

Laurie Harkness, Ph.D. - VA Connecticut Healthcare System's Errera
Community Care Center

Dr. Harkness is founder and Director of VA Connecticut Healthcare System's Errera Community Care Center (ECCC). The ECCC is nationally recognized for its exceptional model of care that emphasizes evidenced-based clinical programs provided in conjunction with a comprehensive network of community partnerships. This model has proved effective in affording stable community living for more than 300 veterans, vocational support for more than 500 veterans, and the development of housing opportunities for more than 250 homeless veterans and their families. The ECCC has repeatedly been awarded status as a VA Center of Excellence for the Care of Individuals with Mental Illness and has been designated as the model for psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery services in VA's Veterans Integrated Service Network One. Dr. Harkness is well published in the areas of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Psychosocial Rehabilitation. She is the recipient of numerous local, state and national awards and recognitions: Dr. Harkness received the Olin E. Teague Award, the highest VA clinical award given for her work in the rehabilitation of war injured veterans (1999); the Connecticut Disabled American Veteran's Commander's Award for her service to Connecticut's veterans and inducted as an honorary member of Connecticut Veterans Who Care Committee; and the National DAV Recognition Award. Dr. Harkness has been the distinguished recipient of the Eli Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in developing programs that assist veterans with serious mental illnesses reintegrate back into their own communities. In 2005, she received the "Excellence in Community Mental Health Services" award from NAMI; Dr. Harkness was the first non-MD recipient and first VA employee to be so honored. On numerous occasions she has been recognized by Vietnam Veterans of America for her service and dedication to Vietnam veterans and their families. She has lectured both nationally and internationally and regularly consults to other mental health systems around the provision of integrated community-based mental health care. In addition, Dr. Harkness is an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine.