



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

Clinical Communities Speaker Series
After Action Report
Defense Health Agency, J-7
Continuing Education Program Office

Submitted Mar. 20, 2025

“Improving Health and Building Readiness: The Future of Women’s Health”

Event Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, 8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. EST

Event Summary

The Defense Health Agency, J-7, Continuing Education Program Office hosts the Clinical Communities Speaker Series to promote clinical best practices, interprofessional learning, and military readiness among military and civilian healthcare professionals who care for veterans, service members, and service members’ families. For this month’s event women’s health experts from academia, government, and clinical care settings offered interdisciplinary insights into recent healthcare developments affecting women service members and veterans. The final agenda contained four live presentations, including:

- Expanding Access to Care: Updates to the Supplemental Health Care Program and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Policy
- Advancing Best Practices in Sexual Trauma Behavioral Health Treatment
- Ethical Issues in Reproductive Health: Current Considerations and Emerging Concerns
- Hormone Therapy Unlocked: Overcoming Barriers to Better Care

The program initially included two additional presentations by faculty from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health that were unexpectedly canceled due to newly issued executive orders and subsequent guidance from the instructors’ government organizations. As such, the event began by showing two recorded sessions from the October 2024 CCSS event on military-specific care for up to 2.00 enduring CE/CME credits. Live sessions presented in the afternoon offered up to 4.50 live CE/CME credits.¹

Marketing

CEPO worked with the Public Affairs Office to select an appropriate photo for the event flyer and other promotional materials used to advertise the series. After enrollment opened on Monday, Jan. 13, the team kicked off registrations early by launching a govDelivery email campaign and highlighting the event in the January and February issues of the CEPO monthly newsletter. To boost enrollment among VA practitioners and last year’s CCSS participants, the team sent targeted emails directly through Outlook. Once the decision to show previously recorded sessions had been confirmed, the team worked together to

¹ The live event offered credit for athletic trainers, case managers, certified counselors, dentists and allied dental staff, dietetic practitioners, healthcare executives, kinesiotherapists, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physician assistants, physicians, psychologists, and social workers.

develop and disseminate approved messaging around changes to the program. By the time opening remarks began on Thursday, Feb. 20, the event attracted more than 1,500 enrollments, the most of any CCSS event in the last two years.

Website

Because the program included home study recordings published under a different event, the event page used a custom layout to link to the CE requirements for both the live and recorded sessions. Nonetheless, high web traffic and other disruptions made it difficult for participants to complete CE requirements. The team aims to minimize disruptions for future events by improving communication and documentation of updates to the CE process and avoiding implementation of major changes during the week of the event.

Technical Production

The technical team managed recordings, slide decks, and numerous interactive polls throughout the event. Overall, the event ran smoothly, with only one or two technical issues, which the technical team promptly resolved. For example, after having difficulty changing the display setting to project poll results to the audience, the technical team quickly resolved the issue by asking the presenter to pause sharing her screen. The team will continue to improve the virtual experience by exploring the layout option that ethics presenter Melissa M. Goldstein used to overlay her video feed in front of the slides.

Content and Presentation

The speakers communicated current challenges, emerging programs, and practical strategies for improving women's health in a way that resonated with the audience. Many speakers used knowledge checks and polls throughout their presentations to increase engagement with the material and capture the audience's attention. Participants were particularly invested in the final panel about effective hormone therapy, with some saying they would be eager to attend an event just on this topic.

Attendance

Approximately 900 people joined the virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams over the course of the program. On average, attendance at each session peaked at approximately 471 attendees. Of the 1,597 people who enrolled in the series before registration closed the following day, 518 claimed CE/CME credit for at least one session. By the time the evaluation period ended on March 6, the series had amassed 1,713 completions.

Registrant Demographics

The series attracted healthcare providers located all over the world. Though most registrants resided in the United States, 5.0% reported living outside the continental United States in either the Armed Forces or one of 12 other countries, as shown in **Table 1**.

Most registrants reported living in a US state with a large population of MHS beneficiaries. The top five states with the highest enrollment were Texas (192 registrants; 12.2%), Virginia (187 registrants; 11.9%), Maryland (144 registrants; 9.1%), California (104 registrants; 6.6%), and North Carolina (102 registrants; 6.5%). Almost half of all US registrants (729 registrants; 46.3%) reported living in these five states.

Nurses, social workers, and physicians were the most highly represented professions. As shown in **Figure 1**, almost half of registered professionals were government civilians outside the Department of Veterans Affairs, followed by uniformed service members, contractors, and VA employees. Among uniformed service members, the most common branch affiliations and statuses were Army Active (147 registrants), Air Force Active (123 registrants), Navy Active (93 registrants), Army Reserve (44 registrants), and US Public Health Service (31 registrants).

Additionally, 934 enrolled professionals (58.5%) reported an association with one or more MTFs. The MTFs with the highest enrollment rate were Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland (76 learners), Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center in Fort Belvoir, Virginia (37 learners), and Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, North Carolina (33 learners).

Table 1. Location of Registered Learners

Country	Enrollments	Percent (%)
United States	1,517	94.99%
Armed Forces Europe	37	2.32%
Armed Forces Pacific	18	1.13%
Germany	5	0.31%
Unknown	4	0.25%
Puerto Rico	3	0.19%
Armed Forces Americas	2	0.13%
Canada	2	0.13%
Algeria	1	0.06%
Argentina	1	0.06%
Australia	1	0.06%
Belgium	1	0.06%
Czech Republic	1	0.06%
Guam	1	0.06%
Saudi Arabia	1	0.06%
South Korea	1	0.06%
United Kingdom	1	0.06%
Total	1,597	100.00%

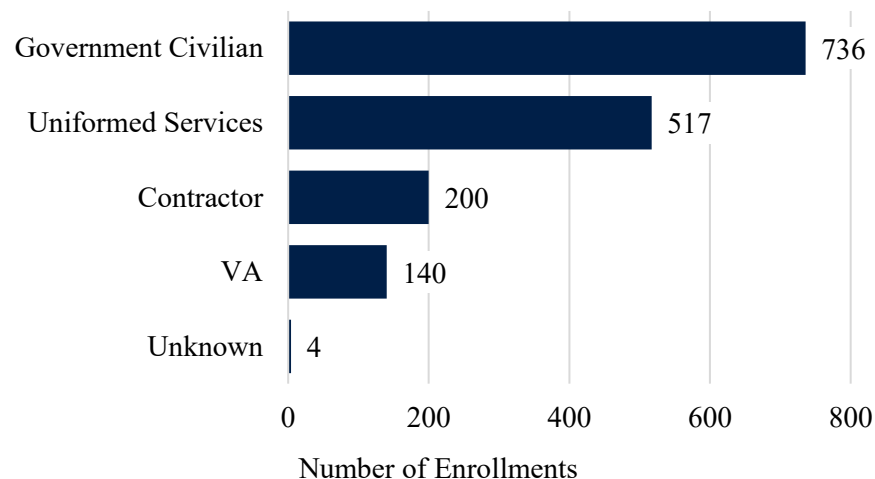


Figure 1. Number of Registrants by Employment Sector

Attendance and Completions

More than 900 people joined the Microsoft Teams meeting at some point during the program. On average, session attendance peaked at approximately 471 attendees. The height of the event occurred between noon and 2 p.m. ET when at least 494 attendees tuned in at once during the first and second live presentations.

Participants had two weeks to complete the CE requirements for the session(s) they attended and obtain up to 4.50 CE/CME credits. **Figure 2** displays the distribution of registrants by the number of sessions they completed. Overall, 518 out of 1,597 registrants (32.4%) completed the CE process for a total of 1,713 completions. Most credit earners (350 credit earners; 67.6%) claimed a certificate for all four sessions.

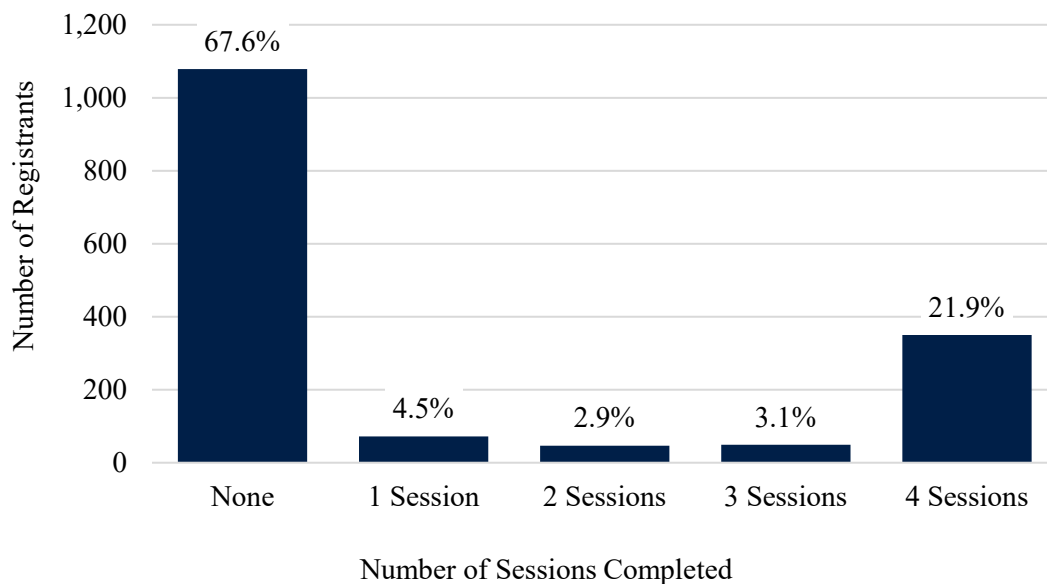


Figure 2. Distribution of Registrants by Number of Sessions Completed

Participant Feedback

This CCSS discussed program developments, ethical considerations, and clinical best practices to enhance the healthcare team members' ability to support women's health. To understand the effectiveness of the event in meeting this goal, participants were required to complete an evaluation survey for the session(s) they attended to receive CE/CME credit.

On average, 95.1% of participants indicated they "Strongly Agree" (60.0%) or "Agree" (35.1%) the "overall quality of the educational activity was excellent." Participants offered meaningful feedback, such as:

- "This was the best program so far! The presenters were engaging, interesting and very knowledgeable. Please invite them to return for another session."

- “Dr. Hoffmeyer was a wonderful presenter! This information is incredibly important and should be required for all military providers and nursing staff. In my almost 5 years of service at an MTF, we have not received this level of information and education.”
- “This was great information. I just wish we had longer to cover the information. I plan to Re-watch the recording and take more thorough notes.”
- “I was overwhelmed with how great this was. I was expecting a lecture on how GSM and vasomotor symptoms are the only things that can be treated and utilization of SSRIs. I am SO glad the MHS has moved past that and understands women are not a ‘one size fits all’”

Participants responded to the open-ended questions, “What do you anticipate changing or how will you apply what you have learned in your professional practice?” and “How will you apply what you learned when working with providers of other disciplines or members of your interprofessional healthcare team?” Healthcare professionals provided insightful responses, such as:

- “Emphasize trauma-informed care principles, which will help to create a safe and supportive environment for patients, reducing the risk of re-traumatization.”
- “I plan to integrate the updated guidelines into my daily practice by refining patient assessments, documentation, and care coordination strategies.”
- “Strengthen referral relationships with reproductive health providers who offer these up-to-date treatments to midlife clients”
- “Continue open communication with the treatment team to alert them of a patient's interest in discussing hormonal treatment and follow up with them to explore what I could do in my role on the team.”

Finally, participants offered feedback on their experience registering for the event and completing the CE requirements on CEPO's online CE management platform. Most respondents expressed neutral or positive sentiments about the overall process, with some noticing improvements. Those who experienced challenges primarily reported slow page loading times due to high web traffic. Others indicated difficulty navigating either to the main event page or from one session's assessments to another's. Notable comments included:

- “The website was straightforward and well-organized, with clear instructions and easy-to-access resources.”
- “Much better constructed and fluid layout than previous sessions.”
- “experienced some difficulties initially (system lag time, timing out and having to restart) but was able to get in eventually”

Credits Earned by Evaluators

The event awarded 2,170 professional CE/CME credits, 51.5 IPCE credits, and 174.5 Certificate of Attendance credits, for a total of 2,396 credits (notably more than the 1,764 credits awarded for the CCSS on Women's Health last year). The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) accreditation was the most popular professional credit type among participants who collectively earned 573.5 ANCC credits. The next most sought-after professional credits were for the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and

the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), for which social workers and physicians earned 476.5 credit hours and 234 credit hours, respectively. The number of credit hours awarded by session and credit type are provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Number of Credit Hours Awarded by Credit Type

Credit Type / Profession			S01	S02	S03	S04	Total	%
ANCC	American Nurses Credentialing Center	Nurses	128	134	124	187.5	573.5	23.9%
ASWB	Association of Social Work Boards	Social Workers	101	115	109	151.5	476.5	19.9%
ACCME	Physicians Recognition Award	Physicians	53	53	50	78	234	9.8%
APA	American Psychological Association	Psychologists	44	55	47	63	209	8.7%
ACCME Non-Physician	ACCME American Medical Association	Non-Physicians	33	34	18	27	112	4.7%
CCMC	Commission For Case Manager Certification	Case Managers	21	23	23	34.5	101.5	4.2%
AAPA	American Academy of Physician Assistants	Physician Assistants	22	22	18	30	92	3.8%
NBCC	National Board for Certified Counselors	Certified Counselors	15	20	19	24	78	3.3%
ACPE-P	Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education – Pharmacist	Pharmacists	–	–	25	37.5	62.5	2.6%
ADA CERP	American Dental Association	Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Lab Technicians	9	15	12	19.5	55.5	2.3%
AOTA	American Occupational Therapy Association	Occupational Therapists, Occup. Therapy Assistants	9	11	9	15	44	1.8%
BOC	Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer	Athletic Trainers	11	12	–	16.5	39.5	1.6%
CDR	Commission on Dietetic Registration	Registered Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians	–	10	7	13.5	30.5	1.3%
COPSKT	Council on Professional Standards for Kinesiotherapy	Kinesiotherapists	5	7	7	9	28	1.2%
ACPE-T	Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education – Technician	Pharmacy Technicians	–	–	7	10.5	17.5	0.7%
ACHE	American College of Healthcare Executives	Healthcare Executives	8	–	8	–	16	0.7%
Total CE/CME Credit Hours			459	511	483	717	2,170	90.6%
Total Certificate of Attendance Credit Hours			46	48	37	43.5	174.5	7.3%
Total IPCE Credit Hours			12	13	10	16.5	51.5	2.1%
Total Credit Hours Awarded			517	572	530	777	2,396	100%

End Note

The DHA J-7 CEPO team reviewed and compiled all evaluation data in this document. Please forward questions regarding this report to CEPO at dha.ncr.j7.mbx.continuing-education-office@health.mil.

For overall questions, please contact the Continuing Education Program Office Director, Dr. Lolita T. O'Donnell, at lolita.t.odonnell.civ@health.mil or call (571) 317-5544.

Appendix A. Program Overview: Session Titles and Presenting Faculty

Moderator

Navy Cmdr. Janelle Marra, DO, FAAFP, CAQSM

Family Medicine and Sports Medicine, Director of Medical Services, EMF-Bravo

Welcome Remarks

Lolita T. O'Donnell, PhD, MSN, RN

Chief, Executive Skills, Continuing Education & Libraries (EXCEL) Division

Director, Continuing Education Program Office

J-7, Education and Training, DHA

Opening Remarks

Air Force Col. Larissa Weir, M.D., FACOG

Lead Consultant, Air Force Surgeon General

Live S01: Expanding Access to Care: Updates to the Supplemental Health Care Program and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Policy

Theresa Hart, M.S., R.N., NCC-E

Senior Nurse Consultant, Women and Infant Clinical Community, DHA

Live S02: Advancing Best Practices in Sexual Trauma Behavioral Health Treatment

Holly Nicole Hoffmeyer, Ph.D.

Program Manager, Sexual Assault Behavioral Health, Clinical Intervention

DHA Medical Affairs

Live S03: Ethical Issues in Reproductive Health: Current Considerations and Emerging Concerns

Melissa M. Goldstein, J.D.

Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management

Milken Institute School of Public Health

The George Washington University

Live S04: Hormone Therapy Unlocked: Overcoming Barriers to Better Care

Air Force Lt. Col. Samantha Simpson, M.D.

Division Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility,
Program Director for the SAUSHEC Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program
Brooke Army Medical Center

Retired Air Force Col. Christine Kress, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC, NEA-BC, MSCP

Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Certified Menopause Practitioner
Heather Hirsch MD Collaborative

Rebecca Hertel, DO, MSCP

Family Physician, Certified Menopause Practitioner, and Founder of Osteopathic Midlife Health

Aoife O'Sullivan, M.D., NCMP

Family Physician, Certified Menopause Practitioner, and Founder of Portland Menopause Doc

Heather Quaile, DNP, WHNP-BC, AFN-C, CSC, I.F., FAANP

Scientific Committee Chair for the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health;
Founder of the Sexual Health Optimization and Wellness Center

Closing Remarks

Army Col. Maria Molina, M.D., FACOG, FACS, CHSE

Division Chief for Medical Modernization and Simulation, DHA