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VA Caribbean Healthcare System
Public Affairs Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA Presents Community Mental Health Summit

San Juan, Puerto Rico – The VA Caribbean Healthcare System will present a community mental health summit, ‘Working Together to Improve Veterans Mental Health’ on Thursday, September 12, at the Administrative Building of the San Juan VA Medical Center, 10 Casia St., in San Juan. There will be one session in the morning beginning at 8:00 am and a second in the afternoon beginning at 1:00 pm.

The purpose for the Summit is to bring together key stakeholders in the community with the goal of enhancing access to mental health services and addressing the mental health care needs of Veterans and their family members residing in the Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Participants of this summit will be able to hear information about mental health programs for Veterans, suicide prevention, principles of recovery, services for women Veterans, services for homeless Veterans and specialized services for combat Veterans.

Presentations will be given by VA staff on various mental health services available.

The event is hosted by the VA Caribbean Healthcare System and the VA Veterans Canteen Service. For more information about this mental health summit, call Ricardo Rodriguez at (787) 641-7582 extension 12355.

The VA Caribbean Healthcare System (VACHS) is a complex system of care for veterans, consisting of a tertiary care medical center located in San Juan, Puerto Rico and ten (10) outpatient clinics located throughout Puerto Rico (Arecibo, Ceiba, Comerio, Guayama Mayaguez, Ponce, Utuado, Vieques) and the US Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. Thomas). Services are provided to a population of approximately 107,207 veterans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In FY 2012, the VACHS registered 66,095 unique patients. The System provided 1,048,536 outpatient visits and recorded 10,568 hospital admissions. More information at www.caribbean.va.gov, www.facebook.com/vacaribbean.

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