

Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium
May 6, 2021

Federal Initiatives in Older Adult Mental Health Panel

Resources related to comments from the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

This handout provides links to VHA information and resources mentioned during this panel discussion. It is not a full compilation of VHA resources. For many resources related to behavioral health of older Veterans, and older adults more broadly, please see the [Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory](#).

- **[National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics](#)** - The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) collects and analyzes data related to Veterans (<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/>).
- **[COVID-19 vaccines at VA](#)** - Find information for Veterans and caregivers about getting COVID-19 vaccine through VHA (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>).
 - **[Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act or the SAVE LIVES Act](#)** (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1276>).
- **[VA Suicide Prevention](#)** - Find information on suicide prevention and treatment resources for Veterans, families, and communities (https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/).
 - **[Veterans Crisis Line: Suicide Prevention Hotline, Text & Chat](#)** - If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, there are caring, qualified VA responders standing by to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>).
 - **[Reducing Firearm & Other Household Safety Risks for Veterans and Their Families](#)** - VA guidance for safe storage of firearm and other lethal means (https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Brochure-for-Veterans-Means-Safety-Messaging_508_CLEARED_11-15-19.pdf).
 - **[Preventing Suicide Among Older Veterans Brochure](#)** - This brochure helps family members and friends of older Veterans recognize the signs of suicide risk and learn how to talk to and support Veterans experiencing suicidal ideation (https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Older_Veterans_Brochure_508_FINAL.pdf).
- **[VA Mental Health](#)** - VA has a variety of mental health resources, information, treatment options, and more (<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/index.asp>). Additional resources include:
 - Visit **[Make the Connection](#)** to listen to stories from Veterans about their mental health conditions and recovery (www.MaketheConnection.net).
 - **[Coaching into Care](#)** is a national telephone service for family members and friends who are seeking care or services for a Veteran. Free, confidential assistance is available by calling 1-888-823-7458 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET. (<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>).

- **[VA Geriatrics and Extended Care](https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/)** - Find information regarding a wide range of home, community, and residential services to help optimize the health and well-being of Veterans who have multiple chronic conditions, life-limiting illness, or frailty or disability associated with chronic disease, aging, or injury (<https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/>).
- **[VA Office of Connected Care](https://connectedcare.va.gov/)** - The Office of Connected Care brings VA digital technology to Veterans and health care professionals, extending access to care beyond the traditional office visit (<https://connectedcare.va.gov/>).
 - **[VA Telehealth Services](https://telehealth.va.gov/)** - VA Telehealth Services improves convenience to Veterans by providing access to care from their homes or local communities when they need it (<https://telehealth.va.gov/>).
- **[VA Social Work](https://www.socialwork.va.gov/)** - This site offers information about VA social work services for helping Veterans and their family members and caregivers in resolving housing, finance, mood, relationship, and physical limitation issues in individual, group, or family treatment. VA social workers link Veterans to both VA and community resources and services in support of their treatment goals (<https://www.socialwork.va.gov/>).
- **[VA Caregiver Support](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/)** - Family caregivers play an important role in caring for Veterans at home and in the community. Find many Caregiver Support Program resources at this site (<https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>).
 - At this page, find information about expanded eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC).
- **[VHA Office of Health Equity](https://www.va.gov/HEALTHTHEQUITY/index.asp)** - The Office of Health Equity (OHE) champions the elimination of health disparities and achieving health equity for all Veterans (<https://www.va.gov/HEALTHTHEQUITY/index.asp>).
- **[VA Compassionate Contact Corps](https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/81831/vas-compassionate-contact-corps/)** - VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) has developed and implemented a new social prescription program called the Compassionate Contact Corps (see <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/81831/vas-compassionate-contact-corps/>).
- **[Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/)** - This three-year community-based grant program will provide resources to community organizations serving certain Veterans and their families across the country (<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/>).
- **[VA National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships](https://www.va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/index.asp)** (HAP) - Enhancing community partnerships is an important component of VHA's strategic direction. Partnerships facilitated by HAP support VHA's commitment to providing excellent customer service, restoring public trust, and delivering personalized, proactive, patient-driven health care (<https://www.va.gov/HEALTHPARTNERSHIPS/index.asp>).

- To share a partnership opportunity or consult with HAP on a non-monetary partnership, please contact our office via email: VHA_Partnerships@va.gov.
- **Veteran Community Partnerships** - VCPs are coalitions of Veterans and their caregivers, VA facilities, community health providers, organizations, and agencies working together to foster, seamless access to, and transitions among, the full continuum of care and support services in VA and the community (<https://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/vcp.asp>).
- **Hospice-Veteran Partnerships - We Honor Veterans** - Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (HVP) are coalitions of VA facilities, community hospices, State Hospice Organizations, and others working together to ensure that excellent care at the end of life is available for our nation's Veterans and their families (<https://www.wehonorveterans.org/partners/hospice-veteran-partnerships/>).
- **Veteran Directed Care Program** - The Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program, developed by VHA and the Administration for Community Living (ACL), offers Veterans and their caregivers greater access, choice and control over the long-term services and supports (LTSS) that help Veterans live at home and remain a part of their community (<https://nwd.acl.gov/vdc.html>).
- **Training resources** - There are many VA and other resources for clinician and community education regarding meeting the needs of Veterans across the lifespan. For example, see:
 - VA TRAIN Learning Network (<https://www.train.org/vha/welcome>)
 - National Center for PTSD (<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>)
 - Make the Connection | Videos & Info for Military Veterans (<https://www.MaketheConnection.net/>)
 - Hospice-Veteran Partnerships (<https://www.wehonorveterans.org/partners/hospice-veteran-partnerships/>)
- **Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory** - The purpose of this inventory is to provide resources for health and social service professionals interested in enhancing their outreach and support for older Veterans and other older adults who have or are at risk for behavioral health conditions (https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/docs/Older_Veteran_Behavioral_Health_Resource_Inventory_050418.pdf).