



BIOS – March 22, 2018

Jeff Doyle is the VISN 6 Network Homeless Program Coordinator for the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Recently he was assigned as the Network Suicide Prevention Lead, one of three Networks that has this dedicated position. The Network includes all of North Carolina and most of Virginia. As the Homeless Program Coordinator, he has focused on building community collaboratives and integrating the VA into different service models. Before working at the VA, he worked at community homeless non-profits focusing on outreach and access to medical care, which has led to a strong appreciation of having working relationships between community partners and the VA.

Susan Watkins, MSW, LCSW is a licensed clinical social worker and has an extensive background in the field of posttraumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. As the Transition Care Management (OEF OIF OND) Program Manager for the Durham VA Health Care System, she serves as a case manager and point of contact for over 15,000 returning Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans. She is also the Lead Program Manager for VISN 6. She is active in working with Post Deployment Health Reassessment Activities with Guard and Reserve units in the State. Ms. Watkins has provided educational seminars nationally to enhance knowledge and skills of professionals working with Returning Combat Veterans and in Case Management Programs. Since 2014, she has served as a Co-Chair for NC STRIVE (Student Transition Resource Initiative for Veteran's Education) and has been instrumental in increasing awareness of military culture, transition-related issues, and potential behavioral health challenges in higher education.

Ted Thomas, Community Engagement Specialist for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, works with communities to promote behavioral health awareness, reduce stigma, and create change. After spending more than a decade in this field, he knows that when we empower people with the right skills and tools, communities can thrive. Ted is a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid – Adult and Veteran Modules. He is also a North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist. Ted achieved his bachelor's degree in Human Services, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation from Thomas Edison State University, following a ten-year career in the United States Air Force and three years in the Naval Reserve during Desert Storm.

Jim Prosser is the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Prior to this position, he managed the largest Veterans Service Office in the state and was responsible for ensuring that Mecklenburg County's approximately 57,000 veterans were aware of their benefits and applied for them. He served in the United States Air Force for 27 years and retired as a First Sergeant. Most of his career has involved helping others as a Mental Health Technician, Radiology Technician, and in Medical Support roles.

Jeremy Hughes is a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) for Region 1, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, who is responsible for helping and providing support to Veterans and their dependents in the 12 most western counties of the State and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Jeremy is an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran, having served as a technical engineering sergeant with the US Army and the NC Army National Guard. He has been the Quartermaster for the William C. Miller VFW Post 2756 in Thomasville for the past 8 years and the Adjutant for the American Legion Post 61 in Canton for the past 2 years. He has earned degrees from Davidson County Community College, North Carolina A&T, and Charlotte School of Law.