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**Date:** 4/1/2015 3:21:23 PM

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

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 11:59 PM

**To:** Connie Mancari

**Subject:** Topics in the News

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

### Topics in the News

#### **Combining Forces to Put an End to Veteran Homelessness**

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a SAMHSA initiative that helps states increase access to mainstream benefits for people with disabilities who are experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness. The SOAR initiative helps to improve access to SSI/SSDI among veterans through training of case managers and providing technical assistance to states and communities. By using the SOAR model, Supportive Services for Veteran Families grantees help connect eligible veterans to Social Security Administration benefits, income which can lead to sustained housing for persons who had formerly experienced homelessness and can prevent evictions for disabled veterans.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Easy Access to TRICARE's "First Eight" Mental Health Appointments**

Do you know? Counseling, psychotherapy, and family therapy are covered benefits under TRICARE. It's no secret—the first eight appointments with a TRICARE authorized provider do not require a Primary Care Manager referral, just your military identification card.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Maryland Governor Hogan Signs Bill Making March 30 Vietnam Veterans Day**

Vietnam veterans are getting some long-delayed appreciation in Maryland. Governor Larry Hogan signed a bill making March 30, "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

[Read more...](#)

#### **Caregiving Resource to Continue at Reduced Military Fee**

The Defense Department's contract with the Sittercity Corporate Program for military families' caregiving needs will expire July 31, but the service will remain available at a discounted military fee, Pentagon officials said.

[Read more...](#)

#### **VA Makes \$8 Million in Grants Available for Adaptive Sports for Disabled Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing a Notice of Funding Availability for up to \$8 million in grants for fiscal year 2015 to provide adaptive sports opportunities for disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces throughout fiscal year 2016.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Female Veterans Press VA Hospitals to Meet Their Needs**

Trista Matascastillo remembers arriving at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in 2010 for an exam and thinking the hospital didn't quite get the needs of female veterans. Her exam room, for instance, opened onto the patient waiting area, she said. She had to ask that the door be closed. It was a tiny detail, one Matascastillo said staff fixed quickly. But the 16-year veteran keeps the story close by now that she is part of an initiative to help the center improve care for women.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Diversion Program Helps Wounded Veterans Get Lives Back On Track**

Marcus Wilson returned home safely — at least physically — after serving in the U.S. Army fighting some of the world's most repressive regimes. But he remained mentally wounded by the memory of an Army buddy he saw killed in 2006 in combat in Iraq.

[Read more...](#)

## **National Child Traumatic Stress Resource - Child Maltreatment in Military Families: A Fact Sheet for Providers**

For more than a decade after 9/11, U.S. military families faced historic stressors in conjunction with the deployment of service members to overseas operations. Most military families have coped remarkably well both during and after extended separations and even repeated deployments. Many other military families still struggling with the effects of uncertainty, change, and loss while serving. Child maltreatment and domestic violence have occurred in some of these families, and more military children who have experienced maltreatment are coming to the attention of behavioral health providers within the military system and in the community. This fact sheet profiles child maltreatment in military families. It also reviews for providers the key concepts, findings, and interventions that will support them in their approach to the care of today's military family.

[Read the fact sheet...](#)

## **Veterans' Stories Come to Life on Stage**

"BASETRACK Live" might make people uncomfortable, but star Tyler La Marr said that's OK. The multimedia theater production, at the Carling-Sorenson Theater at Babson College, showcases the experiences of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines in Afghanistan in 2010 through video interviews and dramatic performance.

[Read more...](#)

## **PTSD Research Quarterly - RQ Vol. 25 (4), 2014**

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

## **Prepared Remarks of First Lady Michelle Obama for 100,000 Jobs Mission Coalition "Virtual Convening"**

Hello everyone, and thank you all for joining this call. I want to start by thanking Tony for that very kind introduction and for his work on behalf of the 100,000 Jobs Mission. Tony is a perfect example of the kind of talent and commitment to service that define our newest generation of veterans. They're highly skilled men and women who have served as IT specialists, operations managers, convoy drivers, and so much more. They've overseen millions of dollars' worth of assets... mastered the latest technologies... and managed dozens – even hundreds – of their peers.

[Read more...](#)

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

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