

Service Members, Veterans, and the Technical Assistance Centers

I am forwarding this E-mail below we received from the Service Members, Veterans, and the Families Technical Assistance Center (SMVFTA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

The NMDVS believes it contains valuable information links for veterans and their families.



TOPICS IN THE NEWS

06/23/2017

SMVF SPOTLIGHT

Pain Management and Opioid Use with Veterans and Service Members

Military service brings a risk for serious injury, and with it, the possibility of severe or chronic pain. Such pain may be treated with prescription medication—sometimes opioids—which carry a risk for overuse or misuse.

SAMHSA, with the support of the SMVF TA Center, has been working with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to enhance informed prescribing practices and prevent misuse that can result in overdose or even death.



SMVF NEWS

Webinar: Learn About the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option

June 27, 2017; 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

TRICARE and Military OneSource will host a webinar to discuss the TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO). ECHO provides supplemental services to qualified beneficiaries with special needs. It offers services beyond those offered by a regular TRICARE program option. To use ECHO, beneficiaries must have a qualifying condition. These may include: moderate or severe mental disability, serious physical disability, autism spectrum disorder, extraordinary physical or psychological condition, neuromuscular developmental disorder in an infant or toddler, and multiple disabilities affecting separate body systems.

[Webinar: Behavioral Health Services for Sexual and Gender Minority Adults: Where Data and Practice Intersect](#)

June 29, 2017; 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

SAMHSA's 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) yielded data from self-identified sexual minority respondents for the first time in the survey's history. While the data findings represent only a year of information, they indicate a critical need to better understand the relationship between sexual orientation and behavioral health. This webinar will highlight these key results from the 2015 NSDUH, complimented with corresponding practices from three organizations that serve LGBT individuals and communities: Fenway Health in Boston; Rainbow Heights Club in Brooklyn; and the Montrose Center in Houston.

[Webinar: New Research on Women Veterans and Intimate Partner Violence](#)

July 27, 2017; 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is associated with a wide range of health and social impacts, especially for women. Women veterans may be at increased risk of experiencing IPV, and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities are now routinely screening female patients for IPV experience. This webinar will present findings from the first examination of VHA IPV screening results of nearly 9,000 female patients.

[Translating Military Culture to the Civilian Workplace](#)

Military culture is drilled into soldiers from the day they arrive at basic training. The Army teaches its soldiers how to become leaders, take charge, and make vital decisions. These are all attributes that make Army veterans highly valuable to civilian companies. However, the transition to civilian life is not easy for all, and there are many aspects of military culture that are not well-received in a corporate or civilian setting.

[Learn to Recognize the Signs](#)

Many veterans may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a veteran needs help. Veterans in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of harming themselves. Veterans who are considering suicide often show signs of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and/or hopelessness.

[Dallas Breaks Ground on First Women Veterans' Enterprise Center](#)

The Veterans Resource Center in south Dallas is paving the way for the opening of the first Women Veterans' Enterprise Center. An official groundbreaking ceremony and women veteran celebration took place on June 12. The full day of activities kicked off with an official groundbreaking ceremony featuring an overview of the proposed center, testimonies from female veteran business owners, and statements of support and announcement of public/private partnerships from political, corporate, and community leaders.

[3-D Printing Program Creates Customized Products to Assist Veterans in their Rehabilitation](#)

VA's VHA continues to develop and improve its assistive technology program to help veterans who require physical medicine and rehabilitation services. Each patient's health care needs are unique and sometimes off-the-shelf devices are not a true fit for them. In such cases, clinical rehabilitation engineers like Brian Burkhardt step up to lend an innovative hand.

[Vets4Warriors Call Center Available 24/7 to You and Your Family](#)

With warmer weather approaching, many people are beginning to "spring clean." Tossing or donating old items, getting rid of clutter, and opening windows to let fresh air inside the home, all to prepare for a new and productive season. This year, consider a spring cleaning for your mind. Get rid of stressful thoughts, cross things off the mental to-do checklist, and find solutions to any nagging concerns by taking advantage of the services provided through the Vets4Warriors call center.

[Nationwide Opioid Epidemic Prompts VA to Implement Life-Saving Idea](#)

Through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) Diffusion of Excellence Initiative, innovators are helping VA prevent veteran opioid-related deaths by making it easier to deliver life-saving medication. Opioid overdoses take the lives of thousands of Americans each year, claiming nearly 30,000 in 2014 alone. To complicate matters, veterans are twice as likely to die from accidental opioid overdose than non-veterans.

[D.C. Veteran Helps Turn Houses Into Homes For Formerly](#)

Homeless Veterans

Although he was delighted to learn about the important work of VA and its partners to help homeless veterans move into permanent housing several years ago, Veteran Rick Ecker was troubled when he heard that veterans sometimes have no furniture when they move in. So last summer, he founded the nonprofit Vets on Track Foundation in Virginia to make veterans' transition out of homelessness more comfortable. Through the foundation's Fresh Start program, local veterans exiting homelessness receive donated furniture and other household items, like bed linens and dishes, for their new homes.

America's Unsung Heroes

This report, prepared by DAV, discusses challenges and inequities facing America's veteran caregivers. The report highlights profiles of America's veteran caregivers—who they are, what they do, and how we can give them the support they need and deserve.



SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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