

For immediate release
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VA Official will Speak in Farmington

Cindy Williams, LCSW, CDP will speak about Healthcare and Female Veteran Issues

Farmington- The first Keynote Speaker at **the Bringing Worlds Together Conference for Veterans, Family Members, and Community** will be Cindy Williams, Lead Women Veterans Program Manager for the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 1) serving all of New England. Ms. Williams provides leadership in establishing, coordinating, and integrating accessible quality healthcare services for Women Veterans, Returning Combat Service Members, and veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation/New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND).

Ms. Williams began her VA career in 1994 as a Clinical Social Worker in the Mental Health Behavioral Science Services department, with a specialization in the treatment of Addictions. She previously worked at Butler Hospital as a Clinical Social Worker, and at several Community Based Mental Health Centers in Rhode Island as a Case Manager. She received her Bachelor of Sociology degree and Masters of Social Work degree both from Rhode Island College. She holds a Certification as a Chemical Dependency Professional (CDP) by the RI Board of Chemical Dependency Professionals. She was named Social Worker of the Year by Providence VA Medical Center in 1997 and by the RI-Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in 2004, and was named the 2010 Sociology Honor Roll Recipient by Rhode Island College.

Colonel Jack Mosher, Chief of Staff of the Maine National Guard, will provide a second keynote, and **Maine's First Lady Ann LePage** will provide opening remarks. This will be the second annual Bringing Worlds Together conference for veterans, their families, and health professionals. It will be held at the University of Maine Farmington Campus on Saturday, September 21, from 9am – 4:30pm. Hosted by Tri-County Mental Health Services with support from the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, Americorps Vista, and many community volunteers, also features nine different workshops on topics ranging from legal issues and re-integrating into family and community life to traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is committed to building a strong network of supports in local communities for military veterans and their family members, whether they served decades ago or in the most recent conflicts. “Our goal is to remove barriers and strengthen the supports available to vets and family members across Maine,” says TCMHS Executive Director Catherine Ryder. The agency is host to Jerry DeWitt, a Vietnam Era Veteran working as a Vista Volunteer, who is a driving force in the outreach and conference planning. “This conference will show the many paths each of us might take to find our way back home from service life to civilian life,” he says.

For more information and to register for this free conference, visit www.tcmhs.org or call Jerry DeWitt at 783-9141 x 228. Travel expense scholarships are available through Veterans For Peace. Contact Doug Rawlings at 778-7292 or rawlings@maine.edu.

Link to Register for Electronic Media: <http://tinyurl.com/bringingworldstogether>

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