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Subject: FW: Topics in the News

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

Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 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

[Webinar] Military Health System Health Innovations

July 8, 2015; 12:00-1:00 p.m. EDT

TRICARE and Military OneSource are co-hosting a webinar to discuss new health innovations developed to enhance the lives of service members and their families.

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

[Webinar] Clinician's Guide: Assisting Family Members Coping with Traumatic Brain Injury

July 9, 2015; 1:00-2:30 p.m. EDT

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014) reports that in one year alone traumatic brain injuries (TBI) accounted for approximately 2.2 million emergency department visits, 280,000 hospitalizations, and 50,000 deaths. Those who survive a TBI may experience short- and long-term effects, such as alterations in thinking, sensation, language, behavior, and emotions, which affect the entire family. Family members are often at a loss to understand problematic behaviors and assist their loved one in daily routines and during times of stress.

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

Military Child Education Coalition 17th National Training Seminar

The 2015 National Training Seminar is a training event for anyone interested in serving and supporting military-connected children. The event provides an opportunity for attendees to engage with senior military and education leaders. This seminar provides in-depth coverage of current issues relevant to military-connected children during a period of significant change and challenge.

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

VA Releases Statement Following Supreme Court Ruling in Obergefell V. Hodges

On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Obergefell v. Hodges that the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

[Read more...](#)

VA Provides Guidance to Same-Sex Married Couples Seeking Benefits

After close consultation with the Department of Justice, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing guidance to same-sex married couples on the benefits and services to which they are entitled under current laws and regulations.

[Read more...](#)

Rural Women Veterans' Needs Assessed

Rural women veterans struggle daily with a myriad of issues that include homelessness, lack of vocational resources, domestic violence, lack of knowledge about VA disability benefits and substance abuse. Rural women veterans also face different challenges to access VA services and community resources than non-rural women veterans.

[Read more...](#)

New Pilot Builds Multi-Partner 'Home Base' for Oregon and Washington Rural Veterans

The Pacific Northwest continues to be a hub for military training, deployments, and separations. More than 1,000 service members will separate from the military each month through 2017 in Washington state alone, while a same number of the Oregon Guard members return this year from their deployment.

[Read more...](#)

Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Rural Primary Care

This toolkit, developed by the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, contains the information and tools needed to implement state-of-the-art suicide prevention practice in primary care settings. Although the tools are designed with the rural practice in mind, most are quite suitable for use in non-rural settings as well. The toolkit includes sections on educating clinicians and office staff and developing mental health partnerships, as well as patient management tools and patient education tools.

[View the full toolkit...](#)

Agent Orange: United States Makes More Veterans Eligible for Disability Benefits

Forty years after the end of the Vietnam War, the U.S. government has amended regulations to provide disability benefits to more than 2,000 Air Force veterans and reservists who were exposed to Agent Orange while in contact with contaminated aircraft.

[Read more...](#)

VA Expands Disability Benefits for Air Force Personnel Exposed to Contaminated C-123 Aircraft

The VA published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a

select group of Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand.

[Read more...](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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