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

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-----Original Message-----

From: SMVF TA Center [mailto:SMVFACenter@prainc.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 11:59 PM  
To: Connie Mancari  
Subject: Topics in the News

SAMHSA SMVF TA CENTER NEWSLETTER<[http://www.prainc.com/\\_images/listserv/smvfta/header.png](http://www.prainc.com/_images/listserv/smvfta/header.png)>

02/19/2015

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

Topics in the News

Troubled Connecticut Veterans Get Treatment, Not Jail

Two programs that connect arrested veterans to treatment — rather than jail — report that many are getting their lives back on track. Some 81 percent of veterans in the program run by the Veterans Health Administration have not been arrested

again. And one run by the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shows a 36 percent drop in illegal drug use among its veterans and a 44 percent decrease in symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).  
Read more... <<http://www.middletonpress.com/general-news/20150216/troubled-connecticut-veterans-get-treatment-not-jail>>

#### Their Own Court Helping Veterans Going Through Criminal Justice System

Not quite a year into its existence, the Mercer County Veterans Court already has twice the number of participants expected and the reaction of those involved has been surprising, said Retired Senior Judge John C. Reed, the creator of the program.

Read more... <[http://www.sharonherald.com/news/local\\_news/their-own-court-helping-veterans-going-through-criminal-justice-system/article\\_e5360d55-3d9f-5ee8-ba36-df68a71d0e23.html](http://www.sharonherald.com/news/local_news/their-own-court-helping-veterans-going-through-criminal-justice-system/article_e5360d55-3d9f-5ee8-ba36-df68a71d0e23.html)>

#### Battered Women's Justice Project Webinar: Military Sexual Assault and Male Survivors

Monday, March 2, 2015; 2:00-3:30 p.m. CST

In recent years, the issue of military sexual assault has been reported heavily in the press, documented in cinema, and gained the attention of Congress and the Executive Branch of government. One aspect of military sexual assault that has become increasingly clear is that men are also victims. Though the incident rate for military women is higher, 85 percent of the active duty force are men; so, the actual numbers of male military sexual assault survivors are higher. Military culture, response, and retaliation can make male victims less likely to report their assaults, and male survivors face unique issues in their recovery.

Learn more and register... <<http://conferences.bwjf.org/webconferencedetail.aspx?confid=406>>

#### Reducing Stigma Associated with Behavioral Health Treatment

Although it has not been heavily publicized, the 3rd Infantry Division has been working hand in hand with researchers from Clemson University for a number of years now in order to facilitate a study funded by a grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Read more... <[https://www.dvidshub.net/news/154652/reducing-stigma-associated-with-behavioral-health-treatment#.VOS\\_Y\\_nF\\_as](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/154652/reducing-stigma-associated-with-behavioral-health-treatment#.VOS_Y_nF_as)>

#### Combat Stress vs. PTSD: How to Tell the Difference

It seems like the terms combat stress and PTSD are everywhere these days; it's hard to go a few days without seeing a news story about veterans and these issues. But what are these concepts? Do they mean the same thing? And, perhaps most importantly, what can be done?

Read more... <<http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/2015/02/18/combat-stress-vs-ptsd-how-to-tell-the-difference/>>

#### Remarks by the President at Signing of the Clay Hunt SAV Act

Good afternoon, everybody. On behalf of Michelle and myself, welcome to the White House. And thank you, Jake, for a moving tribute to your friend and your brother in arms. I think it's clear that Clay Hunt lives on in you -- in your devotion to his memory and your commitment to our country. So, Jake, on behalf of all of us -- but especially, I think, on behalf of Clay's family and all his friends and fellow veterans who loved him, too -- thanks for your extraordinary service.

Read more... <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/12/remarks-president-signing-clay-hunt-sav-act>>

#### VA Announces \$300 Million in Grants to Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness

Building on President Obama's commitment to end veteran homelessness, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of \$300 million in grants to non-profit organizations and other groups that serve veterans through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Read more... <<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2677>>

#### VA and Community Partners Release West Los Angeles Homeless Plan

On January 28, 2015, VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald and attorneys representing homeless veterans in Los Angeles announced a historic agreement that dedicates the West Los Angeles VA campus to serving veterans in need. The agreement is an important step forward in carrying out President Obama's commitment that no veteran should live on the streets, or forego available medical and psychological services.

Read more... <<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2678>>

#### Senator Schumer Eyes Health Coverage for Disabled Veterans' Kids

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer plans to discuss a proposal for legislation that would extend health care coverage for the children of disabled military veterans.

Read more... <<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/benefits/health-care/2015/01/28/schumer-eyes-health-coverage-for-disabled-vets-children/22455561/>>

#### Veterans' Therapy Goes to the Dogs

When Lt. Tommy Faulkenberry came home to his wife and four sons in 2012, after 12 years at sea with the U.S. Coast Guard, he found his transition to civilian life especially difficult. He had contracted a rare form of muscular dystrophy, and as the physical toll on him mounted, depression, anxiety, and prescription drug dependence followed.

Read more... <<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/dog-based-therapy-helps-veterans-recover/>>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

1 Choke Cherry Road

Rockville, MD 20857

[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) \* 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877- 726-4727)

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