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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 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

Senator Pushes to Expand Veteran Mental Health Care

A Connecticut lawmaker wants to expand a mental health program for veterans. Senator Richard Blumenthal said he be drafting legislation. He said he'll be meeting with veteran peer specialists and mental health professionals to hear first-person accounts of their life-saving mental health program that pairs veterans with trained veteran peers to help promote and guide their recovery.

[Read more...](#)

Operation Homefront Seeks Military Child of the Year Nominations

Operation Homefront, a national nonprofit organization, is accepting nominations for the 2016 Military Child of the Year awards. Operation Homefront leads more than 2,500 volunteers with nationwide presence who provide emergency and other financial assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors.

[Read more...](#)

[Nominate a military child...](#)

Help End Domestic Violence

One-third of all female veterans report experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Every single day in the United States, approximately three women are killed by an intimate partner.

[Read more...](#)

VA Celebrates Global Peer Support Recognition Day

During their time of military service, veterans may experience traumatic events that can lead to mental health challenges. For people who haven't lived through those experiences, it can be hard to understand what a veteran is going through. But what happens when that veteran has someone to talk to?

[Read more...](#)

SOAR is a Key Strategy to Ending Homelessness

Our federal partners recognize that the hard work you do every day using the SOAR model is key to successfully ending homelessness. In July 2015, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and SAMHSA released *Key Strategies for Connecting People Experiencing Homelessness to SSI/SSDI*.

[Read more...](#)

October is Women's Health Month

Each October, women are reminded to put themselves first and make time for their health. Making your health a priority helps you stay in optimum shape and keeps illnesses and disease at bay. Women often put their families' needs ahead of their own, ignoring minor symptoms year after year until they affect their health.

[Read more...](#)

VA Center for Innovation Partners with Techshop to Cultivate Creativity and Entrepreneurship Among Veterans

Makerspaces, also called hackerspaces or fablabs, are do-it-yourself spaces where people can create, invent, and learn in a social environment with the proper equipment. While longtime hubs for the hobbyist or inventor, these spaces have also become the birthplace of a variety of socially good businesses and endeavors.

[Read more...](#)

Music Therapy Provides Veterans with Creative Outlet

When Elvis came on stage to sing "If I Can Dream," it was the exclamation point on his 1968 comeback television concert. Now Thad Holloway and Michael Slatton will sing it as a duet for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival – a fitting song since music, they said, was their comeback after returning home from Vietnam.

[Read more...](#)

Spirit of Hope Award Honors Six for Supporting Military, Families

The recipients of this year's Spirit of Hope Award epitomize the legacy of entertainer Bob Hope, selflessly taking care of the military's "most precious resource" – its people – the Coast Guard commandant said. "They're the ones who instill hope in those who serve and those who continue to serve," Admiral Paul F. Zukunft said in tribute to the five individuals and one organization recognized at the Pentagon with the 2015 Department of Defense Spirit of Hope Award.

[Read more...](#)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center's The Weekly Spark – Friday, October 16, 2015

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

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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