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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

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

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 1:11 PM

To: Connie Mancari

Subject: Topics in the News

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

Topics in the News

It has come to our attention that some users may have had an issue opening the links in this message due to a technical glitch. Below is the last night's listserv message with modified links. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Core Competencies in the Behavioral Health Workforce: Public Input Requested

SAMHSA has identified and drafted a document that describes the foundational and essential core competencies required by a range of peer workers within behavioral health services. SAMHSA is offering the public the opportunity to review and provide comments on the document.

[Learn more...](#)

When Veterans Return, Their Children Also Deal With the Invisible Wounds of War

Twice a day, Koen Hughes' medicine alarm beeps and sputters. He yells out across the kitchen to his father, retired Army Staff Sergeant Jonah Hughes, an Iraq war veteran, who suffers from such a severe brain injury that it's hard for him to remember things like whether he showered, and sometimes how to shower. Koen is always there, reminding him to take his anti-seizure pills, nervously double-checking his medicine box, and squinting as he monitors his father's behavior.

[Read more...](#)

Study: Sleep in the Military

Sleep disturbances are a common reaction to stress and are linked to a host of physical and mental health problems. Given the unprecedented demands placed on U.S. military forces since 2001, there has been growing concern about the prevalence and consequences of sleep problems for service members. Sleep problems often follow a chronic course, persisting long after service members return home from combat deployments, with consequences for their reintegration and the readiness and resiliency of the force.

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

Study: Combat Exposure and Risk for Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors Among Military Personnel and Veterans: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Due to seemingly mixed empirical results, questions persist about the possible role of deployments and combat exposure. A review of 22 published studies was conducted to integrate findings regarding the relationship of deployment-related predictors (i.e., deployment, deployment to a combat zone, combat experience, and exposure to specific combat events) with suicide-related outcomes (i.e., suicide ideation, attempt, and death).

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

HUD and VA to Help More Than 9,300 Homeless Veterans Find Permanent Homes

In the ongoing effort to end veteran homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced nearly \$65 million to help more than 9,300 homeless veterans find a permanent place to call home. The rental assistance announced is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA.

[Read more...](#)

Mescalero Apache Tribe's Agreement With the VA Opens Doors

Home is a broad term evoking a variety of very personal and at times emotional responses. Our Veterans have defended our "home" through their service. Missing home makes us "home sick." The thought of

“home” can make us reflect on a range of settings, whether it be our country, state, town or tribe. Home is also the dwelling where we “hang our hat” at the end of the day (as the saying goes), it’s where we eat, laugh, cry, raise our families, and create memories. Home as a dwelling is often purchased with a mortgage product. For some, that home, has been just out of reach.

[Read more...](#)

'War At Home' Ads Expose Veteran Suicide Epidemic

There is a war at home happening in the U.S., one group says. Every day, 22 veterans take their own lives according to a report released by the VA. This staggering statistic is the driving force behind Mission 22. The organization, which is a collaboration between Elder Heart and CP+B, has launched the “War At Home” campaign to bring awareness to this struggle and enlist the support of others in a goal of ending veteran suicide in America.

[Read more...](#)

Children’s Program Aims to Curb Obesity, Boost Nutrition

As concerns persist over ever-rising obesity levels among American children, the Defense Department will bolster its Healthy Children programs to weave fitness, nutrition, and tobacco-free living into military children’s curriculum, a Pentagon official told DoD News.

[Read more...](#)

Yoga Gains Support as a Value-Added Treatment

Thanks to new research findings, yoga—one of many complementary and alternative medicine practices offered at VA—continues to gain support as a value-added treatment option for veterans. Veterans Health Administration clinicians and staff now have access to even more information on yoga and its effect on certain conditions—including lower back pain and some types of mental illness—thanks to a process known as evidence mapping. This high-level methodology evaluates published literature and seeks to describe the depth and breadth of a body of knowledge.

[Read more...](#)

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