

RESPONDING ON THE HOME FRONT: The Impact of Military Engagement on Families and Communities

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PLEASE SUBMIT CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION FORMS BY MARCH 15, 2010.

Conference Theme:

The University of Utah College of Social Work and the Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), in conjunction with the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the United States Army Reserve 807th Medical Command, are pleased to announce a major conference of the effects of military deployments on families and communities. For the first time in history our military engagement in the Middle East has brought unique dynamics needing specialized services and interventions. These have included a.) a fully voluntary military, b.) large deployments of women and national reservists, and, c.) multiple deployments and home-comings. Many families have both a father and a mother in the service. “When parents leave on war missions, the remaining family members often struggle to regroup and set up new routines. Roles change” (H. Fitzgerald, 2009). Home-based care givers, the children, and the individuals who daily interact with these families, such as pediatricians, school teachers, clergy, law enforcement, social services agencies, and neighbors, need to adjust to these changing roles, through being sensitive to the difficulties of adjustment at time of deployment, and then again to readjustment when returning to home and community. Many reservists are deployed multiple times, so the process is repeated over and over again.

Thematic Threads:

All of the armed forces serving their military have developed extensive outreach and programming to respond to these new challenges. Cities and states are also implementing special programming to help in the process of support for home front family members and reintegration of their soldiers. These include medical services and physical rehabilitation, suicide prevention, mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, work force services, family and pediatric medicine, schools, law enforcement, and women’s issues.

Conference Dates and Format:

The conference is to be held on the University of Utah Campus, October 13-15, 2010. The conference will feature a keynote address, daily plenary sessions, and break out sessions. Presentation topics need to fall within the above thematic threads, which will form different aspects or tracks within the conference. Plenary speakers will represent an interweaving of two or more of these threads under the umbrella of the conference theme, to foster a more integrative perspective on these critical issues.

We request that presentations fall into one of the two following styles. Speakers must select which style they are presenting when filling out the submission form.

- A 90 minute session to include interactive discussion, practical tools and 10–15 minutes of question and answer.
- A two-hour session to include interactive discussion, practical tools and 10–15 minutes of question and answer.

Compensation and Discounts:

The conference is not able to offer compensation to presenters, nor travel/lodging/per diem reimbursements; however, we are pleased to offer free attendance at any workshops presenters wish to attend during the conference, including free CEU credit. In addition, a discount is available, should presenters and/or their agencies, wish to participate in the Resource Fair. Reasonably priced lodging is available on campus, convenient to the conference facilities, which includes a continental breakfast each day. The University Marriott Park Hotel is also located adjacent to campus.

Confirming Your Participation/Speaker Form:

The conference management will generate a speaker packet for each presenter selected which contains important information and a series of forms which must be completed by the stated deadline to confirm participation in the program.

Marketing Materials:

The information provided in your submission will be used for promotional materials— including the registration brochure. Please complete your submission with this in mind. We reserve the right to edit submissions to accommodate this purpose.

Deadlines:

We ask that all speakers demonstrate a commitment to planning an exceptional conference by meeting conference deadlines, which will be outlined in your confirmation speaker packet.

Disclosures:

We require speakers to disclose personal and employer-related interests in the subject matter being addressed.

Handouts:

Handouts are desirable. Handouts can include your PowerPoint presentation as well as any additional material that you think would be valuable to attendees.

Co-Presenters/Moderators:

If your session involves more than one presenter, it is essential that the session be coordinated to ensure overall cohesiveness which includes such things as complimentary content, transitions between presenters, accurate handouts, completed forms and timing.

Jargon & Acronyms:

Please remember that your audience is a cross-industry group. Try to avoid any industry-specific jargon or be sure to define your terms.

Non-Promotion Policy:

Attendees at conferences do not like promotional pitches from speakers. Feel free to tell listeners who you are and what you do (briefly), but please—no selling or commercial promotions in your presentation or PowerPoint. Resource fair booths are available should you wish to utilize one. Please call 801-581-8913 and request information about the resource fair.

Practical Advice:

Many members of the audience are looking for practical advice and tools they can take back today and use tomorrow.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL ELECTRONICALLY BY MARCH 15, 2010:

E-Mail to farrina.coulam@socwk.utah.edu

Still have proposal submission questions? farrina.coulam@socwk.utah.edu or 801-581-4428.

You should receive an email acknowledgment of receipt within 2 business days.

If chosen, you understand that:

- The conference does not pay speaker fees or travel expenses.
- You are allowing the conference to use your name and photo in conference promotions.
- Still, video, broadcast, and/or sound recordings may be made of the conference and by agreeing to participate as a speaker is regarded as permission to participate in still, video, broadcast, and/or sound recordings.
- You will receive one complimentary conference registration.
- You will have a Speaker listing and company reference in the conference program and conference web site.
- The dress code is business casual or business.
- You will be required to observe the clock - time slots will be enforced.
- The conference will not allow presentation substitutions on-site.
- You are to refrain from "brochure speak" (advertising pitches) while presenting.
- You are expected to check in with the Conference registration desk at LEAST 30 minutes prior to your scheduled talk or your presentation may be filled with another speaker.
- You are expected to meet with students for at least 15 minutes after your session for informal Q&A.
- All submissions will be evaluated by the Conference Advisory Board, and notification of selection will occur by May 2010.