



Gillian Hinton McDonald, LCSW
Ventura Vet Center Director

Gillian is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Director of the Ventura Vet Center. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology at California Lutheran University and earned a master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis in health from the University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work. While attending USC, Gillian was the Chair of Social Work Graduate Education Student caucus, a Student Ambassador for the MSW@USC program, and earned Dean's List honors.

She first began working with Veterans in June of 2015 at the Denver VA Medical Center as a Housing Urban Development VA Supportive Housing (HUD VASH) Social Worker. As a HUD VASH Social Worker, Gillian worked to combat homelessness through housing retention and rapid rehousing. She later transitioned to the Denver VA Mental Health Clinic where she provided individual and group counseling services. After returning home to Southern California, Gillian worked in the Emergency Department at the Greater Los Angeles VAMC and most recently worked at the VA Oxnard Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) providing intake assessment and triage support for the Patient Aligned Care Team.

As the Director of the Ventura Vet Center, Gillian has worked with her team to ensure continuity of care during the COVID-19 pandemic by creating virtual group programming, a step-by-step VA Video Connect instructional video to assist and increase buy-in of less tech savvy Veterans. She and her team received recognition for innovation for creating an M.S. TEAMS Crisis Response protocol and the "Ask for S.A.R.A" initiative which offers a more discreet way for Veterans and service members to seek mental health support for MST. Gillian is currently a member of the Counseling Practices Council, the Suicide Prevention Program Work Group, and the District 5 Post Crisis Review Work Group.