

Alliance Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12



Mission Statement: The Alliance seeks to optimize the preparedness of behavioral health providers working to enhance the resilience, recovery and reintegration of Service members, Veterans, and their Family members and communities throughout the military, post-military, and family life cycles.

News: VA Expands Eligibility for VA Health Care Related to MST

The VA announced expanded eligibility for Veterans in need of mental health care due to sexual assault or harassment (i.e. military sexual trauma [MST]) that occurred while in the military. This expansion pertains particularly to men and women of the National Guard and reserve components. More information on MST can be found at <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp>

Current Research

Caska, C. M., Smith, T. W., Renshaw, K. D., Allen, S. N., Uchino, B. N., Birmingham, W., & Carlisle, M. (2014). Post-traumatic stress disorder and responses to couple conflict: Implications for cardiovascular risk. *Health Psychology, 33* (11), 1273-1280.

The purpose of this article was to compare the relationship harmony and affection and emotional and physiological reactivity to couple conflict in military couples with or without military-related PTSD. Authors found that, compared to couples without PTSD, couples with PTSD reported less relationship satisfaction, more conflict, lower warmth and closeness, greater anger, and anxiety during conflict. In addition to couple comparisons, authors also discussed unique male and female differences. For example, physiological correlates of PTSD were more apparent in partners than in males with PTSD.



Raising Awareness about PTSD: A Resource Guide

RNtoBSN is a newly launched nursing project that aims to increase public awareness of PTSD. This resource was created to support Joining Forces which calls on nurses and communities to educate themselves on the needs of patients with PTSD in order to provide the highest quality care. RNtoBSN is intended for nurses and all other individuals (family members, friends, and co-workers) to better understand and recognize PTSD. Topics include PTSD among U.S. Veterans, clinical classifications of PTSD, identifying PTSD, PTSD myths and facts, and treatment and best practices. Please visit <http://www.rntobsn.org/resources/ptsd/> for more information.

Veterans Power Breath Meditation Workshop

Date: January 22-26, 2015

Time: 6:30 – 9:30pm weeknights, 9:00am – 1:00pm Sat and Sun

Location: Meditation Center 2401 15th St. NW, Washington DC 20009

Cost: Free to veterans and their families, \$150 for service providers

This workshop is a mind-body resilience building program for veterans that offers practical breath-based tools that decrease the stress, anxiety, and sleep problems that many returning veterans experience. This is an experiential and interactive workshop that draws upon veterans' strengths and wisdom. This workshop includes course sessions, take home tools, and on-going support. For more information click [here](#). To register email leslye.moore@pwht.org or call 208-409-7806.



Webinar: Moral Injury

Date: January 14, 2015,

Time: 12PM-1:30PM EST

Cost: Free

Register [here](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of moral injuries (i.e. the deep emotional pain an individual feels stemming from a violation of his or her moral or ethical beliefs/what he or she considers to be right or wrong), including definitions, examples, clinical applications for veterans, and strategies for assessment and intervention.

Research Opportunity

The UNLV Marriage and Family Therapy Program is conducting a study to assess treatment provider competencies in working with lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members. Participants must be licensed mental health professionals. For more information contact Dr. Katherine Hertlein (katherine.hertlein@unlv.edu) or Sarah Mount (mounts@unlv.nevada.edu). To participate, log on to [this](#) survey link.

Conferences

[National Council for Behavioral Health Conference](#)

April 20-22, 2015
Orlando, FL

[VA Healthcare Summit](#)

May 11-13, 2015
Washington, D.C.

[American Psychiatric Assoc. Annual Meeting](#)

May 16-20, 2015
Toronto, Canada

[American Mental Health Counselors Assoc. Annual Conference](#)

July 9-11, 2015
Philadelphia, PA

[American Psychological Assoc. Annual Conference](#)

August 6-9, 2015
Toronto, Canada

Federal Job Opportunities

All federal jobs are posted on the USAJOBS.Gov website. Go to www.usajobs.gov & go to "Advanced Search" & under "Series Search" type in "0101", "0180" or "0185" NOTE: You can refine your search on the page to limit to VA, Army, Navy, Air Force etc. Tips for using the USAJOBS website can be found [here](#). A few jobs are highlighted below.

0101 Series Jobs: Covers jobs in the Social Sciences, Psychology, and Welfare Services. These jobs may or may not require licensures.

[Licensed Mental Health Professional Counselor \(Marriage and Family\) Clinician](#)
[Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor](#)

0180 Series Jobs: Covers jobs in the Psychology and Counseling Psychology. Primarily jobs for those with PhD or PsyD, LMFT, or other counseling degrees and licensures.

[Psychologist \(Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team\)](#)
[Clinical Psychologist \(Section Chief, Substance Use Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program\)](#)

0185 Series Jobs: Covers jobs for Social Workers ONLY. Must have licensure (i.e. LCSW)

[Social Worker Readjustment Counseling Service \(Jefferson County\)](#)
[Social Worker \(Women Warrior House\)](#)
[Social Worker-Primary Care, Patient Aligned Care Team & Healthcare for Reentry Veterans Specialist](#)

0602 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatrists.

[Psychiatrist - VA Community-based Outpatient Clinic, Bangor Maine](#)
[Mental Health Service Line Medical Director \(Supervisory Psychiatrist\)](#)

0610 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatric Nurses.

[Registered Nurse Professional Staff Development Specialist Mental Health](#)

University of Minnesota Extension -- Military Families Extension Educator The Family Resiliency program team through University of Minnesota Extension has received a contract to support the new Transition Support for Families concentration area of the Military Families Learning Network (MFLN). Location: St. Paul, Minnesota Required Education: Master's. The review of applications begins Dec. 26, 2014. This position will remain open until filled. For more information, **please visit:** <https://www.ncfr.org/jobs-center/military-families-extension-educator>

Department of Veterans Affairs Jobs

VA Hiring Initiative: The VA is hiring behavioral health providers for positions at VA facilities across the country.

VA Jobs: The VA has created links for providers that make it easy to search for VA jobs in your profession. Please click on the links below in order to see all of the current VA job openings, as listed on the USAJOBS website, for your profession:

[Psychiatrists](#)

[Psychologists](#)

[Social Workers](#)

[Licensed Professional Counselors](#)

[Marriage and Family Therapists](#)

Non-Federal Job Opportunities

The federal government also uses contractors to provide behavioral health services to Service members and others. The government contracts with private contracting companies, who will then hire the individual providers to provide the necessary services. Several contractors known to hire behavioral health providers are listed below, along with links to websites that list job opportunities for providers.

Zeiders Enterprises [Link to current job openings.](#)

SERCO - [Link to All SERCO Job Announcements](#)

Choctaw Enterprises - [Main link to all jobs](#)

SAIC Career Opportunities - [SAIC Job Openings](#)

Health Net - [Link to all job openings at Health Net](#)

Health e-Careers Network - [Main link to all jobs](#)

Do you have information for the January 2015 Newsletter?

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson by January 10 2015

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