

Alliance Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3



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.

Alliance Meeting Update

The Alliance normally has a meeting twice a year with leaders from the military, VA, SAMHSA and other federal agencies that are involved in providing healthcare to military and veteran families, from academic institutions that are training the next generation of mental health clinicians, and from the professional associations that represent mental health providers and other parties. On February 27th, leaders from 13 of these agencies, institutions and associations met in Alexandria, Virginia in order to discuss projects and goals for the Alliance in 2014 and beyond, as well as other topics.

At this meeting, attendees developed some long-term and short-term goals for the Alliance. The long-term goals are listed below

1. Demonstrate how the Alliance has enhanced the preparedness of providers to care for Service members, Veterans, and their Family members.
2. Promote awareness and utilization of the Alliance and its resources.
3. Provide education to behavioral health providers in order to meet the specific needs of military and veteran families.
4. Provide education related to best practices.
5. Partner with federal agencies to promote provider training.
6. Support leaders and providers in their effort to reduce stigma of



Blog

Check out what Jeff Hensley, guest blogger on the George W. Bush Institutes' website has to say about his work "Hooves for Heroes". He uses horses to help North Texas veterans with their transitions. To read more about this work click the following [link](#).

Military and Veteran Providers Learning Modules

Through a BB&T Leadership Enhancement Fund Grant, East Carolina University alumni and friends of the Marriage and Family Therapy masters program and Medical Family Therapy doctoral program created online continuing education modules aimed at assisting medical, behavioral, and mental health providers in working with current and retired servicemen and women and veterans and their families. The modules topics range from the treatment of sexual trauma, parent and child dynamics, and common ethical dilemmas. Currently 10 modules are available. The goal of these modules is to further enhance the clinical skills of providers who are seeking professional development in systemic/relational approaches to care with military, retired, and veteran couples and families. These modules are intended for students enrolled in a program resulting in a terminal degree or providers who have a terminal degree.

See: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/mvp.cfm>

Current Research

Dotinga, R. (2014, February 27). Too Often, Doctors Miss Suicide's Warning Signs: Study. MedlinePlus. U.S National Library of Medicine. Retrieved March 12, 2014, from http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_144851.html

Interesting findings: Most of the individuals who have committed suicide consulted with doctors or other health professionals in the months prior to committing suicide. Twenty percent of individuals, who committed suicide between 2000 and 2010, had seen a health professional the week before they died. Individuals, who committed suicide, were diagnosed with a mental health problem less than half the time. For more information on this research, go to the website attached above.

Research

Suicide in the military: Army NIH funded study points to risk and protective factors. (2014). *U.S National Library of Medicine*. Retrieved March 10, 2014, from <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nimh-03.htm>
NIH highlighted research from three teams and their articles pertaining to risk and protective factors related to suicide. These articles are published in JAMA Psychiatry (March 3, 2014). Part of what was highlighted in the articles are that: the suicide rate in the U.S. Army began to rise in the 2000s and by 2008, the suicide rate surpassed that of civilians. The results from these studies are critical to the practices for both medical and mental health providers who serve active duty Soldiers. Results are provided for male and female Soldiers in relation to deployments, demotions, demographics, and suicidal ideations and attempts prior to enlisting. These studies are important because they draw attention to suicidal ideations, attempts, and deaths. However, these studies are also important in order to punctuate the protective factors that are needed in order to reduce risk factors for Soldiers.

Conferences

[Georgia Women Veterans Conference](#)

“Connected by Military Service”
April 4, 2014
Atlanta, GA

[11th Annual World Health Care Congress](#)

April 22-24, 2014
National Harbor, MD

[American Academy of Neurology 2014 Annual Meeting](#)

April 26 - May 3, 2014
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[47th American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference](#) [Never Alone](#)

April 9-12, 2014

[The 2014 National Rx Drug Abuse Summit](#)

April 22- 24, 2014
Atlanta, GA

[Second Annual Military and Veteran Social Work Conference](#)

June 6-7, 2014
Saint Leo, FL

Star Behavioral Health Providers Training

[SBHP](#) is a training program that seeks to train interested clinicians on understanding military culture, deployment cycles, Post traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), substance abuse issue and the impact on families. It then serves to bridge these clinicians with service members and their families who desire and seek treatment with a knowledgeable therapist.

Upcoming Trainings: [Statesboro, GA](#) on April 29th and 30th

Call for Research Participants

[Families Overcoming Under Stress: Combat Injured](#)

This research team is seeking participants for their study. Participants must have combat injuries and least one child in the family. Those interested in participating can go to www.CIFamilies.org or call 301-295-1102 for more information.



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.

[VICTIM ADVOCATE \(SHARP\)](#)

[Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor \(PTSD\)](#)

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 \(Women Clinic\)](#)

[Psychologist \(Post Traumatic Stress Disorder\)](#)

[Local Recovery Coordinator-Psychologist](#)

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

[SOCIAL WORK \(MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE MANAGEMENT\)](#)

[Social Worker \(Hospice/Palliative Care/CLC Admissions Coordinator\)](#)

[Social Worker \(PACT\)](#)

0602 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatrists.

[Physician \(Psychiatrist\)](#)

0610 Series: Covers jobs for Psychiatric Nurses.

[Clinical Nurse \(Psychiatric/APRN PRACT\)](#)

[Registered Nurse \(Psychiatric/Mental Health\)](#)

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 April 2014 Newsletter?

Please send it to Dr. Angela Lamson by April 10, 2014

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