

Volume V III Issue 1

Newsletter Date
January 1, 2007

The Beacon

*James A. Haley VA Hospital
Rehab Quarterly Newsletter*



Calling all amputees, family members, friends, professionals & interested parties, please mark Jan 23, 2007 @ 7 pm on your calendar. This will be the first meeting of the James A. Haley V.A. Amputee Support Group to be held in room 2B-258 on 2nd floor in the main hospital at the Veterans Health Education Center. This will be a formative meeting, which is a discovery session to discuss future plans for the group. The official name of the support group has yet to be determined. Guidelines and structure of the group will be aligned with the Amputee Coalition of America. Their premises is that “amputees need fellow amputees with whom to learn and share experiences ... peer support is a major step in a healthy recovery”. Come join the Amputee Support group ... we need your help! Jim Switzer, PT Amputee Case Manager, Joe Shamp, CPO and Robert West (interested amputee) will be there. Why not you?

Please phone 813 972 2000 x 4576 (Jim Switzer) for your thoughts, concerns, comments or suggestions.

Stakeholder's Meeting November 3, 2006

It is with great appreciation that we recognize those stakeholders who attended the PM&RS Rehab Unit Annual Stakeholder's Meeting. Thanks to Dorothy Commodore, RN for organizing the meeting. The following are the questions that were asked and the Stakeholder's responses:

What are our strong points?

- Care is comprehensive.
- Patience towards families/service members.
- Sharing of information.
- Nursing care.
- Interdisciplinary care.
- Overall care at Tampa VAMC.
- Costs.
- Continuum of care.
- Saturday Support Group.



What services/programs are we missing?

- System for follow-up data on return to work for Injured service members.
- Clear decision making process on issues concerning Palliative Care and End of Life Issues.
- Nurse Counseling to help families adjust.
- Resource for follow-up after death of service member.

What can we do to improve our existing services/programs?

- Document weights consistently.
- Improve emotional support.
- Ask for prosthetic services/equipment early to improve services.
- Consistent client education and orientation to unit.
- Provide more individual psychology services to client and family.
- Transportation: Mary Ellen Marlen Department of Defense Volunteer willing to assist service members with transportation to activities. Jim Barnes (prosthetics) offered assistance with transportation for amputees.
- Clients need more education on prosthetic services.
- Institute a Public Education program for Acceptance of Disabilities.
- Need consistent documentation of weights.



SUGGESTIONS:

Laptops in room

Work with Mac .Dill to provide computers.

Write grant to get computers.

Get Occupational Therapy involved to provide accessible equipment for clients with disability.

Provide opportunity to select menu. Food cart with options/choices would be helpful. CWT workers could help with running the cart.

Vocation Potential: Give experience in returning to work and facilitate feelings of self-worth.

Hire more nurses.

If clients are concerned with billing, call Jackie Horton in Business Office;

Pager201-9523.





Welcome Our new Staff

My name ...Rebecca "Becky" Ochs

position.....Occupational...Therapist.....

college.....University of Florida.....

childhood ambition.....To be a ballet dancer.....

fondest memory.....Going on vacations with my family. All five of us in one car!!!
.....

soundtrack.....Reality Bites

wildest dream.....Meeting someone famous.....

proudest moment.....When I got accepted into the OT program at the University of Florida.....

biggest challenge Changing jobs from working with children to working with adults.....

alarm clock...Must have it to wake up for work!!.....

perfect day...Spending time with my family and boyfriend.....

favorite book/movie.....Good Will Hunting

inspiration.....My mother inspires me to do my best everyday.....

what I like best about my job...Helping people achieve independence in their lives..
.....



My name ...Frederica Guzzetta

Position...Occupational Therapist, TBI Rehabilitation

college...Texas Womans University

childhood ambition...join Greenpeace and save the whales

fondest memory...The Picasso Museum in Paris

soundtrack... West Side Story

wildest dream...have lunch with the Dali Lama

proudest moment...day my child was born

biggest challenge...wake up early enough for a parking spot

alarm clock...my 3 year old

perfect day...yoga and picnic at the beach

favorite book/movie..Book-The Little Prince, Movie-Room with a View

inspiration...my friend Roe

what I like best about my job...my coworkers

My name Amy Dana

Position.....Physical Therapist

College.....University of South Florida

Childhood ambition.....To join the Peace Corps

Fondest memory... My wedding day

Soundtrack..... Garden State

Wildest dream.....Travel the world with my husband

Proudest moment..... Day I passed my board exam

Biggest challenge.....Being a new therapist

Alarm clock...6 AM, snooze until 6:20 AM

Perfect day.....At the beach or on a boat with friends and family

Favorite book/movie.....I really like a lot of movies – it is very hard to pick just one!!

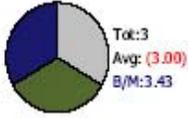
Inspiration.....My mother

What I like best about my job.....The patients and my co-workers



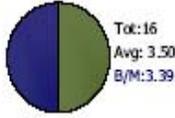
Quality of Life: "The rehabilitation program improved my quality of life"

01-Stroke



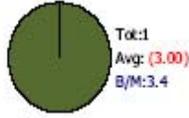
Strongly Agree	1	33.3%
Some Agree	1	33.3%
Some Disagree	1	33.3%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	0	0.0%

02-Brain



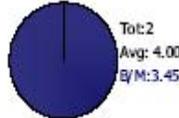
Strongly Agree	8	50.0%
Some Agree	8	50.0%
Some Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	0	0.0%

04-Spinal



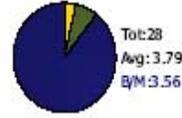
Strongly Agree	0	0.0%
Some Agree	1	100.0%
Some Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	0	0.0%

05-Amp



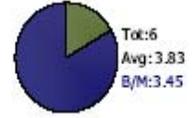
Strongly Agree	2	100.0%
Some Agree	0	0.0%
Some Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	0	0.0%

08-Ortho



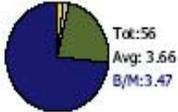
Strongly Agree	25	89.3%
Some Agree	2	7.1%
Some Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	1	3.6%

16-Debil



Strongly Agree	5	83.3%
Some Agree	1	16.7%
Some Disagree	0	0.0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	0	0.0%

All



Strongly Agree	41	73.2%
Some Agree	13	23.2%
Some Disagree	1	1.8%
Strongly Disagree	0	0.0%
N/A	1	1.8%

The Beacon

James A. Haley VA Hospital

C/O The Beacon #117

13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.



Stamp

WERE ON THE WEB
WWW1.VA.GOV/VISN8/TAMPA/PMRS

To reach "The Beacon", please write to: James A. Haley VA Hospital c/o The Beacon #117, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612

Editorial Staff: Julie Williams - OT, Jim Switzer - PT, Steve Wilson - RT,
and Doug Gephart - Rehab Coordinator