

2020 Educational Outcome Reflection & Statement

Hands & Hearts in Action: Massage for Veterans Education Program

This statement is intended to offer students information to help them make an informed choice about their participation in this program. It reflects on the program history, current status, and collaborations with our educational partners. This program was designed by Nicole Miller, M.S., L.M.T., at Crouse Health, to prepare massage therapists to work with Veterans in all types of health practice settings, such as volunteerism or private practice. The original program design fostered a clinical-based program with our education partner, Clear Path for Veterans, an independent Veteran service organization. The intention of that particular design was to provide an authentic learning experience for students and community massage clinical services for Clear Path for Veterans. The content and material were developed based on clinical experience, research, and advisement from clinicians from Clear Path, the Syracuse VA, and Crouse Health. Early in our program we also invited Syracuse VA staff to participate as guest instructors given their expertise in working Veterans.

Simultaneously, and exclusive of our program, the Veterans Administration developed the Whole Health Program, an Integrative Health Program Model that includes massage therapy as a method of care for Veterans in both in-patient and out-patient settings. With the growth of the Whole Health program, we've included more information/content about Whole Health as well as instruction from VA clinicians in the Syracuse area classes, the base location of our program while maintaining original content that supports non-VA care such as volunteerism or private practice. Going forward our program intends to support massage therapists, allied health partners, the future initiatives of the VA Whole Health program, and our community service partner, Clear Path for Veterans.

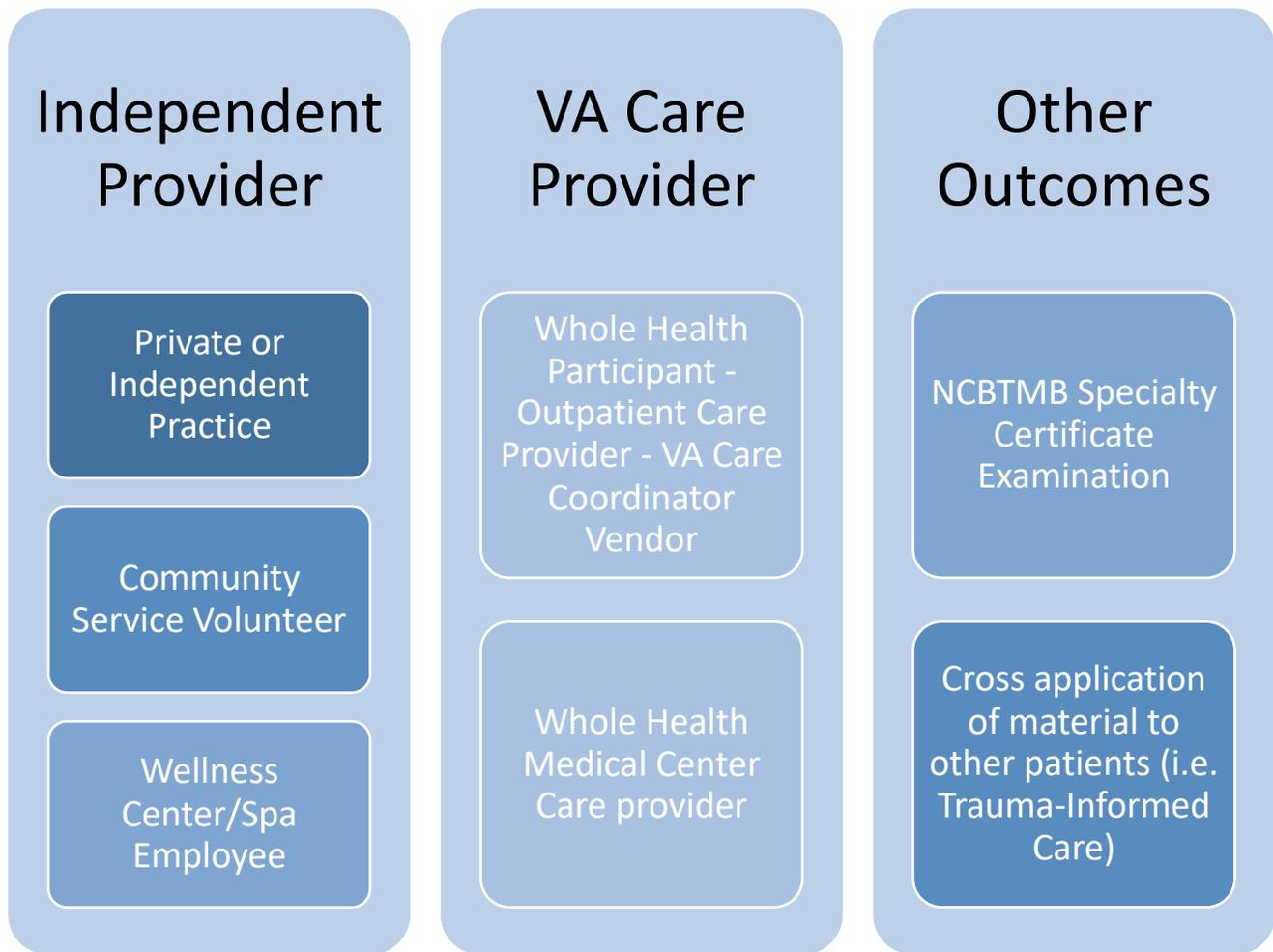
Integrative Health professionals interested in our program should consider:

- This program is still designed to prepare providers for practice settings and experiences including private practice, volunteerism, medical center care, and as out-patient referral providers. (see following graphic). It is designed to support all massage therapy providers whether or not they wish to participate in the VA Whole Health Program.
- This program does prepare students to test for the NCBTMB Massage for U.S. Veterans Specialty Certificate.
- This program is provided currently by Nicole Miller and Crouse Health. It is not a program offered by the Veteran's Administration, and the participation of VA staff is provided as a courtesy.
- Attending this program does not guarantee therapists will be able to enroll as a provider in the VA Whole Health Program. The availability of participation is based on a massage therapist's proximity to local VA centers and the progress of development of the Whole Health program at those VA centers. To learn more, please read this link: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4059>
- This is a continuing education and professional development program. Our Syracuse location has offered post-class support in the areas of advocacy and community service. These initiatives are provided as a courtesy to students and is provided in support of our commitment to public health.

- Although we hope to cultivate VA participation in classes and post-class support in areas outside of NY, the availability of that participation will vary based on local VA availability and resources available.
- Students who wish to pursue employment with providers such as the VA, after attending class, are responsible for searching for such opportunities and responsible for completing corresponding application process activities.

We hope this information helps you to make an informed choice. We welcome you to contact us for more information or consultation.

Future Veteran Massage Education Outcomes



(Updated 10/1/19)