

# What's News

February 2008

## **Susan Van Vleet Consultants, Inc.®**

9220 KIMMER DRIVE SUITE 245, LONE TREE, COLORADO 80124

PHONE (303) 660-5206 FAX (303) 814-8217

WEBSITE: [svanvleetconsult.com](http://svanvleetconsult.com) E-MAIL: [svvconsult@svanvleetconsult.com](mailto:svvconsult@svanvleetconsult.com)

### **The State Of Mental Health**

A few months ago the US government agency that studies Mental Health in the US came out with a state by state ranking of best and worst states in the US to live in for your Mental Health. They measured 5 variables that linked directly to depression and suicide rates. They were:

1. **Mental Health Resources and their availability.**
2. **Barriers to People getting Health Care including Mental Health Care.**
3. **Mental Health Treatment Utilization, are people using what is available.**
4. **Socioeconomic factors, the more educated the population and greater the percentage with health care coverage the less people are depressed and suicidal.**
5. **Mental Health Parity, the more generous the state's mental health parity coverage the greater the number of people that receive mental health services.**

Many of you are probably wondering if this wasn't a self-serving report on this agencies part. Some of the rest of you in Asia, South America, and Europe are probably wondering what this has to do with you!

Well the most interesting part of the study to us was not what state we should move to but the ramifications it has for work and for companies. That implication can probably be extrapolated world wide.

So, for example, if the lost productive time among US workers due to a mental illness like depression is estimated to be in excess of \$31 Billion a year what is it in your country? We think this may be an important issue for companies to look at wherever in the world they choose to operate.

**We would even go so far as to suggest that companies look at this variable when they select locations for their business units. Overhead costs and worker pay are only part of the equation it seems to me.**

**Many of you live in countries where Mental Health is much better looked after than in the US. In some of your countries it is considered as important as any other kind of Health Care. That means that there is probably a lower rate of depression and suicide in those countries. So, in return, there is less corporate money lost on Mental Health disabilities.**

**But others of you live in countries in which Mental Health Care is not readily available and in your case your company, we believe, should play a bigger role. If they don't it costs them money not to.**

**In the US the mental illness: Chronic Depression affects 21 million US citizens and is the leading cause of disability for people 15 to 44.**

**Mental Health is a problem for corporations and organizations and should be a part of their overall Health plans no matter what country or US State you are in. The simple connection to businesses is: It costs you money to not have proper Mental Health Care available.**

**Some of you have already heard us say we had a saying in Mental Health when we practiced: "Pay me now or pay me later" That means the dollar spent now in prevention and mental health care is not the 2 dollars you will spend when it becomes a chronic untreated disability!**

**Let us know what you think and also if your country and/or company has an innovative program for Mental Health Care we would love to hear about it.**

### **We Need Your help**

This article was submitted by Dave Dlesk who has taken our Productive Relationships Course as well as Managing Change.

The wife of the man Dave talks about in the article, Lilly Ake, is a new graduate of Women Moving Forward.

### **[Jeff and Lilly Ake- Terrorism Hits Home](#)**

**[Imagine losing your spouse, your company, your job, your house and most of your assets. Unfortunately this is the situation that Lilly Ake is in after her husband Jeff was kidnapped by terrorists in Iraq in April, 2005. Jeff and](#)**

Lilly were building their packaging equipment company, Equipment Express, in LaPorte, Indiana.

Jeff went to Iraq as a civilian to install a manufacturing line as a part of the Iraq reconstruction effort. While he was installing the line in a factory, armed gunmen came in and kidnapped him. A day later a video was shown of Jeff being hooded and held by heavily armed captors. At first there was hope, as the captors contacted Lilly and were looking for a ransom. Unfortunately, there has been no further contact from the terrorists since June of 2005. In spite of much hard work by US agencies like military intelligence there is no information about Jeff's current status.

While we all hope for a miracle, Lilly and the four children must move ahead with their lives. The business was not able to survive without Jeff. The company was sold at a distressed price and now Lilly and the children have no medical coverage or salary from the business.

Lilly & Jeff's children: Yana (17), Christine (12), Samantha (8), and Alexander (4) and Lilly now reside in a house lent to them temporarily by a relative. Lilly was forced to sell the house she and Jeff had bought because there was no income from the business any more.

Jeff's friends have gotten together to establish The Jeff Ake Family Trust to provide financial support to Lilly and her family as she works to rebuild her life. Lilly is currently working with several professionals to help her rebuild her and her children's lives. In the mean time if you would like to help Lilly and her family through this difficult time you can send donations to:

The Jeff Ake Family Trust  
c/o James Schelli, Jr.  
Webster & Schelli  
1730 Park Street, Suite 220

Naperville, Ill. 60563      There is also a website with news stories on  
Jeff's abduction: [Http://jeffrey-ake-news.newslib.com/](http://jeffrey-ake-news.newslib.com/)

Thank You Dave for bringing this to our attention. Dave can be reached by e-mail at [ddlesk@comcast.net](mailto:ddlesk@comcast.net) if you or your company would like to assist in the fundraising. There will be a fund raising even soon in the Chicago area.

**Congratulations are in order.....**

To Heather & Jason Olivea on the birth of their daughter Sydney Tyler Olivea. She was 8lbs 8 oz. and was 21 ¼ inches. Heather works for P&G.

To Shannon Aughe & her husband on the birth of Mason Joseph. Mason was 7lbs. 7 oz. and was 19 inches long.  
Shannon was also just promoted to Sr. Consultant at Scottsdale Insurance Company. She is in Finance.

To Brenda Womack on her new job with J&J in Memphis,Tenn.

To Linda Simmons on her new position as CEO at CADTEL Systems, Inc. Linda is formerly with Scottsdale Insurance Company & UTI.

To Gary Lancina on his new position as Vice President- Marketing, Redbox Automated Retail, LLC. Gary is formerly from Rand McNally and SC Johnson.

To Glenn Scott on his new position as Senior Manager, Delivery and Infrastructure in the Global Learning and Development Practice, Corporate Function HR, P&G.

To Pamela (Taylor) Oksiuta on her Marriage to Ben Oksiuta. Pam works for SC Johnson & Ben owns Racine Cyclery.

**WOMEN MOVING FORWARD® April 8-10, August 5-7 & Oct. 15-17, 2008**

The April class is 50% full and the October workshop is filling. There are only 25 spaces left available in 2008. So if you plan to register or refer someone let us know.

**WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP RETREAT© MAY 6-8, 2008**

There is only 1 space left. If you would like to attend please call Susan as soon as possible.

**LEADING PROJECTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP COMMITMENT & PURPOSE© APRIL 14-18 & SEPT. 8-12, 2008**

If you are a project leader this course will assist you in making big leaps in team success without taking it's toll on you. To register contact John.

**PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS© Feb. 19-21, June 17-19, Oct. 21-23, 2008 in Lone Tree, CO. Dec. 2-4 in Chicago.**

The Chicago Workshops are very popular. So if you plan to attend in Chicago or refer someone to any of the workshops please let John know.

**MEN, RELATIONSHIPS AND WORK FEB. 26-28, 2008**

This is the companion course to Women Moving Forward® for men. John only does one per year in Colorado. Space is limited to 12 men. So if you want to attend or register someone contact John.

**SMART PEOPLE MARCH 11-13, 2008**

The first workshop was a great success and gave our participants insights and new ways to manage the smart people who work for them. The benefit for companies is their most intelligent and talented people will be better managed and therefore turnover of this talent pool will be lowered. There is still space available in the March course.

**TRAINING FOR CHANGE AGENTS JUNE 3-8, 2008**

In this course we train people whose job it is to be internal change agents. This can mean a change in enterprise wide software to a downsizing. Our program teaches drivers of change how to do it more effectively and without ruining their lives. There is space available but it is limited.

**NOTE: If you are interested in bringing any of our workshops to your company we would be happy to speak with you about that.**

**Or if your company wants to purchase a group of spaces in our public workshops and enjoy a larger discount contact us for more information. There is a corporate discount for companies that buy 10 or more spaces at a time. These spaces can be used for the same workshops or different workshops over a period of 1 year from the time of purchase.**

**\*\*Also we offer spouse or partner discounts. If you have taken a course you would like your spouse or partner to take they can attend for half price. The only courses not included in this policy are the Women's Leadership Retreat and the Advanced Men's Course.**

## PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE (1/23/08)

<b>2008 Courses</b>			
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS©	February 19-21	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
MEN RELATIONSHIPS AND WORK	February 26-28	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
SMART PEOPLE: MANAGING & RETAINING GIFTED EMPLOYEES	March 11-13	Lone Tree, CO	\$4,000
WOMEN MOVING FORWARD®	April 8-10	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
LEADING PROJECTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP, COMMITMENT & PURPOSE	April 14-18*	Lone Tree, CO	\$5,000
LEADING PROJECTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP, COMMITMENT & PURPOSE	April 16-18**	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP RETREAT -Make-Up Day	May 6-8 May 5	Vail, CO	\$4,500
TRAINING FOR CHANGE AGENTS	June 3-6	Lone Tree, CO	\$5,000
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS©	June 17-19	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
WOMEN MOVING FORWARD®	August 5-7	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
LEADING PROJECTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP, COMMITMENT & PURPOSE	September 8-12*	Lone Tree, CO	\$5,000
LEADING PROJECTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP, COMMITMENT & PURPOSE	September 10-12**	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
ADVANCED MEN'S COURSE	September 23-25	Vail, CO	\$4,500
WOMEN MOVING FORWARD®	October 15-17	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS©	October 21-23	Lone Tree, CO	\$3,500
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS©	December 2-4	Chicago, IL	\$3,500

\*TO INCLUDE A REQUIRED 2-DAY PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP

\*\*FOR THOSE THAT HAVE MET THE PREREQUISITE ATTENDANCE OF PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

*Spouses and Partners of Course Graduates can attend the Course for half price (this does not include the Advanced Men's Course or WLR) .*

*To register for any course, retreat, or conference, contact our office.*

*We accept MasterCard, Visa & American Express*

**There is a \$500 discount when two or more people attend the same \$3,500+ workshop from the same company and location. You must register together and attend together**

*All prices are subject to change. No refunds are given.*

**E-MAIL: [svvconsult@svanvleetconsult.com](mailto:svvconsult@svanvleetconsult.com)**