



# USC | School of Social Work

## Introducing Military Behavioral Health Continuing Education Courses at the USC School of Social Work!

The University of Southern California's Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families (CIR) is pleased to announce the launch of our military behavioral health continuing education course series.

### **MILITARY CULTURE – March 4-5**

(10 CEU hours) This essential first course is designed to promote understanding of military culture and related life circumstances among civilian behavioral health providers who do not have substantial knowledge of military life or extensive experience engaging military-affiliated clients. Complex issues regarding the military as a culture will be examined, including warrior identity and ethos, structure and roles of the service branches, motivations for military service, patterns of socialization, diversity issues and their policy implications, and the ethical considerations and reporting obligations specific to treating servicemembers.

### **CLINICAL PRACTICE WITH SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS – March 25-26**

(15 CEU hours) This individual-level practice course considers the needs of active duty and reserve component servicemembers and veterans at different developmental phases of the military life course. The ways that these clients may cope with a range of physical health, mental health, and psychosocial issues are examined, with special attention given to stress reactions, including Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and co-occurring disorders such as depression, substance abuse, and intimate partner violence. Course content draws from recent research findings supporting key evidence-based treatment modalities (including Cognitive Processing Therapy, Prolonged Exposure Therapy, Problem Solving Treatment, Stress Inoculation Training, and other cognitive behavioral therapies). Policy regarding treatment confidentiality issues will also be discussed.

### **FAMILIES IMPACTED BY MILITARY SERVICE: UNDERSTANDING AND INTERVENING – April 29-30**

(15 CEU hours) This course focuses on practice within military family systems, with attention to diverse military family structures, family life cycle implications, common stressors, and relevant contextual issues. Topics include family resilience, military family violence, grief and loss, deployment, child and adolescent adaptation, caregiving, and associated policy issues. Theoretical and practical approaches to effective clinical practice with military families are provided through discussion of specific strategies for assessment (including Wertsch's model, and Walsh's resilience model) and evidence-based intervention (including Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapies). Course content is based on current conceptual and empirical literature.

### **HEALTH CHALLENGES FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS – May 20-21**

(15 CEU hours) As a result of advances in medicine and technology, servicemembers are surviving traumatic injuries at unprecedented rates, yet polytrauma injuries have increased dramatically. Additionally, chronic diseases are becoming increasingly problematic for servicemember and veteran populations. This course examines the challenges that wounded warriors face regarding health, illness, and disability issues as well as the impact that these issues and experiences have on their caregivers, families, workplaces, and communities. Topics include traumatic injuries (including TBI, traumatic amputation, and PTSD), stress and coping, health promotion and disease management, caregiver burden, and policy issues regarding wounded warriors. Assessment and intervention techniques are also discussed in the context of best practices and empirically-supported treatment.

All Spring 2011 courses will be held at the USC School of Social Work University Park Campus or City Center (<http://sowkweb.usc.edu/contactus/index.html>). It is intended that these courses will become available as online courses later this year.

We anticipate CEU approval for LCSWs and LMFTs and are pursuing CEU approval for other disciplines. **Space is limited. If you are interested in attending any of these courses, please contact [cir@usc.edu](mailto:cir@usc.edu) as soon as possible.**

Thank you!