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Press Release

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‘Wounds of War’ Book Features Innovative VA NorCal Programs

Award-winning health care journalist highlights VA NorCal’s
home-based primary care and post-deployment programs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The most recent work by [Suzanne Gordon](#), one of the nation’s leading health care journalists and advocates, features two [VA Northern California Health Care System](#) (VA NorCal) programs as prominent examples of the high-quality, compassionate care the Veterans Health Administration is providing Veterans. “[Wounds of War: How the VA Delivers Health, Healing, and Hope to the Nation’s Veterans](#),” includes a chapter on VA NorCal’s Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) and Post-Deployment Assessment and Treatment (PDAT) programs, both based in Martinez, California.

“(HBPC) is a community-based program that serves Veterans directly in whatever place they might call home,” said Dr. William Collins, a VA NorCal HBPC psychologist. “It serves Veterans with complex, disabling diseases with the goal of promoting maximum levels of health and independence, as well as reductions in hospital admissions and lengths of stay.”

In researching “Wounds of War”, Suzanne Gordon made several HBPC home visits alongside Dr. Collins and spent significant time alongside Veterans in the PDAT program.

“(Dr. Jeff) Kixmiller and a group of Martinez (VA NorCal) clinicians developed the PDAT program to serve the needs of veterans who have a set of complex problems that restrict their treatment options. Most ...have mild or occasionally moderate TBIs (traumatic brain injuries),” writes Gordon. “The statistics confirm that more veterans who leave the program have returned to school... or returned to part- or full-time work. ... They make better decisions, are more reflective, stop before they act, solve problems more successfully, and report greater family and community reintegration than previously.”

“(PDAT) is a microcosm of the innovative spirit of the VA in general,” said Kixmiller. “We do well at the VA because we listen to vets. Throughout the whole system, we try to put their needs and priorities first and treat them as equal partners in care and collaboration.”

Media interested in learning more about VA NorCal’s HBPC or PDAT programs should contact Will Martin, Chief of Public Affairs, at 916-843-9247 or William.Martin6@va.gov.

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