

Day 2 May 4th, 2022

Tim Jobin

Mr. Timothy “Tim” Jobin is currently the Deputy Director of the Caregiver Support Program (CSP).

He graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Social Work degree. While at UIUC, he was named a member of the Alpha Delta Mu National Social Work Honor Society.

Mr. Jobin began working at the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Social Work Intern in 2007 and then took a position as a Post Master’s Fellow with VA Connecticut (VACT) and Yale University. Following his time at VACT, he was hired by the VA Illiana Healthcare System (VAIHCS) where he implemented their first HUD.VASH program. Most recently, Mr. Jobin was the Acting Associate Director and Associate Chief of Staff for Behavioral Health at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHS). During his time at VASNHS, Mr. Jobin implemented and refined numerous programs to include opening VASNHS’ residential treatment center aimed at treating Veterans with substance use and/or gambling use disorders.

He completed the VA Health Care Leadership Development Program (HCLDP) in 2019 and is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). He was also named a Gold Status Fellow by the Under Secretary for Health for his work on clinical consults

Mr. Jobin is an Air Force Veteran who served one tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His hobbies include trail running with his dog, stand up paddle boarding along the Colorado River and spending time with his family.

Soni Adams

Soni Adams, LCSW, is the Chief of Social Work at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System. Ms. Adams began her VA career as the first inpatient acute social worker at the Mather VA Medical Center in 2009. In 2012, Ms. Adams became a member of the Mental Health Intensive Case Management team at the Palo Alto Health Care Center which included being a supervisory social worker (2014), Program Manager for Recovery Oriented Services (2016) and Acting Assistant Chief of Social Work at the VA Palo Alto (2016). She also served as the Acting Chief of Social Work in Dublin, Georgia (2017). In 2018, Ms. Adams became the Chief, Social Work at the Charleston VA Medical Center. Ms. Adams is a passionate leader who supports the value of equity and inclusion to strengthen health care outcomes and employee engagement. Ms. Adams was the former lead of the National Social Work National Emergency Tiger Team (2019-2021) and is the co-lead of the VISN 20 DEI Committee.

Courtney Van Houvten

Courtney Van Houvten, PhD, MSc, is a Research Career Scientist at the Center of Innovation to Accelerate Discovery and Practice Transformation (ADAPT), Durham Veterans Affairs Health Care System. Her research examines how family caregiving affects economic, health and health

care outcomes of care recipients and caregivers. She is also interested in understanding how to best support family caregivers through pragmatic trials and policy strategies, including through better inclusion of caregivers as explicit members of the health care team. She directs the VA-CARES Partnered Evaluation Center, an ongoing national evaluation of the VA's Caregiver Support Program (2014-2027) to rigorously assess supports and services affect caregiver and Veteran quality of life and health system outcomes. She is co-PI on the QUERI Program Project, "Optimizing Function and Independence" (2016-2025), in which she is working with operational partners in VA, clinical field staff, and a multidisciplinary research team to implement a family caregiver skills training curriculum nationally.

Lauren Penney

Lauren Penney, PhD, is a medical anthropologist and health services researcher with the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. She leads the PGCSS evaluation as a part of the VA-CARES Partnered Evaluation Center, an ongoing national evaluation of the VA's Caregiver Support Program. The PGCSS evaluation employs qualitative methods to understand implementation from multiple perspectives, including staff and caregivers. She is also an investigator for the VA's Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research, through which she participates in a study on youth in Veteran caregiving families and runs a study on caregivers experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rafiq Raza

Mr. Raza currently serves as the Associate Director, Centralized Eligibility Appeals Team (CEAT) with the Caregiver Support Program, Program Office.

He joined the US Army in 1999 and has completed multiple assignments including a tour to Korea (2000) and 2 deployments to Afghanistan in (2001-02 & 2002-03).

In 2005, he was hired by the VA and has worked as an Outreach Specialist, Readjustment Counseling Therapist, Grant and Per Diem Liaison, Transition and Care Management Program Manager and as the Program Manager for the Caregiver Support Program.

Mr. Raza holds a master's degree in Social Work and a master's degree in Instructional Design and Technology: Instructional Systems and has taught with the University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs since 2014.

Tamara Burks

Dr. Tamara Burks has served the VHA for over 20 years, acting in various clinical leadership roles for the last 18 years. With her VHA career, she has had the privilege to work in 5 VISN's, spanning across the Nation- East to West. Most recently, she joined the VISN 21 Office to become the CEAT Medical Director in 2020, charged with operationalizing this new program. She had the pleasure of participating in Consortium and National-based workgroups within the Caregiver Support Program. And, of late, she has completed a detail with the National CSP Review and Appeals Team. As a Primary Care Clinician with the VHA, Dr. Burks is very much an advocate for the Caregiver Support Program, understanding its value in

serving the Veteran and associated Caregiver(s) in maintaining a quality of life in the home setting.

Crystal Anderson

Crystal R. Anderson, PhD, LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in serving Veterans and their Caregivers. Dr. Anderson is the current VISN 7 Network Office Caregiver Support Program Manager and VISN 7 Lead Social Work Consultant. Her previous role was within the Atlanta VA Healthcare System as the Chief of the Social Work Service Line (with over 342 employees throughout the healthcare system) and the VISN 7 Lead Social Work Consultant. Dr. Anderson has over twenty years of experience, and began her career at the Atlanta VA Medical Center in 2007. Dr. Anderson is a native of Detroit, Michigan and completed her Bachelor of Psychology degree at Michigan State University, followed by the Masters of Social Work degree and the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work at the University of Georgia. She is licensed by the State of Georgia as a clinical social worker. Dr. Anderson is a social work health care professional with demonstrated management ability and competence in Veteran care, program administration, and team management. Dr. Anderson's research interest includes racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health outcomes. Dr. Anderson is committed to recovery principles, believing that all Veterans can achieve their definition of wellness. Dr. Anderson's therapeutic approach is to provide support and practical feedback to help individuals effectively address personal life challenges. She integrates complimentary methodologies and techniques to offer a highly personalized approach tailored to each individual. With compassion and understanding, she works with each individual to help them build on their strengths and attain the personal growth they're striving for. Her expertise comes from working in multiple settings including inpatient, outpatient, public and private sector, non-profit agencies, academia, and home-based services. She has also taught several Master's and Bachelor's social work courses at the University of Georgia and served as a faculty liaison for masters level social work students. Dr. Anderson's hobbies include reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. Her life was forever changed for the better, due to her first Cocker Spaniel (Fur Baby), Lady Anderson!

Emily Pitts

Emily Pitts is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville North Carolina. Emily has been with the VA for 8 years, working in various settings within Primary Care and Mental Health and has currently been the Caregiver Support Coordinator in PGCSS since 2019. Prior to her career at the VA, Emily was the Bereavement Coordinator for a local community hospice program where she learned her passion for program development. She enjoys the opportunity PGCSS provides in allowing the creativity of new and innovative ways to engage caregivers with one another, while meeting the unique needs of caregivers in Western NC.

Natalie Ho

Natalie Ho is a Licensed Clinical Social worker at Edward Hines Jr VA Hospital. Natalie completed her undergraduate degree with a major in Fine Arts and a minor in Psychology with

the intent to pursue art therapy. However, the road of life led her to Social Work and she completed her Masters of Social Work in 2015. She states she is grateful for the opportunity to share her passion for art with caregivers in her current position as PGCSS Senior Social Worker.

Nakkia King

Nakkia is the Atlanta VA Health Care System's Program Manager and was the first coordinator at the program's inception in 2011. She is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Georgia with over 20 years of experience and was awarded the National Association of Social Worker's certification as a Diplomate in Clinical Social Work in 2006. Nakkia has over 20 years of social work experience in the public and private sector. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Spelman College and her master's degree in social work from Howard University. Nakkia is a Florida native but considers herself a Georgia peach. She's the proud daughter, niece and granddaughter of US Army and Air Force Veterans.

Indira Brevick

Indira Brevick has been the Atlanta VA Health Care System's PCAFC Coordinator since October 2020. She has worked at the Atlanta VA Health Care System since 2007 and held positions in various programs including General Mental Health, Medical Foster Home, Traumatic Brain Injury, and PACT Social Work. Before coming to Veterans Affairs, Indira had a short career in Human Resources and then started her Social Work career in adult day care, adoption, and children's protective services. Indira is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and holds the National Association of Social Worker's Academy of Certified Social Workers credential. She is married and the proud, but exhausted, mother of two young boys.

April Green

April Green is a training instructor for the National Caregiver Center at the VA in Memphis. By trade, she is a Professional Therapist who worked several years in an in-patient facility dealing with disorders such as: depression, anxiety, psychosis, bipolar-disorder, substance abuse disorders and geriatric emotional disorders. She is a caregiver for her dad and was, as well, for her mother before her passing. She is extremely passionate about her work with caregivers, our unspoken heroes.

Elyse Kaplan

Dr. Elyse Kaplan joined the Caregiver Support Program National Office team within the Veterans Health Administration in December 2016. She has had various roles, including National Deputy Director, Acting Director and is currently the Associate Director, Policy and Regulations.

Dr. Kaplan is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the State of Maryland. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University, Maryland. She completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.

