



**IntegratedEthics™**  
**Improvement Forum Call**  
Veterans and Moral Injury  
September 28, 2015

**Slide 1 - Welcome to Ethics Consultation Coordinators**

This is [Marilyn Mitchell](#). I am the IntegratedEthics Manager for Ethics Consultation at the [National Center for Ethics in Health Care](#) and I will be moderating today's IE Ethics Consultation Improvement Forum call. Thank you for joining us today. Our topic today is: Veterans and Moral Injury.

If you did not receive a reminder email for this EC Improvement Forum call, it is possible you are not signed up for the IE listserv. You can do so easily by going to the National Center's website and under the Integrated Ethics portion of the website you will find it. The link will be available in the minutes:

<http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/integratedethics/regindex.asp>

The call schedule and summary notes are posted on the IntegratedEthics website at: <http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/integratedethics/TA.asp>

Before I continue I want to mention that other staff from the Ethics Center typically join the call and you may be hearing from them.

First presentation shown on the call:



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**Slide 2** - This meeting is a multimedia presentation requiring both audio and visual access.

- Audio will be available through VANTS: 800-767-1750 Access: 89506# and Online Meeting
  - Visuals will be accessed through the Lync online meeting: [Join online meeting](#)
- Please call the usual VANTS line AND join the Lync online meeting.**

If you are having technical difficulties, please contact your local IT department to assist you.

I need to briefly review the overall ground rules for these calls:

- PLEASE do not put the call on hold.
- We ask that when you speak, you please begin by telling us your name, location and title so we can continue to get to know each other better.
- As you may know the Ethics Center does not audiotape these calls; instead, we provide minutes. In the field some VHA facilities are audiotaping the calls to make it possible for their colleagues to hear the full text of the discussion. As a result, this is not the venue for reporting violations, talking about individual case information, or disclosing identifiable patient information.

**Slide 3 – Announcements – The NCEHC is pleased to announce the newly revised second edition of Ethics Consultation: Responding to Ethics Questions in Health Care.** We commonly call this the primer and it provides an introduction to health care ethics consultation. It outlines a step-by-step approach to conducting ethics consultations using the CASES approach. It is intended for staff who participate in ethics consultations, including leaders responsible for overseeing the ethics consultation function.

[http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/ETHICS/docs/integratedethics/ec\\_primer\\_2nd\\_ed\\_080515.pdf](http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/ETHICS/docs/integratedethics/ec_primer_2nd_ed_080515.pdf)

**Slide 4 – Announcements – Nationwide Ethics Consultation Coaching sessions**

As part of our regular efforts to improve ethics consultation quality, we have been providing VISN-level consultation coaching sessions using a de-identified facility case from ECWeb. During those sessions, you've told us that you really enjoy discussing actual cases and having practice applying the CASES approach in a supportive group atmosphere. So that we can continually support the field and offer this coaching to more consultants on a consistent basis, we will be expanding this program by having nationwide calls.

All VA ethics consultants are welcome to join any of the hour long calls we will be holding over the course of the upcoming fiscal year. In order to accommodate the varying schedules of consultants across time zones, we will be holding the sessions on different days of the week during both morning and afternoon times.

**Our next call will be on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at Noon EST.** Additional details about the call will be distributed later via the Listserv (e.g., VANTS #, link to the de-identified case, etc.).

**Slide 5 – Focus Topic – Veterans & Moral Injury –**

I'd like to begin by thanking our guest speakers for joining us today and then by introducing them briefly.

Shira Maguen, Ph.D. is Mental Health Director of the OEF/OIF Integrated Care Clinic and Staff Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team (PCT) at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (SFVAMC); and Associate Professor in the Dept. of Psychiatry, UCSF School of Medicine. She is also the San Francisco site lead for the VA Women's Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) and co-director of the SFVAMC MIRECC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Dr. Maguen was the recipient of a VA Health Services Research and Development Grant that examined the impact of killing in veterans of war and moral injury. She has four additional grants that examine a novel treatment for veterans who have killed in war; trauma-related eating problems in female veterans; the effectiveness of evidence-based treatments in Iraq and Afghanistan veterans via natural language processing; and the effectiveness of a behaviorally-based treatment for insomnia (BBTI) in primary care. She recently completed a grant that examines PTSD and co-morbid conditions in OIF/OEF female veterans, and one that examines mild TBI and PTSD in OIF/OEF veterans. Dr. Maguen is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, most of which focus on veteran mental health. She also works in a clinical capacity within the OEF/OIF Integrated Care Clinic and treating veterans with evidence-based treatments for PTSD. She supervises research health fellows and other trainees in evidence-based treatments for PTSD, and provides mentorship for trauma-focused research fellows.

Chaplain Carolyn Talmadge is a VA staff chaplain and has worked at the San Francisco VA since 2006. Currently she is the chaplain working with our Hospice and Palliative Care teams, the Parkinson's Center, the Women's Clinic, Oncology, and the inpatient

hospital ward which treats primarily oncology patients and elders. She is an ordained United Methodist Minister and prior to working full time at the VA worked as the campus minister for an ecumenical campus ministry at San Francisco State University. Chaplain Talmadge trained as a chaplain at UCSF Medical Center and also at the San Francisco VA.

**Focus Presentation shown on this call:**



Maguen Ethics Talk  
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Thank you both for presenting.

Now I'd like to open it up for comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to speak up.

Q: What is done for Veterans that have moral injury because they believe the military action they participated in was unjustified.

A: Each individual case requires individualized attention. There may be a number of factors involved and our intent is to work with each Veteran where they are coming from to begin the therapy.

Q: Do you find that Veterans have more moral injury now than in the past?

A: No, in fact it appears moral injury can surface decades after participation in war. The primary population we currently treat are Vietnam Veterans.

Q: How do we access the videos that you attempted to show?

A: They are available on YouTube and the links are below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=off1qhsGuyk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-PIB4crbC0>

Q: When will the IF Call about VHA Handbook 1004.03 take place?

A: That call is scheduled for October 19, 2015 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm ET.

Before you leave the call, please indicate on our anonymous poll how helpful you found this call:

"I found this call helpful and useful to the work I do in IntegratedEthics"

**Final Slide** - Please remember, that like the rest of my New York colleagues, my door, my email, [Marilyn.Mitchell@va.gov](mailto:Marilyn.Mitchell@va.gov) and my phone (212-951-5477) are always open to hear from you.

The next EC Improvement Forum call will be on next Monday, October 5, 2015 and the topic is FY16 Program Metrics. See you then.

Take care – and thank you for everything you do to deliver excellent care to our Veterans.





