30, 60, 90 day Soldier Wellness check in program to ensure their smooth transition back from deployment.
- Received several awards for high performance displayed on this mission.

United States Army, Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), Behavioral Health Officer (BHO)

Deployed to Iraq Theatre of Operations, Active Duty, Captain July 2016 – April 2017
456th Area Support Medical Company (ASMC), 804th Medical Brigade

- Behavioral Health Officer (Psychologist) providing outreach, education, prevention, and direct service counseling interventions independently responsible for over 5000 personnel spread among different posts across a broad geographic area.
- Provided over 300 individual counseling sessions, 150 unit briefings, and successful crisis intervention response saving over 20 suicidal Service Members in country during first half of deployment.
- Coordinated with families and loved ones on home front as Family Readiness Officer remotely connecting resources to those in need to include Department of Veteran Affairs Vet Centers, Military One Source, and other helpful home front resources to include Vet Centers.
- Implemented successful use of Tele-behavioral Health video conference technology to provide counseling and support for hard-to-reach bases.
- Developed Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) to ensure high quality delivery of Combat and Operational Stress Control (COSC) practice and delivery for all entering theatre.
- Maintained command and control under hostile fire to ensure following of all safety and defense procedures.
- Consultant highly utilized by theatre Commanders to advise and assist for Theatre Behavioral Health planning ensuring high quality service delivery.

United States Army Reserve (USAR) Medical Service Officer Boston, MA, Apr 2010 – July 2016
804th Medical Brigade, 883rd Combat Operational Stress Control (COSC)

- Provide support for Soldiers and family members utilizing coordinated care services among unit leadership, Army Medical, Army Behavioral, and community resources such as VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers.
- Unit Medical Readiness and Public Affairs Officer leading Soldiers in maintaining up to date medical preparedness while using printed, verbal, and video means to share information within and outside of the unit.
- Serve as subject matter expert for Army Medical Department (AMEDD) on Soldier readjustment concerns.
- Leader of AMEDD Psychological Autopsy Team that assesses factors that contributed to completed Soldier suicide and provide recommendations for improvement.
- Developed innovative “Soldier to Soldier” program for Army Reserve that bridge DOD, VA Medical Centers, Vet Centers, and community resources for Soldiers pre-deployment, support for families during deployment, and support for all involved upon their return home.

United States Marine Corps (USMC) Washington, DC, Aug 1988 – Aug 1992

- Deployed with Marine Expeditionary Unit 22, U. S. 6th Fleet, in support of Operation Sharp Edge (Combat Operation: Security Operation and emergency evacuation of U.S. and foreign personnel, Liberia, Africa, 1990) and Desert Shield (Mobilization for the Gulf War); responsible for aircraft (Helicopter/Landing Craft) loading and unloading of materials, evacuees, the wounded, Marines, and Sailors aboard the USS Saipan (LHA-2). Awarded Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Downriver Post 7487

Lewiston, NY, June 2024 – June 2025

- Served a one year tour of duty as VFW Post Commander in Lewiston, vacating June 2025, and will continue to be active member.
- Post Commander duties include managing all fiscal responsibilities in collaboration with Post Quartermaster (treasurer) where we raised over 13K for donated funds, that we then gave out as scholarship for local students and supporting other Lewiston Community organizations/ events.
- Responsible for planning and managing community events such as Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Day Ceremony, and numerous honor guard appearances/events.
- Coordinate with VFW New York District and National Leadership responsible for successful annual post inspection this year and participate with other VFW groups, such as Youngstown and Niagara Falls VFW in support of Veteran and family/friend’s needs.
- Attend Town and Village of Lewiston community meetings to coordinate events and work toward other shared goals (i.e., working with Village to create a sound Hometown Heroes Banners program, still in process).

AWARDS & HONORS

- Awards and Honors: VA HRO Award June 2021; Army Commendation Medal 2020, Humanitarian Service Award 2020, Joint Services Commendation Medal with Combat “C” devise 2017, Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, 2017 (Iraq), Army Achievement Meda x2, 2015/2016; Certificate

of Appreciation, NY State Army National Guard, 2015; Certificate of Appreciation, Eric County Executive's Office, 2015; Certificate of Appreciation, Buffalo Naval and Service Man's Park, 2014; Letter of Appreciation, 865th Combat Support Hospital USAR, 2013; Letter of Appreciation, Compeer of Western New York, 2013; Letter of Appreciation, Pathfinders Veterans Group, 2012; Department of Veteran Affairs, 10 Year Service Award, 2010; Department of Veteran Affairs, Spotlight Award, 2009; Department of Veteran Affairs, Readjustment Counseling, 2004-2005 Special Contribution Award; Nominated, Federal Employee of the Year, South Florida Federal Executive Board (2005); Letter of Appreciation, Brigadier General Benjamin Mixon, US Southern Command (2005); USMC, Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, & Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (1991)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Memberships: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS); American Psychological Association (APA); American Counseling Association (ACA); Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); American Legion; The Marine Corps League; and Army Reserve Officers Association.

REFERENCES

- Sarita Figueroa, MBA, RCS Southeast District 2, District Director (727) 366-3212
- Lloyd Jackson, LCSW-R, RCS Southeast District 2, Associate District Director, Zone1 (859) 684-5669
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- Matthew D. Baker, LCSW-R, Health Systems Specialist, VA OIG Office of Healthcare Inspections (716) 308-1577