



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

ARROW PARK, MONROE, NY--- On Friday, October 17th, Occupations Inc. hosted the first of a series of trainings to promote recovery and resiliency among returning war veterans. Dr. David Rudd, a national expert in suicide prevention, presented treating trauma and preventing suicide among returning war veterans. The training was made possible due to the generous support of The Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation and additional assistance from The Sterling Center.

Orange County Executive Edward Diana welcomed the approximately 50 mental health leaders emphasizing the importance of being prepared to provide essential treatment services to our veterans. Diana, stating that “assessing and responding to suicide risk is a frequent and challenging problem for those serving our veteran population throughout the country and in Orange County.” He went on to describe the terrible effects suicide has on families and the importance of prevention.

Ms. Amy Anderson- Winchell, L.C.S.W., Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, of Occupations, Inc. and Executive Director of Family Empowerment Council, Inc. oriented participants to the vision for Arrow Park as a national center for family support programs. She thanked The Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation and Executive Board Member R. Louis Spinelli for their generous contribution which made the training possible. “Today’s training provided clinicians with essential tools to assess suicide risk and provide effective evidenced based treatment to returning war veterans and their families.” said Ms. Anderson-Winchell.

The training was held at Arrow Park, a 477-acre wooded resort adjacent to Sterling Forest. The Orange County Land Trust has been instrumental in coordinating the protection of portions of Arrow Park in cooperation with Sterling Forest State Park and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. With support from the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation

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Occupations, Inc., hosts Training at Arrow Park

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plans are underway to develop a barrier free trail for veterans and others at Arrow Park and to develop other recreational and program resources for veterans and their families.

The day of training was led by Dr. David Rudd, Ph.D, ABPP, a suicide prevention specialist, with extensive experience working with returning veterans. Dr. Rudd is professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Texas Tech University. Leaders from the mental health community were invited to attend this elite training designed to prepare them to address the special mental health needs of our returning veterans.

The all-day training program covered the full spectrum of issues facing the veteran population, including: a focus on providing a clear theoretical model for understanding suicidal ideation and behavior with the veteran population, an empirically grounded assessment framework that integrates core clinical competencies and markers of imminent suicide risk, and a review of related clinical skills and treatment options.

The Occupations, Inc. System of Services includes outpatient mental health services, case management, child welfare, emergency services, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and individuals recovering from mental illness. Occupations, Inc., also provides an extensive transportation system throughout Orange County. Family Empowerment Council, Inc., an affiliate of Occupations, Inc. provides services to people with disabilities, including service coordination and case management to diverse populations, mental health family support for families with children with emotional disturbance, early intervention, educational advocacy, consumer-directed personal care, support and assistance, residential habilitation and respite services. All of Occupations, Inc.'s services can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, through one toll-free call to the Service Access Center at 1-888-750-2266.

For more information on Occupations Inc., or for information on how you can help, please contact Wendi Chason, Director of Development at (845) 692-4454, ext. 136 or visit the website at www.occupations.org.

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