



MEDIA ADVISORY

June 13, 2018

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Cohen Veterans Network has several Nationally Recognized Mental Health and PTSD Experts Available for Interviews and Appearances

STAMFORD, CT — Throughout PTSD Awareness Month, the Cohen Veterans Network is making leading clinical minds Dr. Anthony Hassan, Dr. Sonya Norman and Crystal Shelton, MSSW, LCSW, available to the media to help assess the state of the problem in the U.S., and the potential positive outcomes.

Across a 10-clinic network of mental health clinics for post-9/11 veterans and families, the Cohen Veterans Network has served more than 6,300 clients in just over two years of operation. Among all clients, 29% of adults have been treated for PTSD. Among just veteran clients (56% of the total CVN client population) 38% have been treated for PTSD.

The issue is manageable and to date, after treatment, 49% of CVN clients did not meet the clinical threshold for PTSD as measured through the PCL-5 Assessment. Upon intake, 78% of CVN clients had reported a score that met the clinical threshold for PTSD.

WHO: Dr. Anthony Hassan, *President & CEO*, Cohen Veterans Network

Dr. Sonya Norma, *Director* of the PTSD Consultation Program for The National Center for PTSD, Cohen Veterans Network Scientific Advisory Board Member

Crystal Shelton, *Vice President*, Clinical Programs, Cohen Veterans Network

WHAT: Subject matter experts on veterans' mental health and PTSD

WHEN: Available upon request

ABOUT ANTHONY HASSAN

Dr. Hassan oversees the establishment of 25 mental health clinics nationwide. These clinics are designed to improve the mental health outcomes for post-9/11 veterans and their families, with a particular emphasis on post-traumatic stress, through high-quality, free, and accessible mental health care. In addition, he leads efforts to advance the field through funded research initiatives and training programs to improve care within the network and beyond.

Hassan is a veteran of the United States Army enlisted and Air Force officer with 30 years of experience in military behavioral health, serving as a military social work officer, leader, clinician, and academic. He served during



Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 on the first-ever Air Force combat stress control and prevention team embedded with the Army. He also led the largest military substance abuse and family advocacy programs in the Pacific. These programs were recognized as benchmark programs and training sites for all other Pacific bases.

He most recently served as the inaugural Director and Clinical Professor of the Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families (CIR) at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. During his tenure at CIR from 2009-2015, Hassan was instrumental in the exponential growth of the school's military social work program and community-based research on veterans and military families.

ABOUT SONYA NORMAN

Sonya Norman, Ph.D. is Director of the PTSD Consultation Program for The National Center for PTSD and a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. Dr. Norman earned her doctorate at Stanford University. She formerly directed the San Diego VA's PTSD treatment program for Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her primary areas of research are in psychotherapies that treat co-occurring PTSD and substance use disorders and in treating Veterans with PTSD and post-deployment mental health problems. Dr. Norman has over 80 peer reviewed publications and is the primary investigator of studies funded by the Department of Defense, VA and NIH. In 2016-2017, she served on the committee to update the VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for PTSD.

ABOUT CRYSTAL SHELTON

As Vice President, Clinical Programs, Shelton is responsible for the development and day-to-day oversight of Clinical Programs including clinical training, telehealth, clinical innovations, intern and scholars' programs and works directly to support each clinic to have the clinical resources and expertise necessary to provide the highest-quality clinical services to our veterans and military families.

Following a 2-year post-graduate fellowship at Johns Hopkins, Shelton served as an active duty social work officer in the United States Navy. During her time in uniform, she worked with infantry marines and combat instructors at the Marine Corps School of Infantry offering evidence-based interventions in the clinic and out in the training field. Shelton has worked closely with military leadership on multiple Force Preservation Counsels in an effort to build and sustain psychological readiness. In her final tour, Shelton was part of team that built and led the first-ever mental health clinic at the Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, where she provided clinical care for the USMCs most wounded, ill and injured. Shelton received a BA in English from San Francisco State University and an MSSW from University of Texas, Austin, School of Social Work.

ABOUT THE COHEN VETERANS NETWORK

The Cohen Veterans Network is a 501(c)(3) national not for profit philanthropic organization for post-9/11 veterans and their families. CVN focuses on improving mental health outcomes, with a goal to build a network of outpatient mental health clinics for veterans and their families in high-need communities, in which trained clinicians deliver holistic evidence-based care to treat mental health conditions. Learn more about the [Cohen Veterans Network](https://www.cohenveteransnetwork.org).

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