

# REFLECTIONS

## NARRATIVES of PROFESSIONAL HELPING

An Interdisciplinary Peer-Reviewed Online Journal

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### **Call for Narratives: Special Section on Therapeutic Relationships With Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families**

*Submissions due February 1, 2014*

#### **Rationale**

This special section will include submissions from helping professionals who work with military service members (active, guard and reserve), veterans, and their families. Settings include but are not limited to: mental health and combat stress active duty units, homeless shelters, substance abuse treatment programs, hospitals, family support programs, Vet Centers and Veterans Affairs, community-based agencies, rehabilitation centers, outreach programs, veterans courts and other criminal justice settings, universities and schools, and religious and spiritual settings and organizations.

There is much that helping professionals have yet to understand when establishing meaningful therapeutic bonds with service members, veterans, and their families. Therefore, this special section seeks narratives from the helping professional's perspective on the process of engaging military populations in treatment and establishing a trusting therapeutic relationship. Potential areas to explore include: When a therapeutic relationship was established, what were the strategies used to overcome potential barriers? What led to the development of a therapeutic relationship? Similarly, what are the "lessons learned" from situations where a therapeutic relationship was not established, or, where you, as the helping professional, changed course, in order to engage the veteran in treatment? What can providers do to identify barriers and remove them? How did the treatment context, e.g. organizational setting, policies, resources, social context, facilitate or impede the development of a therapeutic relationship?

The editor is seeking lively narratives on therapeutic engagement with individuals, families, and groups, from practitioners, clinicians, educators and other helping professionals who work with service members, veterans, retirees, and their families. We are also open to narrative from those who have experienced a positive, beneficial helping relationship. The editor is particularly interested in narrative exposition and reflection that are personalized and touch on the unique features of the helping relationship(s) with military populations that facilitated growth and change. Length of submissions can range from 1,200 to 8,000 words.

**For inquiries about submissions for this special themed section, contact Guest Editor:  
Cathleen A. Lewandowski, M.S.W., Ph.D., George Mason University (clewando@gmu.edu)**

To Submit a Manuscript, Register (Check the Reader and Author boxes) and Submit to the Special Section  
Please read Helpful Instructions and Review Guidelines prior to preparing and submitting manuscripts

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