

2024 AVAVRP BALLOT for

Congressional Liaison Candidates:

Andre Tarrant

Vote by 2/27/2024

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I am interested in becoming a Congressional Liaison for AVAVRP. I want to work for the good of our vocational rehabilitation counselor profession in an advocacy role. I am willing to work to establish relationships with government officials, elected representatives, and lobbyists to influence policies that will benefit our organization. I enjoy research and will engage in analyzing proposed laws, regulations and policies and their impact on our profession. As a vocational rehabilitation counselor and community activist I am experienced in building and maintaining relationships with community leaders, profit, and nonprofit organizations, and researching, and gathering information. To that end, I will network with local government representatives and other stake holders to influence laws, policies, and procedures. I will faithfully advocate for our profession's priority concerns as a Congressional Liaison for AVARP.

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Congressional Liaison Candidates:

Clifton Charles

Vote by 2/27/2024

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I would like to be considered for the open Congressional Liaison Position with AVAVRP. I believe my extensive experience in the vocational rehabilitation and mental field will be a major benefit to perform the Congressional Liaison Position. Mr. Clifton Charles is a mental health professional with a 30-year record of work success with a variety of professional organizations. Diverse experience and education include vocational rehabilitation, counseling, program administration, research, case management and instruction.

Clifton E. Charles, MA, LPC-S, LCDC, NCC is currently a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Polytrauma) working at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Mr. Charles serves as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor on a Level II Polytrauma Unit providing vocational rehabilitation services to OIF/OEF veterans with traumatic brain injury and physical disabilities. Mr. Charles is also a National Substance Use Disorder Fidelity Reviewer for OMHSP national federal veteran affairs initiative visiting VA national sites to determine the effectiveness of implementing the IPS (Individualized Placement Supports) Model nationwide. Education includes attaining an A.A. Chemical Dependency Counseling. Lamar State College (1991), BS degree in Health Care Administration (1993) University of Texas Medical Branch, MA Counseling (2000) Prairie View A&M, Mr. Charles is a Licensed Professional Counselor (Supervisor), Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor and National Certified Counselor. In addition, I am a National Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS certification).

Mr. Charles is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives since 1993 and an AVAVRP Member at Large since 2019. Before being hired with the VA in 2005, he served as a college counselor (Therapist), college instructor, program administrator and psychiatric case manager. Mr. Charles has also presented at numerous mental health conferences and workshops on a national and international level to educate and support VA vocational program initiatives. Mr. Charles also established his own private practice named SE Behavioral Consulting in 2017. The practice includes providing therapeutic services to individuals and families as requested.

Mr. Charles also was a program administrator for a Texas school district program that received a national award for education prevention (Hope Award) in 2002.