Please join me in congratulating RN, Josh Maus in ICU on becoming the latest SPHM SLIP of the Quarter. Josh has taken an active lead role in efforts to promote the Safe Patient Handling & Mobility program elements and safe practices.

Thank you Josh for taken on these projects and continuing to role model SPHM practices to promote safety for all at the BVAMC!
The Employee Engagement Program is 1 year old!

Within the year we have:
• Supported 3 Waves with a total of 17 Sprint project
• Engaged 67 employees in projects, supported by a 10-member Board of Champions
• Forwarded “Just-do-it” ideas to appropriate staff members of committees for their consideration
• Worked cooperatively with the national program folks to develop a Boise Employee Engagement video
• Established an Employee Engagement SharePoint site.

Check out the teams, projects and video at Employee Engagement SharePoint Site

Submit your ideas to BOIEmployeeEngagementideas@va.gov.
Wave 4 selections will be made in August or September.
Tom Madden
Behavioral Health
‘Employee of the Month’
September - 2018

Tom is balancing his duties between working with homeless veterans and case managing veterans in RSAT to help with the staffing shortages we have. Even though he is often pulled away physically because of this split in his work, he is a team player and present to help our residential patients in their work in the program. He's kind, patient, and level-headed. Just a great guy to work with!

Please join me in congratulating him for going above and beyond in pulling double duty!
Staff participated in a “swap” of administrative supplies held in the LRC on June 18th and 19th. As you can see, it was a definite success! **Thanks to Stephanie and her team.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Magdanz</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Mann</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Kaster</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Caveney</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belinda Corbet</td>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>GEMS Coordinator, volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy Meyer</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Board of Champions Mentor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SAIL Project Teams Chartered

SAIL (Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning) compares data from our facility against standards, the other 127 VA facilities, and our own performance over time. The data include measures of quality, patient satisfaction, performance measures, and overall efficiency. The SAIL report is one of the tools used by the Boise VA to identify opportunities for improvement. Based on recent SAIL results and discussions facilitated by Dr. Alan Hines, leadership has chartered six teams to evaluate our progress and determine if changes can be made to improve care for Veterans. These chartered teams and the team leaders are:

**Care Transition – ACSC** – Dr. Bill Weppner  
**Care Transition – Hospital Wide Readmissions** – Dr. Gus Visscher  
**Mental health** – Robert Moodie  
**Mortality SMR/SMR30** – Dr. Sherena Perry  
**SHEP – Stress Question** – Kristi Funk  
**SHEP – PC Access** – Debbie Lee

Over the next 12 months these teams will look closely at our data, how it is captured, the processes associated with the measures. They will provide regular progress reports through Part B Morning Meetings and the Quality Executive Board.
The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our new employees who came aboard:

- Chris Rupp, FMS
- Susan Zinsmeister, HAS
- Rebecca Dahmen Bosee, HAS
- Baltazar Morfin, IRM
- Scott Leahy, Logistics
- Wendy McPherson, NIC
- Bridget Leake, Nursing
- Hannah O’Malley, Nursing
- Kyra Moore, Nursing
- Amalia Vega, Nursing
- Mustafa Mberwa, Laboratory
- Reiko Emtman, Psychiatry
- Daniel Chapman, EMS
- David Stercks, EMS
- Michaela Huntington, HAS
- William Mraz, Logistics
- Mark Gross, MIS
- Jacob Chamberlain, Nursing
- Michael Champine, Nursing
- Sengpraseu “Johnny” Luangaphay, Nursing
- Breanna Crystal, Nursing
- Clarence Shahan, N&FS
- Brent Sasaki, Pharmacy
- Dianna Sliwinski, Pharmacy
- Jason Caffey, P&SS
- Kyle Rahn, P&SS
- Ashley Thropp, Social Work Service
The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to the employees who left us:

Marc Nagel
Patricia Taylor
Janet Cichoracki-Johnson
Jacqueline Anton
James Ryan
Morgan Prince
Tyler Hill
Phyllis Tambling
Chelsie Ashman
Amanda Tracy
Dustin Davison
The Boise VA staff strive to provide outstanding, high-quality, safe care daily, but every three years we have an opportunity to demonstrate this great care through our accreditation with The Joint Commission. We are currently in our no-notice window for this accreditation and could be surveyed at any time. The Joint Commission, is an independent, not-for-profit organization, that accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care facilities and programs in the United States. The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in coordination with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accreditation is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting certain performance standards. Surveys seek to assess processes related to Access to Care, Patient Flow, Coordination of Care; Infection Control, Patient Safety, the Environment of Care, and Organizational Leadership and Culture. Accredited programs here at the Boise VA include Behavioral Health, Long Term Care, Home Care and the Hospital. Our staff and patients have the right to notify Joint Commission regarding any concern about the quality or safety of care provided. They can be contacted at the Joint Commission, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 6018, by Fax: at (630) 792-5636, or their site www.jointcommission.org under link “Report a Patient Safety Event”. For questions related to accreditation or standards contact, our Accreditation Managers, Jessica O’Connor at ext. 7412 or Tim Cook at Ext 4226.
Clay Hunt was a Marine veteran who died by suicide at the age of 28. Clay was open about having PTSD and survivor’s guilt, and he tried to help others coping with similar issues. Clay’s story details the urgency needed in addressing these issues.

On February 12, 2015 the Clay Hunt SAV Act was signed into law by President Obama. Among many things, the Clay Hunt Act increased access to VA mental health care.

Please help us keep Clay’s legacy alive and join us as we meet with veterans, veterans stakeholders, mental health providers and others as we partner on the effort of addressing veterans mental health.

Each session will include information about behavioral health services & an opportunity to discuss behavioral health services in your area.

For more info call Josh at (208) 422-1064
The Boise VAMC Education Program has started accepting applications for the 2019 Boise LEAD: Leadership Fundamentals program. The program is designed for those employees looking to improve their leadership skills and prepare themselves for possible positions in leadership. This program supports workforce development and satisfies a VHA Performance Measure.

The LEAD program is open to employees in the following pay grades:
- GS 5 to 12
- Title 38 equivalents
- All WL and WS
- WG 5 to 15

Potential candidates must submit an application that will be reviewed by a selection board and then considered for an interview.

*** Participation in this program does NOT guarantee a promotion. ***
The Boise LEAD: Leadership Fundamentals program comprises five major components:

- Self-Assessment
- Mentor / Mentee Relationship
- Personal Development Plan (PDP)
- Team Projects
- Curriculum

Successful completion of all components is required to graduate from the program.

You must talk to your supervisor about this opportunity as it requires a significant time commitment; both during work hours and after work hours. It wouldn’t hurt to discuss it with your family as well as your involvement may affect your time with your loved ones.

Time Commitment Highlights:

- Program Duration January 2019 – July 2019
- The program starts with a two-day kick-off and team building (January 16th and 17th).
- We’ll meet again for two days back-to-back on January 30th and January 31st for Lean process improvement training and project selections.
- Starting on February 13th, the class will meet every other Wednesday for 8 hours a day.
- 17 days total (~113 hours) + project presentation & Graduation
- Outside Classroom Time commitment:
  - Approximately 24 hours of meeting time with mentors
  - Approximately 20+ hours working on projects from January to July
  - Project completion, wrap-up, and final presentation will be completed by August 22, 2018. Expect to be involved with your project until final presentation.

The application process opened on Monday, August 20th and will close on Friday, September 28th, 2019.

This program will only be offered once in FY19 so you will need to consider all of your options if you decide to apply. For more information and to download an application, check out the Education SharePoint site (click on the “LEAD Program” button on the left side of the page). Please contact Donna Grant at extension 7378 or by e-mail at Donna.Grant@va.gov if you have any questions.
Let’s Volunteer!
Why the VAEA?

2017 was a flagship and a successful year. With great thanks to the current board and so many of our BVAMC employees! We really hope to continue this momentum into 2018, however, to do so, it will require employee participation.

What is the VAEA? The Veteran Affairs Employee Association (VAEA) is an employee volunteer group whose goal is to build the morale of the employees and make Boise VA one of the best places to work. It’s about the employees!! The goals are to have fun, get to know your fellow employees, recognize employees’ efforts and feel connected and involved with your workplace in a unique way. The amount of time it takes depends on the event that is going on that month and how many individuals are available. The minimum time commitment is a one hour meeting once a month that takes place after 4pm, which is usually a regular tour of duty. There are still a few active VAEAs nationally and Boise is the only medical center with a VAEA in VISN 20. Employee involvement is imperative to the group’s success. Without a few dedicated volunteers, the group will be looking at dissolving. Please consider volunteering for a position. Remember, it’s a great way to meet colleagues, build relationships, and get involved in your VA employee community!

The funds raised will go right back to our Employees. Some VAEA events:

- Krispy Kreme Donut Sale
- Holiday Decorating Contest
- Basket Raffle
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Chili Cook-Off
- Kona Ice Truck
- Halloween Costume Contest
- Bake Sale

Please email BOIEmployeeAssoc@va.gov to express your interest in volunteering with your VAEA.
To help meet the current blood shortage, the VA & American Red Cross have scheduled an unplanned Blood Drive Friday, September 28th in the LRC from 8-2:30.

Please note this blood drive will be held in the Learning Resource Center (LRC).

Participants can schedule online www.redcrossblood.org
Use sponsor code: BVA
Boise VBA or VAMC contact information:
Jay Bartram 208-429-2247 or Mary Black 208-919-8621
The next scheduled Boise VAMC Blood Drive will be held Tuesday December 11th 2018, 8-2:30 in the Mountain Cove Gym, 911 Mountain Cove Rd. Boise Idaho 83702
The combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will be running **September 10th- January 11th** this year. Be prepared for a campaign season full of fun, engaging events that give back to great causes!

**Starting the Season Off Right!**

Our Annual Kick-Off Event will be September 12th!

Because of the changes this year, we are hosting an event to help employees navigate the new donating system, learn how to find the different/browse different charities, and assisting employees with any help or questions they may have.

We need your help! To make this campaign fun and exciting, we are accepting donations for event prizes. Some great donations are: gift cards, new or unused items such as coffee cups, small electronics: portable speakers, headphones, etc., lotions, vehicle accessories, and of course, Canteen gift certificates. **All donations – big or small!** are greatly appreciated!

POC: Kennedy Meyer x1118
Sarah Anderson x1218
Allen Willard x4883

Thank you to all who donated items for the bake sale! We raised $653.09. This is enough funds to make this year’s CFC campaign fun and exciting. We are so thankful for your contributions!

2017 – 2018 CFC Board:
Chair: Kennedy Meyer, Acquisition Utilization Specialist
Co-Chairs: Allen Willard and Sarah Anderson

Departmental Champions: Front Left: Dr. Flyer, Tim Beams, Allen Willard; Back Left: Sarah Anderson, Kennedy Meyer, Teresa Johnson
Not Pictured: Tony Rieche, Valarie Olson, Adam Brotman, Allen Boles, Brian Griffiths.