

Alliance Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 11



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.

Current Research

Smith, T., White, A., Hadden, L., Young, A., & Marriott, B. (2014). Associations between mental health disorders and body mass index among military personnel. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 38(4), 529-540. doi: 10.5993/AJHB.38.4.6.

The purpose of this study was to determine if overweight or obesity is associated with mental health disorder symptoms among active duty military personnel from every branch. Authors found that for women, obesity was associated with symptoms of depression, severe psychological distress, and PTSD. For men, obese men had higher odds of generalized anxiety and researchers found an association between overweight and severe psychological distress. The researchers did not find an association between BMI and suicide death or risk, but other risk factors, such as being younger, unmarried, less educated and highly stressed increased the likelihood to screen positive for suicidal ideation or attempt.

Serendipity Alliance

The Serendipity Alliance (SA): Promoting Health and Eliminating Suicide through Education and Innovation is a nonprofit organization made up of a multidisciplinary team (medical providers, therapists, educators, business administrators, lawyers, suicide survivors, etc.) that promotes preventive intervention services within military and civilian communities to eliminate suicide via mental health fitness and wellness. More specifically, SA's mission is to eliminate suicide by listening to survivors, to educate -risk individuals, their families and communities, and to promote innovative healthcare transformation. SA also conducts research to create awareness and provide education to align innovative integrated healthcare practices for lasting change. For more information, please contact Dr. George D. Patrin at patrin.george@gmail.com.

The Mesothelioma Center: Veterans Department

Veterans represent a high-risk group for asbestos exposure and the development of mesothelioma, asbestos lung cancer, and asbestosis. The Veterans Department at The Mesothelioma Center offers several services that directly benefit veterans and their families, including getting financial benefits from the VA and assistance with VA paperwork. For more information and articles on asbestos and mesothelioma, please visit [this](#) veterans-specific section on their website .

Military Culture Course Modules

The VA and DoD jointly sponsored a plan to develop and implement an online Military Culture Training Curriculum for health care professionals. This training encourages military cultural competency in health care professionals through interactive online training. This curriculum consists of four modules: Self-assessment and introduction to military ethos, military organization and roles, military specific stressors and resources, and treatment, resources, and tools. Click [here](#) to take this course.

DOD & VA MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

UNLV MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM

is conducting a study to assess treatment provider competencies in working with lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members.

We want to hear from you! Participants must be currently licensed as a mental health professional and working within a Department of Defense (military) or Veterans Affairs treatment facility.

To participate, please log on to the survey link or scan the QR code below:

PROVIDING COMPETENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL SERVICE MEMBERS IN A POST-DADT ERA

<http://militarytreatmentproviders.questionpro.com>



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

For more information/questions, please contact Dr. Katherine Hertlein (katherine.hertlein@unlv.edu) or Sarah Mount, MS Student, at mounds@unlv.nevada.edu



Conferences

Southeast Regional 1-week Civilian Training:
Addressing
the Psychological Health of Warriors and their
Families
December 8-12, 2014
Miami, FL

2015 VA Healthcare Summit
May 11-13, 2015
Washington, D.C.

2015 American Psychiatric Assoc. 168th Annual
Meeting
May 16-20, 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](#)
[Registered Nurse, Mental Health](#)

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](#)

[Psychiatric Nurses](#)

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 December 2014 Newsletter?

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson by December 10 2014

lamsona@ecu.edu