

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Butler VA Health Care is located in the heart of Butler County, on the bus line, and convenient to community support services for Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio-area Veterans. We have been attending to Veterans' total care since 1947 and are the healthcare choice for over 18,000 Veterans – providing comprehensive Veteran care including primary, specialty, and mental health care – as well as health maintenance plans, management of chronic conditions, preventive medicine needs and social support services.

We proudly serve America's Veterans at our Abie Abraham VA Health Care Center (HCC), Community Living Center, and Domiciliary in Butler, PA as well as at our five VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in Armstrong, Southern Butler County (Cranberry Township), Clarion, Lawrence and Mercer Counties. At VA Butler Healthcare we are making lives better for America's Veterans every day in every way.

The Social Work Service at Butler VA Health Care provides a unique learning environment for students, as the department is centralized and staff are present in most clinical settings. Learning opportunities are present in a variety of clinical areas in which social workers practice, including: the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic; Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program; Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program; Home Based Primary Care; Caregiver Support Program; Community Based Outpatient Clinics; Community Living Center; Primary Care; Homeless Veteran Programs; Transition Care Management Program; Veteran's Justice Outreach; and Visual Impairment Services. A student will be assigned to a specific program area and will spend the majority of placement in that area. A student completes an orientation checklist with their preceptor and also reviews relevant medical center policies. Students have a general orientation to all program areas and can spend time shadowing a social worker in an area where the student may have particular interest or learning goals.

Students have the ability to interact with other professionals who are members of the treatment team, including psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, chaplains, and peer support specialists. They are expected to learn the specific role and function of each team member. The student must be competent in communication skills with team members and learn how to collaborate for good patient care outcomes. Students observe didactic, process, and psychotherapy groups provided by non-social work clinicians. They participate in regular treatment team meetings, morning huddles, and quality improvement projects. Butler VA is known for strong cohesion among staff across program lines.