PATIENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Veterans enrolled in VA Puget Sound Health Care System can self-refer to most of the classes listed in this brochure, except where noted.

For information about copays, please call the VA Billing Department at 1-800-329-8387 ext. 76299
What’s your health age?

Visit My HealtheVet and take the HealtheLiving Assessment today!
www.myhealth.va.gov

Your MyHealtheVet Coordinators:
Kazumi Cornell & Mitch Gaikowski
(206) 277-6709
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VA ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

POST 9/11 ERA VETERAN ORIENTATION BRIEFING – AMLK
Recurring presentation for those that have recently transitioned from active duty into VA’s Health Care System. Topics include VA Structure, Navigating the health care system, VA Service Connection and Vocational/Employment Programs. Orientation is held every Wednesday 1:00pm-3:00pm and Friday 10:00am-12:00pm at American Lake, Bldg 81, 3rd Floor (check in with the Gold Team). Childcare is available on-site. At this time, we are unable to accommodate walk-ins so please contact (253) 583-1165 to schedule with us. If you are unable to attend but would like to receive this information, please feel free to contact us directly.

HOME TELEHEALTH

The Home Telehealth program helps you learn to better manage your health through daily questions and health tips in the comfort of your own home. Registered Nurse Care Coordinators routinely monitor the information that you are sending in and call you to talk about your symptoms and progress. There is no charge for Home Telehealth services.

Home Telehealth is currently able to serve Veterans with the following conditions:
• Anxiety
• Bipolar Disorder
• Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
• Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)
• Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
• Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
• Depression
• Diabetes (DM)
• Hypertension (HTN)
• Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
• Schizophrenia
• Tobacco Cessation
• Weight Loss (TeleMOVE)

For more information contact Rebecca Cutler, BSN, RN: (206) 303-0958
NUTRITION & HEALTHY EATING

HEALTHY EATING CLASS – SEATTLE
One-time class meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, 10:30am-12:00pm. Contact Ashley Paschke, MS, RD, CDE: (206) 277-4142

HEART HEALTHY NUTRITION CLASS – MT VERNON
Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:00am. Contact Mount Vernon Clinic: (360) 848-8500

MOVE! PROGRAM – AMLK, BELLEVUE, BREMERTON, FEDERAL WAY, MT VERNON, PORT ANGELES, SEATTLE, & FROM YOUR HOME (TELEHEALTH)
A self-management weight loss program for Veterans that encourages healthy lifestyle changes through goals YOU set. This is not a diet or an exercise program. You may choose among weekly and monthly support groups held in person, online, or by video (similar to Skype or FaceTime). You may also choose one-on-one support from a Registered Dietitian, telephone support, and/or printed resources. Contact the MOVE! Office: (253) 583-3183 or check out the MOVE! Website at www.move.va.gov/

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & EXERCISE

GEROFIT PROGRAM – AMLK
This is a supervised exercise program for Veterans 65 years and older. The program offers strength, balance and flexibility exercises to increase energy, activity and reduce risk of falls. Sessions are held in the mornings, 2 to 3 days a week at the American Lake gym (Building 62). Contact Alan Wesley, BA: (206) 764-2723

TAI CHI (NON-SKILLED) – AMLK
Non-skilled tai chi meets in the Building 62 Gym. Requires Recreation Therapy Gym Consult from your primary care provider to participate. Meets on Tuesdays, 10:15am-11:15am and Wednesdays, 2:30pm-3:30pm. Contact Susan Gustafson, RT: (253) 582-8440 Ext 76571
YOU WANT TO GO THE DISTANCE. WE CAN HELP YOU STAY ON TRACK.

The Quit VET tobacco quitline is a free* program that provides ongoing, individualized support and confidential, one-on-one counseling. Call 1-855-QUIT-VET (1-855-784-8838) to get started.

*Standard telephone rates apply.
TOBACCO CESSATION & SUBSTANCE USE

EXPLORING CHANGE – BREMERTON
This class provides an opportunity for Veterans to evaluate their substance use and its role in their lives, whether or not they have current plans to make changes. This four-week closed group includes non-judgmental feedback, peer and provider support, and a structure for Veterans to set their own goals—all with a focus upon reducing harm from substance use and other risky behaviors. Abstinence from substances is not a requirement for attending this group, although it might be an appropriate goal for some. Activities might include discussions, questionnaires, objective feedback, values exploration, goal-setting, and relapse prevention.
Contact Kathryn Johnson, LICSW: (360) 473-0366

HOME TELEHEALTH FOR TOBACCO CESSATION
The Home Telehealth Program helps to support you while you quit using tobacco through daily questions and health tips in the comfort of your own home. Registered Nurse Care Coordinators routinely monitor the information that you are sending in and call you to talk about your symptoms and progress. There is no charge for Home Telehealth services. Contact Rebecca Cutler, BSN, RN: (206) 303-0958

QUIT SMOKING GROUP – AMLK
Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm. Contact Emily DiNatale, PhD: (253) 583-3284

QUIT SMOKING GROUP – SEATTLE
This 4-week group begins monthly and meets on Thursdays, 3:00pm-4:00pm. Contact Rob Bailey, PhD: (206) 716-5947
SLEEP IMPROVEMENT

CPAP DESENSITIZATION – AMLK
This 1-time class provides Veterans with information about sleep apnea and helps them become more comfortable with their CPAP machines. The group meets the first Monday of every month from 10:00am-11:30am. Contact: Joshua Breitstein, PsyD: (253) 583-2571

CPAP DESENSITIZATION – SEATTLE
This is a 1-session class, with the option of 3 follow-up sessions. The goal of the class is to help Veterans with sleep apnea become more comfortable with their CPAP machines. The class covers the basics of sleep apnea, CPAP use, and guides Veterans to develop an individualized plan to gradually increase daily CPAP use. The group meets Tuesdays every other month from 10:00am-11:15am. Contact Nicola De Paul, PhD at (206) 277-3635

ORIENTATION TO INSOMNIA TREATMENT – MT VERNON
This is a one session orientation to treatment options for chronic insomnia. You will learn about what causes and maintains chronic insomnia as well as some simple, non-medication methods for improving sleep. Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 1:30pm-2:30pm. The group leader is Dr. Nathan Frise. Please contact the clinic to schedule appointment at (360) 419-3677. Drop-ins welcome (see clerk day-of the class in order to be scheduled).

SLEEP IMPROVEMENT GROUP – AMLK
Meets the 2nd Monday of the month, 10:00am-11:30pm. Contact Joshua Breitstein, PsyD: (253) 583-2571

SLEEP IMPROVEMENT GROUP – SEATTLE
Meets either Tuesdays, 10:00am-11:15am, or on Fridays, 1:00pm-2:15pm. It alternates each month and meets for 4 sessions. Contact Craig Santerre, PhD: (206) 768-5474
STROKE, MEMORY SKILLS & DEMENTIA EDUCATION

LIVING WITH STROKE: A SUPPORT GROUP FOR STROKE SURVIVORS – AMLK
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10:00am-11:00am.
Contact Natalie Dong, PhD, ABPP: (253) 583-1844 / (206) 277-3693 or
Derek Anderson, PhD: (253) 583-1896

MEMORY SKILLS GROUP FOR OLDER VETERANS WITH PTSD – AMLK & SEATTLE
Learn about how PTSD symptoms can interact with normal aging to cause memory problems and attentional glitches. You’ll learn tools and strategies to help you maximize your thinking ability. The class meets for 8 weeks, each session is 1 hour. Groups are run 1-2 times per year. Please call the numbers below to learn more, if you are interested in participating.

American Lake  Contact Julie Moorer, RN: (253) 583-2008
Seattle  Contact Emily Trittschuh, PhD: (206) 277-6283

PSYCHOEDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH EARLY DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS – AMLK
Education and support for Veterans affected by dementia and their caregivers. Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday at noon; American Lake VA, Community Living Center. Please call ahead to schedule an initial meeting with the facilitator before starting the group.
Contact Doug Lane, PhD, ABPP: (253) 583-2015

VA STROKE EDUCATION SERIES – AMLK & SEATTLE
An educational series for stroke survivors, their families and caregivers offered at the Seattle and American Lake. Topics include most information needed after stroke and recovery, meet the VA Stroke Rehabilitation Specialty team, other stroke survivors and caregivers and learn about VA resources for stroke survivors. Meets every other week for 8 sessions given twice a year in January and July.

American Lake  Contact Patrick Crisostomo, LPN: (253) 583-1869
Seattle  Contact Ivelis Pena, RN: (206) 277-1371
**DIABETES EDUCATION & SUPPORT**

**ACT (ACCEPTANCE AND COMMITMENT THERAPY) FOR LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES – LAKE CITY**
This 2-hour class format has been shown to be very effective at improving diabetes patient’s use of healthy coping strategies, improving overall self-care, and lowering HbA1c levels to the target range. Contact Marla Gray, LCSW to register: (206) 229-0092

**DIABETES CONVERSATION MAPS – SEATTLE**
Wednesdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm for 3 weeks. Contact: (206) 277-4269 or (206) 764-2495

**DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM – AMLK**
Half day class, held once a month, 8:00am-12:00pm. Contact: (253) 583-3373 or (800) 329-VETS Ext 73373

**LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES GROUP – MT VERNON**
Monthly class of 4 sessions. Begins first Wednesday of the month, 2:00pm-3:00pm. Make appointment or walk in. We encourage bringing a supportive family member! Contact Mount Vernon Clinic: (360) 848-8500

**NUTRITION AND DIABETES GROUP – BREMERTON & MT VERNON**
Bremerton Meets every other Wednesday at 9:00am.
Contact the Bremerton Clinic: (360) 473-0340

Mount Vernon Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00am.
Contact the Mount Vernon Clinic: (360) 848-8500
Do you have High Blood Pressure and...

✓ Are you overweight? Or...
✓ Do you smoke? Or...
✓ Do you have high cholesterol?

Do you want help from a Veteran health coach in your home?

Veterans up to age 75 may be eligible for the study: Veteran Peer Coaches Optimizing and Advancing Cardiac Health (‘Vet-COACH’)

If you are interested, please call Jennifer Williams at 206-277-4171
CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT – AMLK
Meets Mondays from 3:00pm-4:00pm. This class focuses on helping people better understand the interaction between physical and emotional pain including the impact that thoughts, feelings, and behavior have on chronic pain management. We also emphasize helping individuals to explore ways to continue to live important values despite limitations imposed by chronic pain disorders.
Contact Jason Katzenbach, PhD: (253) 583-3172

CHRONIC PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT 101 – SEATTLE & TELEHEALTH
Provides information about chronic vs. acute pain, the pain cycle, an introduction to pain self-management skills, and information about further treatment offered for pain management. Meets on the 4th Monday of each month from 12:30pm-2:00pm in the Primary Care Group Room. Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267

CHRONIC PAIN SKILLS – AMLK & SEATTLE
The Chronic Pain Skills program offers classes for Veterans with pain. We offer three kinds of classes: 1) hypnosis, 2) mindfulness meditation, and 3) pain education and self-management. Each of these types of interventions has been shown to be helpful for pain management. Classes meet once per week for 8 weeks and begin three times per year (February, June, and October). Each type of class is available at Am Lake and Seattle. Contact the SKILLS group coordinator Carrie Kincaid at (206) 277-3959 or Dr. Williams (206) 277-6290 for schedule details or to be screened for enrollment.

MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION – AMLK & SEATTLE
This group teaches methods to work with stress, pain and depression. Held once a week, 9:30am-12:00pm for 8 weeks. Weekdays vary between each group. This group is a standardized, evidence-based approach to teaching mindfulness meditation. The course follows closely the curriculum originally developed at the University of Massachusetts. Clinical trials show benefits of MBSR for chronic pain, PTSD, IBS, fatigue, depression and self-reported attention/memory lapses. Contact Kim Gustas: (206) 277-1721

PAIN SERIES – BREMERTON
This six-session class encourages Veterans to adopt an active, problem-solving approach in coping with mild-to-moderate functional impairment associated with chronic pain. Meets Mondays, 1:00pm-2:00pm.
Contact Andy Paves, PhD: (360) 473-0358
WHOLE HEALTH FOR CHRONIC PAIN CLASS – SEATTLE
This is a weekly class focusing on mind-body-spirit health. The class uses mindfulness and goal-setting to support making healthy changes and to learn self-care skills for chronic pain. Class meets Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm in the Primary Care Group Room. Available to Veterans enrolled in VA Primary Care.
Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267

WOMEN’S PAIN & HEALTH SELF-MANAGEMENT GROUP – SEATTLE
For women with chronic pain and other persistent disabling conditions. Mondays, 1:00pm-2:45pm for 10 weeks.
Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027

WOMEN’S WELLNESS

BRIEF WARRIOR RENEW FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST) – AMLK
This is an 8-week structured class meeting on Tuesdays from 10:00am-12:00pm. It addresses the most common issues related to MST. Please pick up an application at the front desk of the Women’s Health Clinic. You can sign up now for the upcoming summer class. Contact Lori Katz, PhD: (253) 583-3714

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN – SEATTLE
Fourth Tuesdays of the month, 11:00am-12:00pm.
Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027

COPING SKILLS GROUP (STRESS MANAGEMENT) – AMLK
Class meets every Monday, 10:00am-11:30am and covers skills for coping with emotions, improving relationships, and practicing good self-care. A new coping skill is presented at every class. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Lori Katz, PhD: (253) 583-3714
GRIEF AND LOSS GROUP FOR WOMEN VETERANS – AMLK
This 8-week group offers the opportunity to identify and honor losses, understand and experience the grieving process, and begin to heal and live more fully.
Contact Chaplain Linda Conyers, BCC: (206) 277-3753

INTEGRATIVE RESTORATION GUIDED MEDITATION (IRest) – AMLK
This class assists with body awareness, emotional tolerance, and deep relaxation. We will provide mats and blankets. Class meets on Thursdays from 9:00am-10:00am. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointment is needed. Contact Lori Katz, PhD: (253) 583-3714

MATERNITY WELLNESS AND SUPPORT WORKSHOP – AMLK & SEATTLE
This is a quarterly workshop for pregnant or postpartum Veterans (non-mobile infants welcome) focused on psychoeducation and coping skills for maternity stress, including postpartum depression, PTSD, mother-baby bonding, and relationship strain.
Contact Catherine Wallace, PhD: (206) 768-5428

MENOPAUSE 101 – AMLK & SEATTLE
This is a shared appointment for women Veterans who want to learn about and share experiences. We will come together to discuss menopause, hot flashes and sweats, sexual health, sleep, mood, and weight.

American Lake  Contact Lori Katz, PhD: (253) 583-3714
Seattle  Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027

SPIRITUALITY GROUP FOR WOMEN VETERANS – AMLK
Spirituality is the pathway through which we explore our deepest beliefs, discover ourselves, and search for meaning and purpose in life. When we intentionally explore and practice our spirituality, we open ourselves up to feel more connected to others, have a stronger sense of ourselves, and develop deeper compassion for all. This group is offered as a safe and supportive place to explore and nurture your own spirituality, and learn how spiritual practice can help in recovery. Please contact your care coordinator for a referral. Contact Chaplain Linda Conyers, BCC: (206) 277-3753

WOMEN’S PAIN & HEALTH SELF-MANAGEMENT GROUP – SEATTLE
For women with chronic pain and other persistent disabling conditions.
Meets on Mondays, 1:00pm-2:45pm for 10 weeks.
Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027
LGBT+ EDUCATION & SUPPORT

GAY MEN’S SOCIAL HOUR – SEATTLE
Meets every Wednesday at 1:00pm. Contact Katy McDermott: (206) 277-3233

LGBT+ VETERANS GROUP – AMLK
A confidential, therapeutic, and affirming space for Veterans to process their experiences and build community resilience with other LGBT+ Veterans. Group topics include: coming out, identity development, minority stress, coping and resilience, sexual health, navigating relationships, mental wellness, and LGBT+ healthcare at VA Puget Sound. For more information, contact Jacob Eleazer, MEd: (253) 583-2886

PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP FOR TRANSGENDER & GENDER NON-CONFORMING VETERANS – SEATTLE
This group helps Veterans work on health behavior and other goals that help them function better in their lives. It also focuses on stress related to being transgender through connection with other transgender Veterans, acceptance, and learning reliable health information. Participants must be referred by a mental health provider and have completed some initial steps in addressing their transgender identity. This is not a drop-in support group. Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027

SUPPORT GROUP OF LGBTQ+ VETERANS – SEATTLE
Meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 3:00pm.
Contact Kyle Czeh at (206) 277-5033 or Ian Pocock at (206) 277-1925

TRANSGENDER VETERANS SUPPORT GROUP – AMLK
Meets the 1st Tuesdays of the month, 12:30pm-1:30pm.
Contact Eric Clausell, PhD: (253) 583-2840
HEALTH EDUCATION & SUPPORT

ALS SUPPORT GROUP – AMLK, SEATTLE & PHONE-IN OPTION
1st Wednesdays of the month, 11:00am-12:00pm (Seattle – Building 100, Room 1D-103; American Lake – Building 3 room 208; Phone: 1-800-767-1750, enter PIN: 57987#). Contact Jenny Bambara, PhD: (206) 277-4264 or Derek Anderson, PhD: (253) 583-1896

AMPUTEE SUPPORT GROUP – AMLK & SEATTLE
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 11:00am-12:00pm (Seattle – Building 100, Room 1D-103; American Lake – Building 3, Room 208). Contact Jenny Bambara, PhD: (206) 277-4264

HEALTHY AGING PROJECT: BRAIN – SEATTLE
Are you interested in keeping your mind sharp? This class provides education and skills to promote a healthy brain as you age. Be ready for active participation and home practice of skills to help you meet your personalized goals. The class meets for 6 weeks, each session is 1.5 hours. Offered 3-4 times each year at the Seattle VA, the Winter series begins January 4. Please call the number below if you are age 50+ and interested in participating. Contact Alice Verstaen, PhD: (206) 277-3776

HIV/AIDS SUPPORT & EDUCATION GROUP – SEATTLE
Meets every other Monday, 10:00am-11:00am. Meets in South Clinic. Contact Specialty Medicine Fellow: (206) 716-5803

MEN’S SEXUAL HEALTH – AMLK
Individual sessions available to provide psychoeducational information regarding Men’s Sexual Health. Contact Joshua Breitstein, PsyD: (253) 583-2571

MOVING FREE-LY: FALLS PREVENTION CLASS – SEATTLE
Have you had a recent fall in your home or around town? Do you sometimes feel dizzy, weak, or unsteady on your feet? Would you like to learn more about balance and strength? Discover ways to prevent falls in your home and on the go. This class meets for 6 weeks on Thursdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm. Contact Meg Wojtowicz: (206) 768-5408

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP – AMLK, MT VERNON & SEATTLE
3rd Wednesdays of the month, 10:00am-11:00am (Seattle – Building 100, Room 1D-103; American Lake – Building 3, Room 208, Mount Vernon CBOC – Room 254). Contact Jenny Bambara, PhD: (206) 277-4264 or Derek Anderson, PhD: (253) 583-1896
PARKINSON’S SUPPORT GROUP – AMLK
Meets the 2nd Friday of the month, 11:00am-12:30pm (American Lake – Building 9).
Contact Annie: (253) 583-1015

WHAT’S APP DOC? – SEATTLE
This 2-hour workshop aims to introduce Veterans to the use of mobile devices, mobile applications and internet websites for managing their health. Apps that help with mental health concerns, promote healthy self-awareness and coping with stress are emphasized but using phones and tablets to help with remembering medications and appointments is also covered along with a brief introduction to My Health-e Vet. The workshop is typically offered on the 2nd Monday of each month from 10:00am-12:00pm (verify for a given month) and requires a scheduled appointment in the Mental Health Clinic. Having a smart phone or tablet is helpful but not required. Contact Mary Jean Mariano, PhD: (206) 277-3027

LONG TERM CARE PLANNING

ABCS OF LONG TERM CARE PLANNING – MT VERNON
2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 10:00am-11:30am. Learn about what your VA and community benefits will cover when it comes to long term care. For Veterans assigned to Mount Vernon CBOC and their family/caregivers. Registration is required.
Contact Ann Stewart, LICSW: (360) 419-3698

LONG TERM CARE PLANNING GROUP – AMLK
3rd Tuesday of the month, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Registration is required.
Contact Nastassiea Horne, MSW: (253) 583-1146

SUPPORTIVE CARE PLANNING: A LONG TERM CARE CONVERSATION – SEATTLE
Supportive living is the single largest out-of-pocket cost for individuals as related to aging and disability. Expect to learn about what your VA or community benefits will cover when it comes to your long term care needs. Offered every 2nd Wednesday from 1:00pm-2:30pm in Building 1, Room 235. Registration is required. Contact Tauna Hanson, LICSW: (206) 277-1077
WHOLE HEALTH CLASSES

What really matters to you? Why do you want or need your health? How do you want to live your life? Whole Health classes help Veterans create a personal health plan to take charge of their health and live their best life.

AMERICAN LAKE (WOMEN’S)
Wednesdays, 9:30am-11:00am
Contact: Lori Katz, PhD (253) 583-3714

BELLEVUE
Tuesdays, 10:00am-11:00am
Contact: Renn D. Fowler, PMHNP (425) 214-1055

BREMERTON
Thursdays, 10:00am-11:00am
Contact: Tammy Todd, LICSW (360) 473-0348

FEDERAL WAY
Thursdays, 10:00am-11:00am
Contact: David Reimer, RN (206) 947-7723

LAKE CITY (NORTH SEATTLE)
Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Contact Diane Greenberg, PhD (206) 305-1460

SEATTLE
Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Contact: Jenny Salmon, RN (206) 277-1178

WHOLE HEALTH FOR CHRONIC PAIN CLASS – SEATTLE
This is a weekly class focusing on mind-body-spirit health. The class uses mindfulness and goal-setting to support making healthy changes and to learn self-care skills for chronic pain. Class meets Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm in the Primary Care Group Room. Available to Veterans enrolled in VA Primary Care. Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267
iHI-FIVES
Caregiver Support

iHI-FIVES is a training program for Caregivers of Veterans with physical or cognitive impairments. The program is designed to help Caregivers learn new skills, practice positive self-care, connect with other Caregivers, and navigate VA and other community resources. iHI-FIVES consists of four 60-minute classes.

Classes are offered on Wednesdays at American Lake Building 8, Room 208 and Seattle Building 1, Room 240.

- January 16th, 2019 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- January 23rd, 2019 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- January 30th, 2019 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- February 6th, 2019 11:00 am-12:00 pm

For further information or to sign up, please contact Tara Stablein, LICSW, CCM, at 206-277-6696
ANXIETY SKILLS GROUP – AMLK
Weekly group focused on skills to assist with anxiety in four main areas:
Mindfulness, Emotion Regulation, Interpersonal Effectiveness, and Distress Tolerance. Join any time, walk-ins welcome. Meets on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm in the American Lake Primary Care Clinic (Bldg. 81). Contact Amee Epler, PhD: (253) 583-3720

DEPRESSION MANAGEMENT – MT VERNON
This four-session class is intended for Veterans with mild-to-moderate symptoms of depression, as well as for Veterans experiencing difficulties after a recent life change, e.g., retirement, divorce, separation from the military, moving, death of a loved one. Information covered includes practical, evidence-based coping skills to help reduce symptoms of depression and increase life satisfaction.
Meets Wednesdays from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Facilitator: Evelyn Larsen, LICSW.
For referral information, please contact Naz Edwards, (360) 419-3677

DEALING WITH IRRITABILITY – AMLK
This is an 8-session series which meets on Fridays from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Veterans can start at any time. Topics include Mindfulness, Emotion Regulation, and Interpersonal Effectiveness skills. Contact Candy Campbell, MSW: (253) 583-1452

GRIEF GROUP – AMLK
This group helps Veterans struggling with the death of a loved one or other grief issues. Bereavement and personal growth are emphasized. Meets for 8 weeks on Tuesdays from 10:30am-12:00pm. Enrollment by referral from provider.
Contact Chaplain Linda Conyers: (206) 277-3753

GRIEF & LOSS GROUP – SEATTLE
This is an 8-week cohort group for Veterans focused on grief and loss.
Meets in Building 24. Enrollment by referral from provider.
Contact Carrie Littauer, Chaplain Fellow: (206) 277-3964
THE JOURNEY HOME & HERO’S JOURNEY – SEATTLE

_The Journey Home_ is a 4-week class that reviews common issues in adjusting to civilian life after military service. The return home is a cultural transition with expected challenges. _The Hero’s Journey_ is a longer, 12-session class, using the steps of the “hero’s journey” as described by, Joseph Campbell, author of _The Hero with a Thousand Faces_. We use stories and movies to help veterans identify ways that they can be of continued service as veteran-civilians bringing back valuable skills and knowledge to society. Whether you are just out of the service, or have been out for years—the journey home can be a long road and the hero’s journey can provide a road map for the steps that lie ahead.

Meets for either four or twelve weekly sessions, Mondays, 2:00pm–3:30pm.
Contact Jenny Salmon, RN: (206) 277-1343

iREST MEDITATION CLASS – LAKE CITY & SEATTLE

Two 4-session modules teaching iRest®, a guided meditation that is often deeply relaxing and can assist with body awareness and emotional tolerance. People who practice iRest meditation report more relaxation, improved mood, improved sleep, and less pain.

Lake City Classes meet Tuesdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Contact Ali Bright, MD: (206) 549-7992

Seattle Classes meet Mondays, 10:00am-11:00am in the Primary Care Group Room. Available to Veterans enrolled in VA Primary Care.
Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267

LIFE PATHS – AMLK

This 4-session class teaches Veterans how to deal with negative emotions, get unstuck from unworkable patterns of behavior, and develop skills to live more fully and engaged with values. Next classes start February 5th and April 2nd. Classes are held from 3:00pm-4:30pm. Contact Mary-Catherine Kane, PhD: (253) 583-1642
LOVING-KINDNESS MEDITATION – SEATTLE
This group teaches meditation practices that cultivate the ability to feel kindness and compassion for self and others. This group may be helpful to Veterans who have experienced trauma, as well as Veterans with difficult to treat chronic medical conditions, such as chronic pain. For questions contact Kim Gustas: (206) 277-1721

To refer a patient, submit a consult to MINDFULNESS BASED STRESS REDUCTION (Under the Seattle Consult Menu) and specify that you are requesting Loving-Kindness Meditation.

MANAGING STRESS AND EMOTIONS – SEATTLE
Helps Veterans learn new ways of responding to uncomfortable emotions in order to improve their ability to cope with life’s difficulties. This 5-week class combines elements of mindfulness, cognitive therapy, and behavioral (exposure) therapy. Participants must join the class at session one and patients already enrolled in MHC or ATC are ineligible. Meets Mondays, 3:30pm–5:00pm. Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267, or Nicola De Paul, PhD: (206) 277-3635

MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION – AMLK & SEATTLE
This group teaches methods to work with stress, pain and depression. Held once a week, 9:30am-12:00pm for 8 weeks. Weekdays vary between each group. This group is a standardized, evidence-based approach to teaching mindfulness meditation. The course follows closely the curriculum originally developed at the University of Massachusetts. Clinical trials show benefits of MBSR for chronic pain, PTSD, IBS, fatigue, depression and self-reported attention/memory lapses. Contact Kim Gustas: (206) 277-1721
MOVING FORWARD – BREMERTON & MT VERNON
This 4-week, evidence-based class teaches Veterans effective problem-solving techniques, emotion regulation skills and creative strategies for managing challenges of everyday life, including difficulties arising from mental health diagnoses. The class is specifically designed to help OIF/OEF Veterans adjust to civilian life after returning from deployment, although it is open to any interested Veteran.

Bremerton  Meets on Wednesdays, 2:00pm-3:00pm.
Contact Kathryn Johnson, LICSW: (360) 473-0340

Mount Vernon  Meets on Mondays, 1:30pm-2:30pm.
Contact Nathan Frise, PsyD: (360) 419-3677

ORIENTATION TO PTSD & PTSD TREATMENTS – MT VERNON
This is a one session orientation to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In the class, you will learn about symptoms, causes, risk factors, and maintaining factors of PTSD. The class will provide an overview of all available treatments for PTSD, with an emphasis on treatments proven to reduce or eliminate PTSD symptoms all together. Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 1:30pm-2:30pm. The group leader is Dr. Nathan Frise. Please contact the clinic to schedule appointment at (360) 419-3677. Drop-ins welcome (see clerk day-of the class in order to be scheduled).
STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS – LAKE CITY (NORTH SEATTLE)
This 7-week class helps Veterans identify ways to manage life stress. Veterans learn how the body responds to stress, how to engage the relaxation response, how to set realistic goals for change, identify how thoughts affect mood and vice versa, and improve communication patterns to improve relationships. Meets Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm. Contact Ali Bright, MD: (206) 549-7992 or Diane Greenberg, PhD (206) 305-1460

SWEAT LODGE – AMLK
The Inipi (Sweat Lodge) is a place of purification-new beginnings-healing-direction-pathway-letting go. This Ceremony is provided by Traditional Native Veteran Elders and helpers from the community, helps release the "sickness of being in battle with people and self. "We have your "6". Please view our website at www.vasweatlodge.org.

1st Tuesday (day): Lodge gate opens at 8:30am, go in time is 12:00pm.

3rd Tuesday (evening): Lodge gate opens at 12:00pm. Go in time is 5:00pm.

For further information, please contact:
Mike L. (Native Elder)            (253) 312-5431
Marty Martinez (Council)          (360) 943-5087

TRAUMA RECOVERY CLASS – BREMERTON
This class focuses on the impact that traumatic experience can have and the role avoidance plays with regard to the natural healing process. It is a 3-week class.
Contact Kathryn Johnson, LICSW: (360) 473-0366
RELATIONSHIP SKILLS & FAMILY SUPPORT

COUPLES SKILLS GROUP – SEATTLE
5-session couples group focused on developing skills related to communication, conflict resolution, and building intimacy. Meets Tuesdays, 2:00pm-3:30pm. Contact Keren Lehavot, PhD: (206) 277-1511, or Kori Blitstein, MSW: (206) 277-1186

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT – AMLK
If you are a caregiver and would like to participate in our Support Groups for Caregivers of Veterans, our group facilitators will be happy to provide you with information on enrollment. Learn valuable skills to help with problem solving, stress management, and positive thinking. Strategies and suggestions for dealing with caregiving challenges and how to take time for yourself will be addressed.

Support groups will be offered by VA Puget Sound Caregiver Support Program certified interventionists. Contact Jennifer Jaqua, Clinical Social Worker, Caregiver Support Coordinator: (253) 583-1412
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS GROUP – SEATTLE & TELEHEALTH
Two 4-session modules focused on building interpersonal skills including assertiveness, conflict management and resolution, effective expression of emotions, and active listening. Classes held on Tuesdays 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Primary Care Group Room. Contact Kelly Caver, PhD: (206) 277-4267

OPERATION S.A.V.E. GROUP FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS – SEATTLE
This is an ongoing supportive, educational group for the loved ones of Veterans currently struggling with thoughts of suicide. Educational content is repeated every session, with time allotted for open group discussion and peer support. This group meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:15pm. Contact Heather Gebhardt, PhD for more details: (206) 277-6201

POSITIVE PARENTING GROUP – SEATTLE & TELEHEALTH
4-session parenting skills group for parents/caregivers with children under age 12. Participate in person or via video conferencing to the home. Time/day TBD, offered approximately quarterly. Contact Meghan McGinn, PhD: (253) 327-3174

PTSD 101 FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS – SEATTLE
2-hour educational workshop about PTSD symptoms, treatment, de-escalation strategies, how PTSD impacts relationships, and other available resources for loved ones. This one-time group is repeated on the 2nd Friday of every month from 10:30am-12:30pm in Building 1 room 168. This group is for family and friends of Veterans with PTSD. Contact Catherine Wallace, PhD: (206) 768-5428
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1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

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