**After-Action Report: Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper training (QPR), August 7, 2018**

Vet to Vet Tennessee (V2VT) and the Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council provided their QPR training to Caris Healthcare, 10651 Coward Mill Rd, Knoxville, TN; host Patty L. McGrew.

1. The program was conducted by Sheryn & Donn Davis and Ed Junod.
2. Ed Junod is a certified QPR Institute QPR Gatekeeper Instructor.
3. The QPR training session was 110 minutes which allowed for several lively discussions.
4. Caris printed the course handouts and provided continental breakfast and a good classroom environment.
5. V2VT prepared white hand out bags with suicide prevention material provided by the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network and the VA Knoxville Outpatient Clinic.
6. VTVT issued Certificate of Completion certificates.
7. VTVT provided Caris with Vietnam War Commemoration’s presidential proclamations, lapel pins, VTVT Certificates of Honor (COH) for WWII, Korean veterans and COHs for surviving spouses.
8. Total attendance included:
   1. 16 females, 3 males and one male veteran.
   2. Average age of attendees was 49.8.
   3. 100% surveys returned.
   4. Almost everyone knew someone who was suicidal or who committed suicide.
   5. First suicide prevention training for 80% of the attendees.
   6. 43% attendees have firearms.
   7. No one admitted being currently suicidal.

**Comments**:

1. *“Many times, in my job with terminal patients you hear suicidal ideations, thank you for helping me better understand how to respond to these patients.”*
2. *“Presenter was very personable and knowledgeable. He was difficult to understand at times but this might have been due to the room. I appreciate his passion.”*
3. *Just a lot of info in a small amount of time – so we jumped around quite a bit – so maybe the time/format could be adjusted to suit. Very informative, though and useful professional and personally.”*
4. *Thank you. This was excellent and helpful for vets and families.”*
5. *Thank you for your gift of service! I would love to be contacted to put you in touch with our church’s youth minister when training becomes available.”*
6. *“Good class. Well done!”*
7. *“Ed knocked it out of the park today. I had participated in this training in Indiana in a high school. (The head counselor, a licensed family therapist, ran the training and was nowhere as good as Ed was today!) Ed is an excellent teacher and that’s from one who taught for 31 years.”*

**Lessons Learned:**

1. Presenter had trouble with advancing presentation slides, causing him to jump back and forth a few times. Make sure remote controller is working properly prior to the beginning the class.
2. Presenter was encouraged to speak up at the beginning of the course. One comment reported she was “unable to hear the presenter.” VTVT to purchase portable microphone.
3. Encouraged attendees to promote the VA services for suicidal veterans and families.
4. Advised attendees to use the Knoxville Vet Center for grief counseling.
5. Encouraged attendees to become QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper instructors utilizing Vet to Vet Tennessee’s QPR Instructor scholarships.
6. Encouraged attendees to get their faith-based congregation involved is suicide prevention. Two attendees requested VTVT present at their congregations.
7. Encouraged attendees to attend and to promote the Freddie J. Owens 2018 Women Veterans Summit.

The next Veteran specific QPR training is scheduled for Thursday August 30, 2018 at Cornerstone of Recovery in Alcoa at 1015 – 1115.

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