

October 2016

It has been quite a privilege to serve as NACVSO's Women Veteran Representative. I have had the opportunity to meet with some amazing Veteran Service Officers and Organizations that all have the same goal – to help women veterans succeed in life.

Please take time to visit the following attachment to learn more about what resources I've recently interacted with that are for women veterans:

[\\*National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators Conference 2016\\*](#)

Additionally, there has been a push for more information regarding Female Sexual Arousal Disorder (FSAD). There are many factors that can contribute to this and women should not be ashamed or embarrassed to discuss this with their PCP, Psychiatrist, Counselor, or OB/GYN. Secondly, there is no reason why any woman should simply have to “deal” with FSAD. I am pushing that VA Women Health Clinics offer a “Sexual Wellness” clinic or can at least have the ability to refer women out to these clinics. I am a part of Hines VA Health Care system and am in the process of building a working relationship with the Women's Health Clinic there. Fortunately, Hines VAMC is located right next to Loyola (a state of the art hospital and training hospital). Loyola physicians are constantly getting new information in how to treat health issues. These same Loyola physicians work at Hines and are referring women, who have FSAD, out to the Loyola Sexual Wellness Clinic. This Sexual Wellness Clinic at Loyola consists of a team of doctors and specialists from multiple fields that specialize in sexual dysfunctions. However, at the same time, VAMCs are not keen on sending these women veterans out and are countering with the offer to simply send them to marital therapy. This is a work in progress. At this very moment, as I'm typing this, just know that I have a meeting with the Women's Program Manager today and will be discussing what we can do to support the referral of women veterans out to Sexual Wellness Clinics. I encourage you to discuss this with your office, your doctors, your VISN representatives, etc. Women veterans are not the same as men and cannot simply be prescribed a blue pill to assist with this; and their FSAD should not be minimized and considered “just a marital” problem. I will update you further as I get more information – please be sure to follow all forums on the NACVSO webpage.