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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

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

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 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

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Statewide Peer Networks for Recovery and Resiliency

SAMHSA is accepting applications for fiscal year 2015 Statewide Peer Networks for Recovery and Resiliency grants. The purpose of this grant program is to create and/or enhance statewide networks that represent mental health and addictions recovery communities to improve access to and the quality of behavioral health systems, services, treatment, and recovery supports statewide.

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

Army OneSource Webinar: The Impact of Deployment and Reintegration on Military Families

April 29, 2015; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT

Research shows that parental combat-related deployments and reintegration may cause psychological distress that impacts the well-being of the entire military family. As the nation recognizes the Month of the Military Child, it is vital that we create awareness, understand the impacts of military lifestyle, and learn coping strategies to support children and parents.

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

Suicide Prevention in the Department of Defense

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has been struggling with increasing rates of suicide among military personnel for the past decade. As DoD continues to implement new programs and examine its policies in effort to prevent military personnel from taking their own lives, it is important to assess its current response to suicide and to identify opportunities to enhance these programs and policies.

[Read more...](#)

Driving Community Impact: The Case for Local, Evidence-based Coordination in Veteran and Military Families Services and the AmericaServes Initiative

This paper addresses a prevailing view that a lack of coordination, collaboration, and collective purpose among veteran and military-family serving organizations—public, private, and nonprofit—poses a serious risk to long-term veteran and family wellbeing. Given the quantity and fragmentation of actors across the veterans' services landscape, local communities confront a challenge and opportunity to maximize and sustain positive impacts on their veterans and military families through improved, evidence-based coordination of resources, services, and care.

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

As PTSD Cases Surge, Army Overhauling Mental Health Services

The Army is overhauling mental health services after years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, aiming to enter an era of experimentation in which nearly 200 programs were tried on different bases. At Joint Base Lewis-McChord and elsewhere, the Army has pushed counseling teams out of hospitals to embed with troops. It is also cutting back the use of private psychiatric hospitals while expanding intensive mental health programs at military facilities like Madigan Army Medical Center.

[Read more...](#)

Thousands of Michigan Veterans Miss Out on Benefits

Hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who qualify for veteran benefits aren't using them, and many veterans don't know they're eligible. As a result, Michigan ranks among the bottom five states for federal spending per veteran. Veterans' benefits can include healthcare, monthly disability checks, life insurance, home loans, and education through the GI bill. Benefits at the state and local levels include vocational training and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

[Read more...](#)

New Parent Program Supports Child Development Needs

For many new or expecting parents, the stress of navigating the needs and developmental milestones of an infant or toddler can rival that of deployments. But a well-established program not only provides many resources to help untangle the parental requirements of understanding the critical first three years of a child's life, but also brings child care experts right into military families' homes, Barbara Thompson, director of DoD's Office of Family Readiness Policy, said in a recent DoD News interview.

[Read more...](#)

Let Your Brain Relax: Mindfulness Meditation Can Reduce Some TBI Symptoms

Staying in the moment can be hard for anyone, but it's a particular challenge for people recovering from brain trauma. Mental distractions, such as too much excitement, anxiety, and other mental stress, are hallmarks of traumatic brain injury and can affect the healing process. According to experts and research, a simple and effective way to help the brain repair itself is to give it a little R&R (military slang for rest and recuperation).

[Read more...](#)

VA Extends Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award of 20 contracts for the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury. Originally slated to end in 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 extended this program through October 2017.

[Read more...](#)

PTSD Research Quarterly: Biomarkers for Treatment and Diagnosis

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

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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