

Alliance Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 8



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

Zalta, A. K., Bui, E., Karnik, N. S., Held, P., Laifer, L. M., Sager, J. C.,... Ohye, B. (2017). Examining the relationship between parent and child psychopathology in treatment-seeking veterans. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*. Online publication. doi:10.1007/s10578-017-0743-y

The current study examined the relation between parental and child psychopathology among military families. Additionally, the study aimed to explore parenting sense of competence as a mediator between parental psychopathology and child psychopathology. Data were collected as part of standard clinical intake evaluations from 215 veterans and service members seeking mental health services at one of two community, outpatient mental health clinics who reported having at least one child between the ages of 4 and 17 years. Results suggested that veterans with higher rates of depression and anxiety may be more likely to have children with internalizing symptoms, while veterans with high rates of chronic tension are more likely to have children with greater attentional problems. Additionally, the findings indicate that higher levels of depression is linked to poorer parenting sense of competence among veterans and that poorer parenting sense of competence is related to higher rates of child psychopathology. Thus, the authors suggest focusing on interventions that aim to enhance parental sense of competence and self-efficacy among veterans and active service members as a possible strategy for reducing internalizing, externalizing, and attentional symptoms and enhancing well-being among military-connected children. Further, targeted screenings for children may be an important preventative tool when working with individuals or families of veterans who are experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety.

School-Based Resource for Military Kids: *Student 2 Student*[®]

Most military children move many times during their school-aged years, which involves transitioning from school to school regularly. The Military Child Education Coalition[®] (MCEC) offers student-centered and student-led programs at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels to help ease these transitions for military students. The MCEC *Student to Student*[®] (S2S[™]) program is an organization within specific schools that welcomes incoming military-connected students and helps departing students prepare for their next transition. The primary objective of S2S[™] is to provide students who are relocating with the critical edge to have successful transitions. This objective is met by focusing on the academics, relationships, and navigation of new systems for each student. To learn more about the S2S[™] program and locate a participating school near you, click [here](#).



Pre-recorded Webinar: *From Diapers to Diplomas: Exploring Resilience in Military Children*



Children of military and veteran families are often faced with unique challenges associated with family structure and on-going stress. This webinar explores these challenges and the role of family members in enhancing and impeding the recovery of youth affected by trauma or adversity. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will better understand (a) the unique challenges for children in military veteran families, (b) resilience and protective factors for military-connected youth, (c) the importance of a family-level approach to promote positive marital, co-parenting, and parent-child relationships, and (d) strategies to adapt current practices to meet the needs of military families. The 90-minute webinar is available through

The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and provides 1.0 Continuing Education (CEU) credit hour for professionals. Click [here](#) to access the webinar, presentation, handouts, and to learn more about CEU requirements.

Podcast: *Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain: Understanding Updated Guidelines*

Our nation's service members and veterans are not immune to the current opioid misuse and opioid use disorder epidemic in America. Treatment guidelines for the use of opioids were revised in 2015 to ensure providers use the latest information to treat patients. This podcast focuses on how to access, use, and distribute such guidelines and tools. Learning objectives for this presentation include (a) discerning expectations of patients and practitioners regarding opioid therapy and the risks and benefits of treatment options for chronic pain, (b) evaluating the use of patient-centered care including self-management to improve function and quality of life, (c) choosing appropriate interventions for chronic pain treatment in conjunction with the patient, and (d) minimizing adverse outcomes of pain therapy and effectively treating them if they occur. To access this podcast, presentation materials, and transcript, click [here](#).



Conferences

[American Assoc. for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference](#)

October 5-8, 2017
Atlanta, GA

[Collaborative Family Healthcare Association](#)

October 19-21, 2017
Houston, TX

[International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 33rd Annual Meeting](#)

November 9-11, 2017
Chicago, IL

[National Council on Family Relations](#)

November 15-18, 2017
Orlando, FL

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 USA-JOBS website can be found [here](#).

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

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.

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

0602 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatrists.

0610 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatric Nurses.

Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Positions

NAF employment is considered federal employment. However, the monies used to pay the salaries of NAF employees come from a different source. Civil service positions are paid for by money appropriated by Congress. NAF money, on the other hand, is self-generated by activities and services that use NAF employees. Visit the following links to apply for NAF positions. (Click on Prospective Employees)

[USMC](#)

[ARMY](#)

[AIR FORCE](#)

[NAVY](#)

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 September 2017 Newsletter?

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson at lamsona@ecu.edu by September 8 2017