

EDWARD D. SIMMER, MD, MPH, DFAPA

Executive Summary

An experienced leader with a history of progressively responsible leadership assignments including Chief Executive Officer of a community hospital and senior clinical leader and deputy director of the Nation's ninth largest health insurance provider. Over 25 years of extensive clinical leadership and team-building experience including transforming a large health care system from pay-for-volume to high-value care and integrating multiple systems into one seamless care provider. Leads efforts to improve the health and wellness of over 9.5 million beneficiaries. Focused on quality throughout career. Exceptional leader who has superb strategic planning skills and is able to motivate diverse groups at all levels of an organization to move toward a common goal.

Professional Experience

Chief Medical Officer & Deputy Director, TRICARE Health Plan

Sept 2014 – Dec 2020 Defense Health Agency, Falls Church, VA. Navy Captain (O-6)

Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the TRICARE Health Plan, which provides civilian healthcare and dental care to 9.5 million active duty military, their families, and military retirees and their families. Responsible for development, implementation, execution, and oversight of multiple healthcare contracts worldwide, including the two largest contracts in the DoD, with a value of over \$10 billion per year.

Supervision: As Deputy led staff of over 300 active duty, civilian, and contract staff located in multiple locations worldwide, including clinical, customer service, and administrative personnel, with a focus on leading by example, listening, improving performance, staff morale, team-building, and training.

Clinical Policy: Senior advisor on clinical policy. Responsible for transforming the Nation's ninth largest health plan from a fee-for-service system to a high-value, pay for quality and outcomes model. Led the development and execution of numerous clinical policy initiatives, including measuring and incentivizing providers based on clinical outcomes, access and quality and determining clinical standards and what services should be covered, including precision medicine. Focused on improving public health and social determinants of health. Efforts include increasing beneficiary choice and use of accountable care organizations, capitation, and other alternative payment models. Led efforts to improve care and support to children and families, especially those with special needs, including care management, and integrating between military medical facilities and civilian providers. Frequently reviewed proposed legislative language and wrote multiple federal regulations.

Oversight of Clinical Care and Quality: Oversaw all aspects of clinical performance of eight large healthcare contracts providing care to over 9.5 million people, including quality and patient safety, population health, case management, and utilization management. Frequently interacted with other chief medical officers and clinical staff, including VHA personnel, ensured compliance with complex medical and dental contract requirements, and approved quality management plans. Reviewed adverse events and cases with significant ethical issues. Worked to eliminate healthcare fraud.

Contract Development: Led a multidisciplinary team responsible for the development, writing, and execution of high-level requirements for the next generation of military healthcare contracts, valued at over \$50 billion. These incorporated major changes in the areas of payment models, value-based care, beneficiary choice, access to care, and reporting and use of outcomes measures. These contracts

include innovations to improve quality, satisfaction, and cost effectiveness across the entire Military Health System. Led development and writing of a healthcare navigator contract for patients with complex care coordination needs, ensuring they receive the best possible care and preventive services.

Master Communicator: Provided over 200 briefings and presentations on medical and insurance issues to national and regional professional societies, members of Congress, congressional staff, external advocacy and patient groups, and senior leaders. Provided congressional testimony on issues related to military healthcare. Reviewed and prepared multiple Reports to Congress.

Specific Accomplishments:

- Led a Tri-Service (Army, Navy, and Air Force) workgroup which developed an outcomes dashboard based on the quadruple aim which tracks performance across private sector care.
- Oversaw development and execution of processes to expedite approval of precision medicine approaches from both a clinical and reimbursement standpoint.
- Oversaw the creation and implementation of major changes to the mental health benefit which removed artificial barriers to care, and increased access and quality. These changes led to a 90% increase in intensive outpatient treatment with a corresponding decrease in more intensive service utilization as well as a 50% increase in access to residential treatment for adolescents.
- Oversaw efforts to increase telemental health usage in light of COVID-19, which has led to an increase from less than 5% to over 50% of mental health visits being provided virtually.
- Worked to ensure access to COVID-19 treatments for TRICARE beneficiaries.
- Advised senior Veterans Health Administration leadership on private sector care issues in support of the development and execution of the Veterans Choice program.
- Wrote statutory language focused on treatment of eating disorders as well as improving the effectiveness of beneficiary incentives.
- Oversaw the comprehensive revision of a \$370 million/year autism care program, incorporating meaningful clinical outcomes to drive coverage decisions, improving support to families of children with autism, and strengthening utilization management, compliance, and fraud controls.
- Led development and implementation of a program to identify beneficiaries with other sources of health insurance, leading to over \$50 million in savings.
- Focused on women's health, developed a performance-based maternity pilot, which provides outcomes-based evaluations of maternity facilities to beneficiaries and incentivizes providers.
- Oversaw a joint effort to identify and address providers who overprescribe opiates.

Officer-in-Charge, Defense Health Agency (DHA) Navy Element

May 2017 – Oct 2020 Falls Church, VA.

As the first officer-in-charge of the newly created DHA Navy Element, led over 250 active duty Navy personnel across the entire DHA enterprise. Responsible for merging 27 separate Navy units located worldwide which were transferred to DHA control. Brought the Navy Element to full operating capacity within one year.

Board Certified General and Forensic Psychiatrist

Sept 1996 – Present

Clinical and Forensic Psychiatrist: Provided evaluations and treatment, including psychotherapy and medication to over 10,000 patients. DEA certified and licensed to prescribe buprenorphine for opiate addiction, have treated numerous patients with buprenorphine. Managed a large tobacco cessation clinic. Served on the Onslow County, NC Mental Health Board and the Island County, WA Board of Health. Performed over 500 forensic mental health evaluations. Led the Navy's Special

Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team (SPRINT), a multidisciplinary team, for nine years in response to natural disasters, terror attacks, and operational mishaps.

Specific accomplishments:

- Planned and oversaw the military mental health response to Hurricanes Katrina and Ivan, providing mental health support to Service members and families as well as first responders.
- Led a two-year response to the U.S.S. Cole (DDG-67) bombing, providing acute and long-term support to members of the crew and their families, consulting with leadership at all levels, and collaborating with external support services to ensure a comprehensive approach.
- Deployed with an Army Combat Stress Control Unit to Camp Taji, Iraq; provided psychiatric care to over 20,000 soldiers and performed command consultations. Deputy Chief of the Unit.
- Developed and led the DoD/VA Service Member Justice Outreach Project, modeled on civilian mental health court initiatives. Provided services to active duty members facing disciplinary discharges. This project led to improved outcomes in this high-risk population.
- Provided consultation to VA leadership regarding care coordination for seriously injured Service members (Federal Recovery Coordinator Program).

Commanding Officer (CEO), Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, WA

Aug 2012 - Aug 2014

Chief Executive Officer of a rural community hospital serving active duty military, retirees, and their families on Whidbey Island, WA.

Chief Executive: Responsible for all aspects of hospital operation, including support of military readiness, clinical care, customer service, staff support, medical coding and billing, financial management, logistics, privileging, Joint Commission certification, pharmacy, building maintenance/security, community relations, and collaboration with area civilian medical facilities. Responsible for effective and efficient oversight of over \$3 million budget. Supervised staff of over 300 military, civilian, and contract personnel, including provider, clinical support, and administrative staff.

Specific Accomplishments:

- Led hospital through successful Joint Commission and CLIA recertifications.
- Led the hospital through a successful redesign which saw the closure of urgent care and medical-surgical inpatient services due to low utilization and creation of a birthing center. This included extensive collaboration with local civilian facilities, development and execution of a staffing reduction plan, staff and beneficiary communication plan, and multiple meetings disseminating information about the changes with patients and staff. The redesign led to savings of over \$1,000,000 and improved patient outcomes and access.
- Oversaw the implementation of the Primary Care Medical Home model in all primary care clinics, improving access to and quality of care, as well as beneficiary satisfaction.
- Developed a process to publicly identify top-performing providers based on clinical outcomes, leading to increased compliance with practice guidelines and improved performance overall.
- Oversaw development of a comprehensive facility renovation plan to improve patient experience and flow, enhance provider efficiency, and improve quality of care.

Executive Officer (COO), Naval Hospital Beaufort, SC

Oct 2010 – July 2012

Chief Operating Officer for a community hospital serving a widely diverse population from Marine Corps recruits at Parris Island, SC to retirees and their families. Included a 30-building main campus with historic resources, residences, and two outlying clinics.

Leadership: Supported the commanding officer, managed day-to-day operations of the hospital. Responsible for over 500 diverse staff, as well as surgical suites, an emergency room, and extensive outpatient and occupational medicine facilities. Led community relations efforts, oversaw facility maintenance, and collaboration with civilian facilities. Ensured timely hiring actions, performance evaluations, and equal opportunity for all staff members. As the senior clinician, responsible for all patient safety and quality issues, and ensured a robust patient safety and quality program was in place.

Specific Accomplishments:

- Created and led the first stakeholder advisory council, bringing together military leadership, community leaders, and patient representatives to advise leadership on hospital performance.
- Oversaw development and execution of a comprehensive facilities management plan.

**Senior Executive Director for Psychological Health, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)
May 2008 - Sept 2010 Silver Spring, MD**

Led mental health efforts for the Department of Defense, including development of policy, collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and education efforts. Supervised over 100 behavioral health experts and administrative personnel.

Collaboration: As one of the founding members of the DCoE leadership, developed collaborative relationships with other military agencies, Department of Veterans Affairs leadership, subject matter experts, and professional societies. Provided numerous briefs to leadership and congressional staff.

Clinical Policy: Developed evidence-based standards and programs for resilience, short- and long-term treatment of mental health conditions and substance abuse, and developed and oversaw research efforts in the area of military mental health. Evaluated existing military mental health and resilience programs, identifying those which were most successful and working to expand them while assisting those programs having challenges to improve. Ensured compliance with regulations and policy.

Specific Accomplishments:

- Developed and oversaw execution of the psychological health portion of the Real Warriors Campaign, which highlights Service members of all ranks who have successfully utilized mental health services with the goal of increasing acceptance and decreasing stigma.
- DoD Chair of the first DoD/VA Mental Health Summit, which improved collaboration between VA and DoD and developed 26 collaborative projects across both DoD and VA in the area of mental health and resilience, many of which were funded through the VA/DoD Joint Incentive Fund.
- Developed initiative to utilize common outcomes measures for military mental health treatment.

**Navy Intern Specialty Leader, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Apr 2007 - June 2010 Washington, DC**

Responsible for over 300 first year medical interns in the Navy. Advised the Surgeon General of the Navy and other senior leaders on issues related to internship and first-year physician training. Ensured consistent training requirements across 25 plus internship programs at seven training sites. Responsible for internship selection/match process.

**Director for Quality Management, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
June 2005 - May 2008**

**Psychiatry Department Head, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
July 2003 - July 2005**

**Team Lead, Outpatient Psychiatry, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
July 2001 - July 2003**

**Fleet-Liaison Psychiatrist, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
Oct 1998 - July 2001**

**Division Psychiatrist, 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC
Oct 1996 - Sept 1998**

**Psychiatry Resident, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
Oct 1993 - Sept 1996**

**General Medical Officer, U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN-65)
Aug 1991 - Sept 1993**

Education

M.D., Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1990.

M.P.H., with a focus on epidemiology, Eastern Virginia Medical School/Old Dominion University Consortium, Norfolk, Virginia, 2001. *MPH Program Graduate of the Year*

B.A., Double major in Chemistry and Science, with Honors, Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio, 1986. *Summa Cum Laude*

Major Honors/Awards

- Defense Superior Service Medal (2 awards)
- Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards)
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3 awards)
- Army Commendation Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2 awards)
- Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association
- Delta Omega Honor Society in Public Health
- Rear Admiral Hogan Award for Excellence in Navy Psychiatry Research

Licenses/Certifications

- Medical License, Virginia, expires December 2022
- Board Certified in General and Forensic Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Administrative Psychiatry Certification, American Psychiatric Association
- Certified Group Psychotherapist, International Board for the Certification of Group Psychotherapists