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**Date:** 3/12/2015 7:00:56 AM

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

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 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 Unveils New Suicide Prevention App**

SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D., unveiled Suicide Safe, the latest mobile app from SAMHSA at the National Press Club. The app, based on the nationally recognized Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluation and Triage (SAFE-T) card, is designed to help primary care and behavioral health providers integrate suicide prevention strategies into their practices and address suicide risk among their patients.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Senator Heinrich and Senator Portman Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Improve Mental Health Services for Military**

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) introduced the Medical Evaluation Parity for Service Members (MEPS) Act, a bill to improve the way the military identifies and assesses mental health issues. The MEPS Act would institute mental health assessments for incoming recruits and ensure service members separated from active duty receive screenings as well.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Mental Health Services Expanded for Western Kentucky Veterans**

State and federal officials have announced an effort to expand mental health services to veterans in western Kentucky. Governor Steve Beshear's office said the initiative calls for the start of "telemental" health services out of the Joseph "Eddie" Ballard Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Changing the Story about Mental Health in America**

In support of her Joining Forces initiative, the First Lady spoke at the launch of The Campaign to Change Direction, a nation-wide effort to raise awareness around mental health in America. Spearheaded by Give an Hour and co-sponsored by SAMHSA, the campaign is designed to change the story of mental health across the nation by urging all Americans to learn the five signs that someone might be in distress.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Webinar: The Well-being of Military Children: Augmenting Clinical Care with Web- and Mobile-based Tools**

March 19, 2015; 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. EDT

Research on the psychological health of military children indicates that frequent transitions such as moving, family member separations and the cumulative effects of multiple deployments can cause psychological distress, which impacts the well-being of parents and children. Although military children are generally resilient, many are coping with increased levels of anxiety, stress, depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation and behavioral problems.

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

#### **Individual Unemployability: Understanding the Basics**

As a VA claims processor, Veterans often ask me about Individual Unemployability, also called Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability. The following is a more formal version of what I tell them.

[Read more...](#)

#### **Physical Pain May Accompany Psychological Health Concerns**

Hard-to-diagnose or vague symptoms that patients report during routine visits to a primary care provider

may signal psychological health challenges such as depression and anxiety, Dr. Kurt Kroenke said during Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury webinar.

[Read more...](#)

### **Vets4Warriors Hotline Allows Veterans to Help Veterans**

Vets4Warriors provides a safe and confidential avenue for qualified and experienced veterans to provide support for other struggling veterans. To help service members with unique challenges based on military life, the U.S. Department of Defense Suicide Prevention Office sponsored staff members at the Rutgers University Behavioral Healthcare to develop Vets4Warriors.

[Read more...](#)

### **Lost: The Power of One Connection**

For some veterans, life after service is difficult. Some feel overwhelmed and lost. One person, one connection, or one act of compassion can make a difference in the life of a veteran, opening doors to vital support. That's the message behind the public service announcement "Lost: The Power of One Connection" which will guide audiences to free, confidential support through the Veterans Crisis Line.

[Watch the video...](#)

### **Veterans, Active Duty Military, Tap Social Media Network for Support**

Around last April, LinkedIn co-founder Konstantin Guericke was approached by Yinon Weiss about supporting an interesting twist on the social media networking model that he helped introduce back in 2004. Weiss, who served for 10 years on active duty as a Marine Corps scout and sniper platoon commander as well as an Army Special Forces officer, met with Guericke to discuss RallyPoint, a professional network for active duty members of the military and veterans alike.

[Read more...](#)

### **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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