

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology with an emphasis in Clinical-Community Psychology

Nicholas Brown

M.A. in Clinical Psychology, May, 2014, University of Missouri-St. Louis
B.S. in Psychology, May, 2010, Fordham University

Telemental Health Versus Face-to-Face Treatment: An Examination of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans' Preferences for Mental Health Services

Date: June 23rd, 2017
Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Place: 339 Stadler Hall

Abstract

Despite high estimated prevalence rates of PTSD, depression, and alcohol use disorder, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans exhibit relatively low rates of engagement in mental health treatment. Research has shown that OEF/OIF veterans' treatment-seeking is affected by attitudes towards mental illness and mental health treatment, logistical barriers to care, and severity of illness, thus providing support for Andersen's proposed model of health service utilization. Previous literature has suggested that telemental health (TMH) has the potential to address some of the factors that make treatment-seeking challenging for OEF/OIF veterans. However, little is known about the degree to which these individuals are open to TMH. This study aimed to enhance our understanding of the factors that influence OEF/OIF veterans' treatment-seeking and to determine the extent to which these individuals view TMH as a viable treatment option. A sample of 422 OEF/OIF veterans provided information about stigma towards mental illness, attitudes towards mental health treatment, preferences for mental health treatment, logistical barriers to care, and mental illness symptomatology. Moreover, they stated their preference between face-to-face (FTF) treatment and TMH. Results revealed a robust preference for face-to-face treatment across the sample. No differences emerged between veterans preferring FTF treatment and those preferring TMH treatment across the whole sample. Notably, women veterans preferring TMH were more skeptical of treatment, had more barriers to care, and more severe clinical symptoms. Findings indicate a clear preference for FTF treatment among OEF/OIF veterans, although some do perceive TMH as addressing stigma-related and logistical barriers to mental health treatment.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Steven E. Bruce, Ph.D. - Chairperson
Ann Steffen, Ph.D.
Mike Griffin, Ph.D.
Shawn O'Connor, Ph.D.