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**Date:** 7/24/2015 8:23:55 PM

**Subject:** FW: Topics in the News

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**From:** SMVF TA Center [mailto:SMVFTACenter@prainc.com]

**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 4:59 PM

**To:** Connie Mancari

**Subject:** Topics in the News

## SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center

### Topics in the News

#### **New Program Puts Military Liaisons at Mental Health Centers**

*New Hampshire's SMVF Interagency Policy Academy Team Spearheads New Behavioral Health Strategy!*

Each of New Hampshire's 10 community mental health centers will have a staff member devoted to helping veterans, military service members, and their families connect with other community resources under a first-of-its-kind initiative being launched by the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

[Read more...](#)

#### **[WEBINAR] Strengthening Partnerships between Jails and Community Providers**

July 27, 2015; 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT

For years, county-level jails have housed millions of individuals living with mental health and addiction disorders. A vast number of these individuals lack any form of insurance coverage, have experienced limited access to behavioral health care services, and have received inconsistent treatment in the community. Timely access to appropriate levels of behavioral health care treatment is essential to ensure a healthy and successful transition back into the community. The expansion of health insurance has strengthened partnerships between county jails and community behavioral health organizations. Tune into this webinar to learn about how these partnerships can help to reduce recidivism and strategies you can take to improve care coordination.

[Learn more and register...](#)

#### **[WEBINAR] Serving Our Rural Veterans: Barriers, Challenges, and Needs**

July 29, 2015; 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

Recent research shows an increase in the number of rural veterans, to include a growing rural, female veteran population. As service members reintegrate into rural communities, it is vital that local agencies and providers partner to identify their barriers, challenges, and needs in order to build support and services that adequately serve our military community.

[Learn more and register...](#)

#### **[WEBINAR] On Homefront: Military, Vets and Families with Mental Health Care**

July 29, 2015; 3:00-4:30 p.m. EDT

Active duty military, veterans and their families are part of a unique culture that is challenging to understand if you are not a part of it or are not trained to understand it. Because of this it is often difficult for mental health organizations to effectively reach out to and engage these populations so they can get the treatment and supports that they need. It has been shown that one-third of military personnel experience symptoms of a mental health condition without seeking support and due to stress-filled deployments of loved ones, military families experience equally high rates of mental health symptoms. Veterans are also disproportionately affected by mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which in the most tragic instance leads to 18-22 suicides per day nationally.

[Learn more and register...](#)

#### **[WEBINAR] We Are the Evidence: Evaluation of Peer Programs**

August 5, 2015; 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

The National Empowerment Center presents a webinar that includes Jean Campbell, who helps establish Consumer-Operated Service Programs as evidence-based practices, Laysha Ostrow

Live and Learn, and Bevin Croft of Human Services Research Institute. The webinar will stress the importance of good evaluation of peer programs, offer helpful tips, and use peer respites as case study.

[Learn more and register...](#)

### **NCTSN Resource - Helping Military Children with Traumatic Grief: Tips for Parents**

Children grieve in different ways. Military children face unique challenges after the death of a service member. Some may develop traumatic grief responses, making it more difficult to cope. Here are ways to recognize and help your military child with traumatic grief.

[Read the full resource...](#)

### **Brain Injury Center Seeks 'Champions' to Share Personal Stories**

The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center is recruiting survivors of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) to share their stories of courage and resilience for its *A Head for the Future* TBI awareness and prevention initiative. These "TBI champions" will show the importance of recognizing brain injuries, and that recovery is possible.

[Read more...](#)

### **Good — and Damaged — Brains: VA, DoD Want Both**

If you have post-traumatic stress or a blast-related TBI, two research institutes want your brain: Not now, of course — when you're done using them.

[Read more...](#)

### **Military Suicides Down From Last Year**

Suicides among active-duty troops dropped in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same time in both 2013 and 2014. Tempering that good news: The Army, alone among the services, saw an increase, accounting for more than half the total number of service members who died by their own hand from January to March, according to Defense Department data.

[Read more...](#)

### **In Pursuit of Precision Medicine for PTSD**

Brain scans of war veterans with PTSD have led researchers to an area of the prefrontal cortex that appears to be a good predictor of response to treatment with SSRIs—the first-line drug treatment for PTSD.

[Read more...](#)

### **Veteran to Media: We're Not All Broken**

I am a veteran of two wars – one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan. Joining the military has been the best decision of my life. But if you spend any time watching the news or scrolling through social media, you might wonder why I would say that.

[Read more...](#)

## **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

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