

Disability Benefits for Veterans: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Birmingham VA Medical Center
Birmingham, AL

Thursday, November 7, 2013

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The Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety
University of Alabama at Birmingham
&
Auburn University

Disability Benefits for Veterans: an interdisciplinary symposium

About 7% of the workforce is Veterans. This percentage will increase as the military is down-sized - - about two million soldiers are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and most of them will be entering the workforce. An insight into the issues facing Veterans is essential to meet the needs of those that have served our country. This symposium will discuss the expectations of Veterans who are disabled, how to respond to those expectations, and what makes the Veterans different during the treatment process. We will review the government benefits available to Veterans, such as Social Security disability and Veterans disability compensation and how these benefits integrate with one another.

We will begin with an overview of the challenges in the VA disability process. We will learn about the compensation and pension program of the VA. Leading psychologists will discuss the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of significant conditions facing our Veterans: Military Sexual Trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

We will discuss how VA Vocational Rehabilitation and the Wounded Warrior program may assist in getting the veteran back to work. We will discuss what makes disability for Veterans different - - critical issues in the rehabilitation process and how to respond to the differences. From the private sector, we will hear a company's approach to meeting their clients' needs and share lessons learned with our attendees. We will observe a mock disability hearing where counsel will suggest procedures to be considered and walk us through the steps required to proceed with a claim. Counsel will suggest procedures to be considered and walk us through the steps required to proceed with a claim from commencement to culmination

Our keynote speaker, Distinguished Professor, David B. Allison, will provide a thought provoking presentation on the myths and presumptions of obesity - a condition that many disabled Veterans face. Throughout the day, there will be opportunities for networking and time for Q&A from our expert presenters.

Topics / Speakers

Compensation & Pension Disability Examinations
Challenges Facing the VA in the Disability Process
Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment of Military Sexual Trauma
Diagnosis, Prognosis & Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Long Term Disability and Veterans: an insurer's response
Myths & Presumptions of Obesity

David B. Allison
Distinguished Professor
Quetelet Endowed Professor of
Public Health
Associate Dean for Science
University of AL at Birmingham
School of Public Health

James H. Rimmer, PhD
Lakeshore Foundation Endowed
Chair in Health Promotion
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Amy Hill, Veterans Service
Center Manager
Veterans Benefit Administration
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Jessica Fleming, JD
Attorney at Law
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Doug Friedman, JD
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Deputy Director
Deep South Center for OH&S
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Susan Rathmell, PhD
Psychologist
Birmingham VA Medical Center

William Beidleman, PhD
Psychologist
Birmingham VA Medical Center

Brett Robbins
Patient Advocate
Birmingham VA Medical Center

Thomas C. Smith, III, FACHE
Director
Birmingham VA Medical Center

Kenneth Sutton, MS
Vocational Rehab Counselor
Birmingham VA Medical Center

Lisa Workin, Director
Long Term Disabilities Practices
Hartford Insurance Company

Information

The symposium will be held at the Birmingham VA Medical Center, 700 South 19th Street, 9th Floor Auditorium. The Disability for Veterans Symposium will be held 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Registration must be received in advance. A confirmation letter with details will be sent once registration has been received. Detailed information on parking will be provided in confirmation letter.

REGISTER BY PHONE: 205-934-7178 EMAIL: dsc@uab.edu www.uab.edu/dsc

As an AL Board of Nursing Approved Provider, the Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety awards 5.0 contact hours (expiration date 01/03/2015). Participants who attend the symposium will earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs), the national standard of recognition for nonacademic professional education.

Accommodations

There are several hotels near the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Please check our website for additional information on accommodations.

Registration

\$75; \$55 Members of Central AL Association of Occupational Health Nurses & Greater Birmingham Chapter of AALNC

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration fees must be received in advance. Refund requests must be made in writing two weeks prior to course. A 20% processing fee will be deducted.

Make checks payable to **University of Alabama at Birmingham.**

If payment by credit card, please complete the following: VISA MasterCard Discover AMEX

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Deep South Center for OH & S
University of Alabama at Birmingham
1720 2nd Avenue South, RPHB 543
Birmingham, AL 35294-0022
email: dsc@uab.edu

This symposium is being held at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. The hosting of this symposium is not an endorsement by the Birmingham VA Medical Center of the co-sponsors of this event.

For this symposium, the Deep South Center for OH&S collaborated with Brett Robbins, Patient Advocate at the VA Medical Center and Doug Friedman, JD, Partner at Friedman & Downey, PC. Members of the Planning Committee from the Deep South Center for OH&S include staff and faculty (Jennan Phillips, DSN, Angela Baumann, PhD, Paulisha Holt, MBA and Elizabeth H. Maples, PhD).

The faculty of this symposium have been invited because of their knowledge and expertise in their fields. Please join us for this informative symposium to discuss challenges and options facing Veterans with disabilities.

The Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety is one of 18 Education and Research Centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Our ERC offers academic programs in occupational health nursing, industrial hygiene and occupational safety and ergonomics. We provide strong programs of study for our students, which includes interdisciplinary and field work experiences.



Friedman & Downey is a law firm that represents disabled workers for Veterans disability compensation and Social Security disability. Mr. Friedman, founding partner, is a nationally known speaker and author and lectures on disability issues for advocacy groups and insurers. He is qualified to practice before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Friedman is Legal Counsel (Pro Bono) to Three Hots and a



Central Alabama Association of Occupational Health Nurses is the professional organization for nurses engaged in the practice of occupational and environmental health nursing in central and north AL. One of our primary goals is to facilitate professional growth by providing continuing education and networking opportunities for our members and others interested in promoting and protecting the health and safety of workers, their families and surrounding communities.



The Greater Birmingham, AL Chapter of American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants promotes the professional advancement of registered nurses consulting within the legal arena by providing a forum for education, research and exchange of information.

