

News Release

For immediate release

July 23, 2013

FMI contact Tina Clark, APR, 783-9141 or email tclark@tcmhs.org

Bringing Worlds Together: Register Now for a Free Conference for Veterans, Family Members, and Community

Farmington- There will be a free conference for veterans, their families, and health professionals 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, the Conference will offer two dynamic speakers as well as 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. Most recently in Maine 6,500 kids have seen a parent deployed - sometimes more than once - for extended periods of time. The stress and turmoil of separation can have a lasting impact on even the strongest families and most resilient children. They live in every corner of Maine and go to local schools, but often their experiences and the unique challenges they and their families face are unnoticed. “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>

###

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

WELCOMING STATEMENTS BY MRS. ANNE LEPAGE, FIRST LADY, STATE OF MAINE

CINDY WILLIAMS LICSW, CDP - VISN 1 LEAD WOMEN’S VETERANS AND

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM/OPERATION NEW DAWN (OEF/OIF/OND) PROGRAM MANAGER

Cindy Williams LICSW, CDP was appointed as the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 1) Lead Women Veterans Program Manager effective December 2010. In her combined positions of VISN 1 Lead Women Veterans and OEF/OIF/OND Program Manager, Ms. Williams provides leadership in establishing, coordinating, and integrating accessible quality healthcare services for Women Veterans, Returning Combat Service Members, and OEF/OIF/OND Veterans, within multiple VA healthcare delivery systems throughout New England and with other VA Networks. 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 MAINE NATIONAL GUARD

Colonel Jack Mosher serves as the Chief of Staff of the Maine National Guard. His service includes command and operations staff assignments at the platoon, company, battery, battalion, brigade, Joint Force Headquarters and Combined Joint Task Force levels. Colonel Mosher is a graduate of the University of Maine ROTC program, Infantry Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Staff Services School, the Command and General Staff College (Pershing Award Recipient), the Joint Combined Warfighting School (Commandant's Award Recipient), Joint Task Force Commander's Course, Contingency Dual Status JTF Commander' Course and the United States Army War College. He is Airborne, Ranger, Air Assault, Mountain Warfare and Nuclear Target Analysis qualified, while holding Masters Degrees in both Educational Leadership and International Strategic Studies. He has served on numerous Joint Planning Groups and Advisory Councils including the National Chairman of the Plans, Operations, Readiness, Training Advisory Council. Throughout his twenty two years as a leader in the Maine National Guard, Colonel Mosher has served as a national advocate for veterans' wellness programming using ultra marathon running as a metaphor for Resiliency. In 2009, he founded the OneLife Warrior Campaign and annual Resiliency Run to elevate the national conscience on issues relating to Health Awareness and Risk Reduction in the lives of America's service members, families and citizens. In May 2011, Colonel Mosher's OneLife Warrior Team completed 21 marathons running around the clock for five days on the Washington, DC Capitol Mall to continue to raise awareness on issues related to Behavioral Health Treatment in veterans' populations.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is Maine's most comprehensive agency dealing with the psychological and social well-being of children, adults, and elders. TCMHS serves about 10,000 individuals each year with innovative programs and services addressing mental health, substance abuse, intellectual disabilities, and more. Its philosophy of building toward recovery and

sensitivity to traumatic experiences gives hope to individuals, families, and communities in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin and Oxford counties. For more information, visit www.tcmhs.org. or call 1-888-304-HOPE(4673).

###