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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

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

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 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

VA Launches New No-Cost Training Programs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched two new no-cost training programs, Accelerated Learning Programs and VA Learning Hubs, to help transitioning service members and veterans from all eras learn skills, earn credentials, and advance in civilian careers following separation from service.

[Read more...](#)

[Webinar] The Primary Care Provider's Role in Preventing Suicide

August 24, 2015; 1:30 p.m. ET

Individuals thinking about suicide can fall through the cracks of fragmented systems. Primary care physicians can play an important role in assessing and managing suicide risk, given that nearly half those who die by suicide are in contact with a primary care physician within one month of their death.

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

[Webinar] Innovative Practices in Medication-Assisted Treatment and Primary Care Coordination

August 27, 2015; 3:00 p.m. ET

U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications such as buprenorphine and naltrexone can be administered successfully as part of a comprehensive plan to treat substance use disorders. Dr. Ken Stoller, Johns Hopkins' Broadway Center for Addiction, and Dr. Susan Storti Brown University's Addiction Transfer Center of New England, will provide technical advice on implementing successful medication-assisted treatment programs and coordinating care for patients with opioid use disorder.

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

VA Doctors Rethinking How They Help Veteran Patients Cope with Chronic Pain

At VA, doctors are changing their approach to helping veterans coping with chronic pain -- an affliction that impacts the lives of at least 100 million Americans. The Huntington VA Medical Center in West Virginia, for example, now has 947 fewer patients on opioids. That's a reduction of 21 percent. The facility also has 753 fewer patients on long-term opioid therapy -- a 23 percent reduction.

[Read more...](#)

Veterans' Opioid Addiction a Growing Concern

As the Chillicothe VA Medical Center prepares for its third community Mental Health Summit on August 20, it is doing so with the recognition that dealing with an increase in opioid addiction among veterans in its service area is a growing concern.

[Read more...](#)

VA Montana Reworks Acute Mental Health Unit for Residential Treatment

The VA Montana Health Care System in Fort Harrison, Montana has made some changes in its Behavioral Health Unit, converting an eight-bed secure inpatient unit into a less-restrictive one for residential post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse treatment.

[Read more...](#)

The U.S. Declared War on Veteran Homelessness — and It Actually Could Win

Under the deafening highway noise of the Pontchartrain Expressway in central city New Orleans, Ronald Engberson, 54, beds down for the night. Engberson got out of the Marines in 1979, plagued even back then by problems with drugs and alcohol. He says that's mostly the reason he's been homeless the past 10 years.

[Read more...](#)

First Veterans Treatment Court Graduate is Proof Anything is Possible

The first graduate of the first Veterans Drug Treatment Court, Manny Welch, is living proof that anything is possible, that if the bad that life brings your way doesn't kill you, you can overcome and a lot more. You can reinvent yourself. You can go home again.

[Learn more...](#)

Celebrating 25 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the passage of an historic piece of legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For the millions of Americans living with a disability, the ADA provides protection from discrimination and guarantees equal opportunities in order to promote accommodations that can help people live full, productive lives.

[Read more...](#)

Much-Traveled Military Children Enjoy Opportunities, Face Challenges

Military children may have opportunities to live in interesting places but they also face unique challenges that can affect their education, the commander of U.S. Pacific Command said at the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) seminar. Navy Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. said MCEC offers customized tools and information to give military children the greatest opportunity for a successful education, with long-term impact.

[Read more...](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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