

WELCOME

May 3, 2023

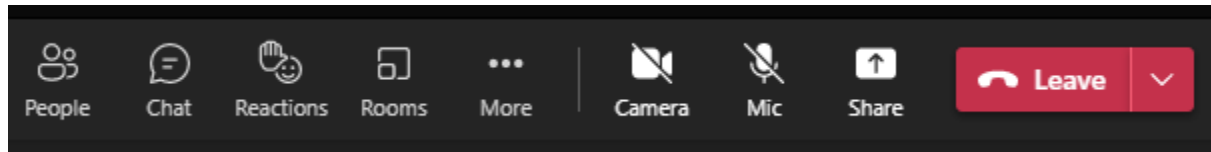
Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

Dept. of Agriculture

2301 N. Cameron Street

Harrisburg, PA

Chat function is used to submit comments or questions



*Please enter your **full name and agency** for attendance purposes



INTRODUCTIONS

OLD BUSINESS

GUEST SPEAKERS

- **Penn State University**
Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness
Dr. Daniel Perkins, Principal Scientist & Founder

CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness

Veteran Evaluation & Research Applications Network



PennState

Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness

Our mission is to engage in applied research and evaluation, implementation science, education, and outreach to advance the well-being and health of service members, veterans, and their families.

Our Services:

- Applied research
- Curriculum development
- Learning solutions
- Program evaluation
- Program implementation
- Program selection

PennState
A Penn State Applied Research Center

CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

Sound Science, Strong Families, Stronger Service

The Clearinghouse is an applied research center created to help professionals identify, implement, evaluate, and improve programs that strengthen military service members, veterans, and their families.

[Learn More](#)

Live Chat

Visit our website at
militaryfamilies.psu.edu

Our Partners



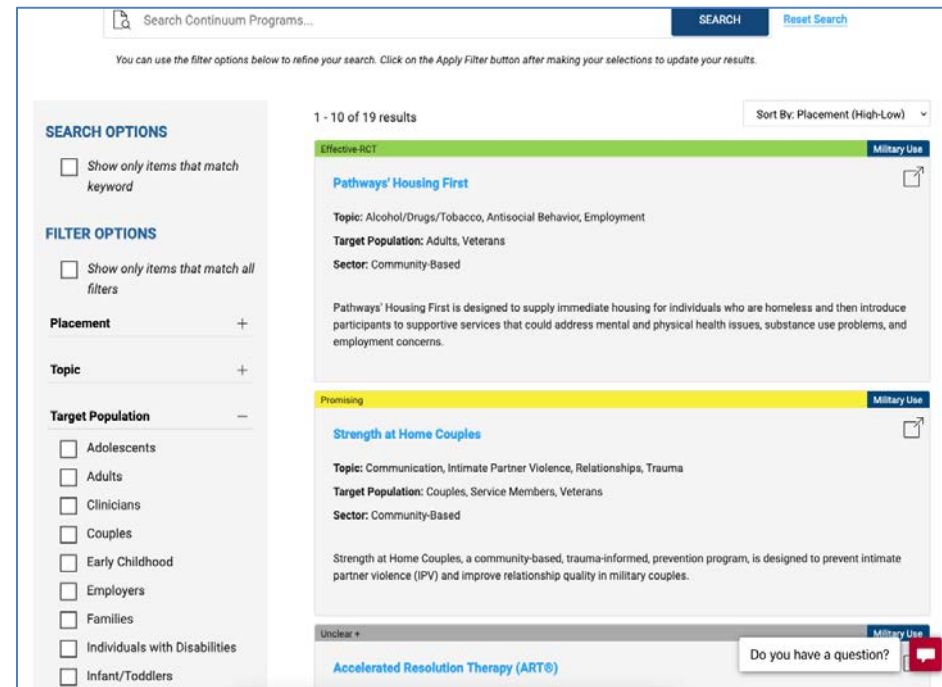
- Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. Center for Public-Private Partnership
- Veterans Health Administration
- The Heinz Endowments, Pew Charitable Trusts, Smith Charitable Trusts, Arthur M. Blank, Wounded Warrior Project

Clearinghouse Resources & Tools

- Continuum of Evidence - (Interactive Database of Programs)
- Program Implementation Toolkit - Resources Library (Non-Interactive)
 - Informational Sheets
 - Worksheets
 - Resource Lists
 - Tools
- Technical Assistance (Interactive)
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
 - facebook.com/PSUClearinghouse
 - twitter.com/PSClearinghouse
 - linkedin.com/company/psuclearinghouse/

Continuum of Evidence

- Searchable database
- Over 1400 programs
- 44 different topics
- Placed on the Continuum in 8 different categories of evidence
- Funded for military connected providers by DoD

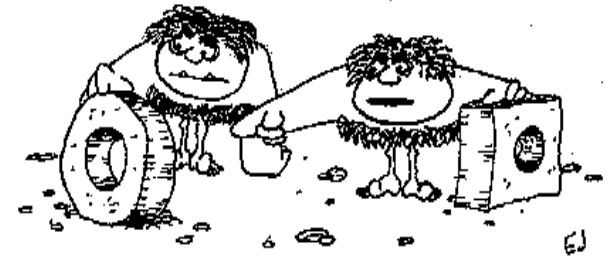


Placement on the Continuum of Evidence

Effective RCT	Effective Quasi	Promising	Unclear +	Unclear ∅	Unclear -	Ineffective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant effects; and • Effects lasting at least one year from program completion; and • At least one successful external replication; and • Randomized controlled study design; and • Meets all additional criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant effects; and • Effects lasting at least one year from program completion; and • At least one successful external replication; and • Quasi-experimental study design; and • Meets all additional criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant effects. • Randomized controlled or quasi-experimental study design. • Effects lasting six months from program completion; or • No evidence of successful external replication; or • Meets 2 or 3 additional criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially promising features. • Effects lasting less than six months from program completion; or • Pre-test/post-test study design; or • Meets 0 or 1 additional criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No evaluations or mixed results across more than one evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant effects or significant negative effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A program that meets all criteria for an effective placement but fails to demonstrate a significant effect, or demonstrates significant negative effects.

Why Use Evidence Based Programs?

- **Mandate** - Funding may require the use of evidence-based programs
- **Efficiency** - More effective use of scarce resources
- **Accountability** - More confidence that what we do will make a difference
- Why reinvent the wheel?
- Take advantage of **existing expertise** (prevention science)
- Programs that aren't EB may actually be **harmful!**



...AND I HAVE FOUND THIS ONE WORKS A LOT BETTER.

Technical Assistance (TA) Team



Pexels/fauxels/CCO

Who are we?

- Team of Implementation Specialists

Who do we serve?

- Assist professionals who work with military families
- Free of charge

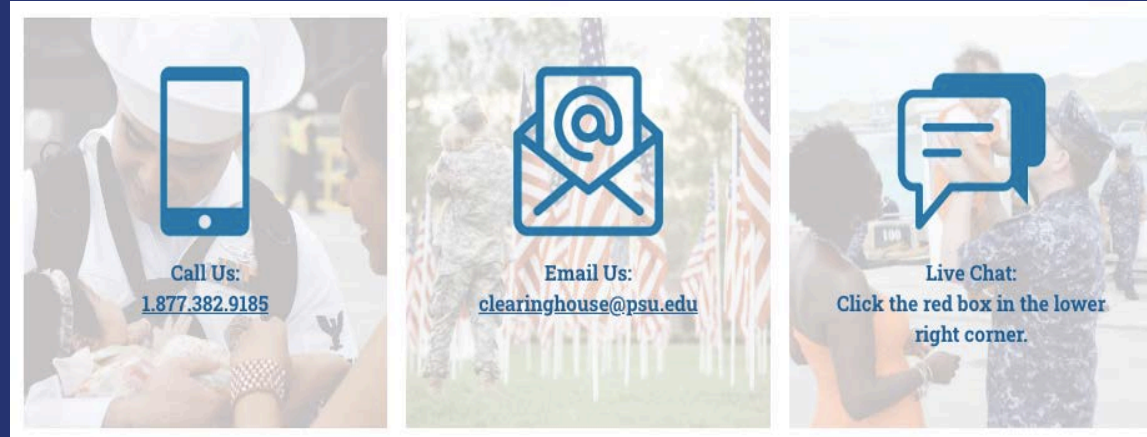
How can we help?

- Make sense of the science behind evidence-based programs (EBPs)
- Talk through issues around program selection, implementation, and evaluation

Technical Assistance – Contact Us

Where can you reach us?

We are available, free of charge, to assist professionals **Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.** Otherwise, please leave a message or email us and the TA team will respond to you shortly.



Open Office Hours: May 22 and June 26 at 3:00pm

Military Spouse Transition Program (MySTeP)

Goals

- Support and encourage military spouses throughout their service members' time in the military
- Promote information, tools, and programs to connect spouses with useful resources to help them successfully navigate military life at every stage of their service members' career
- Help spouses plan and prepare for life after transitioning out of the military

Stepping In

- Early stages or entering military life

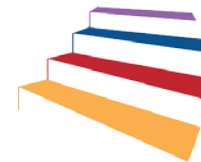
Stepping Through

- Middle stages of military life

Stepping Beyond

- Preparing to transition out of military life

<https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/mystep>



MySTeP

MILITARY SPOUSE TRANSITION PROGRAM

VETERANetwork

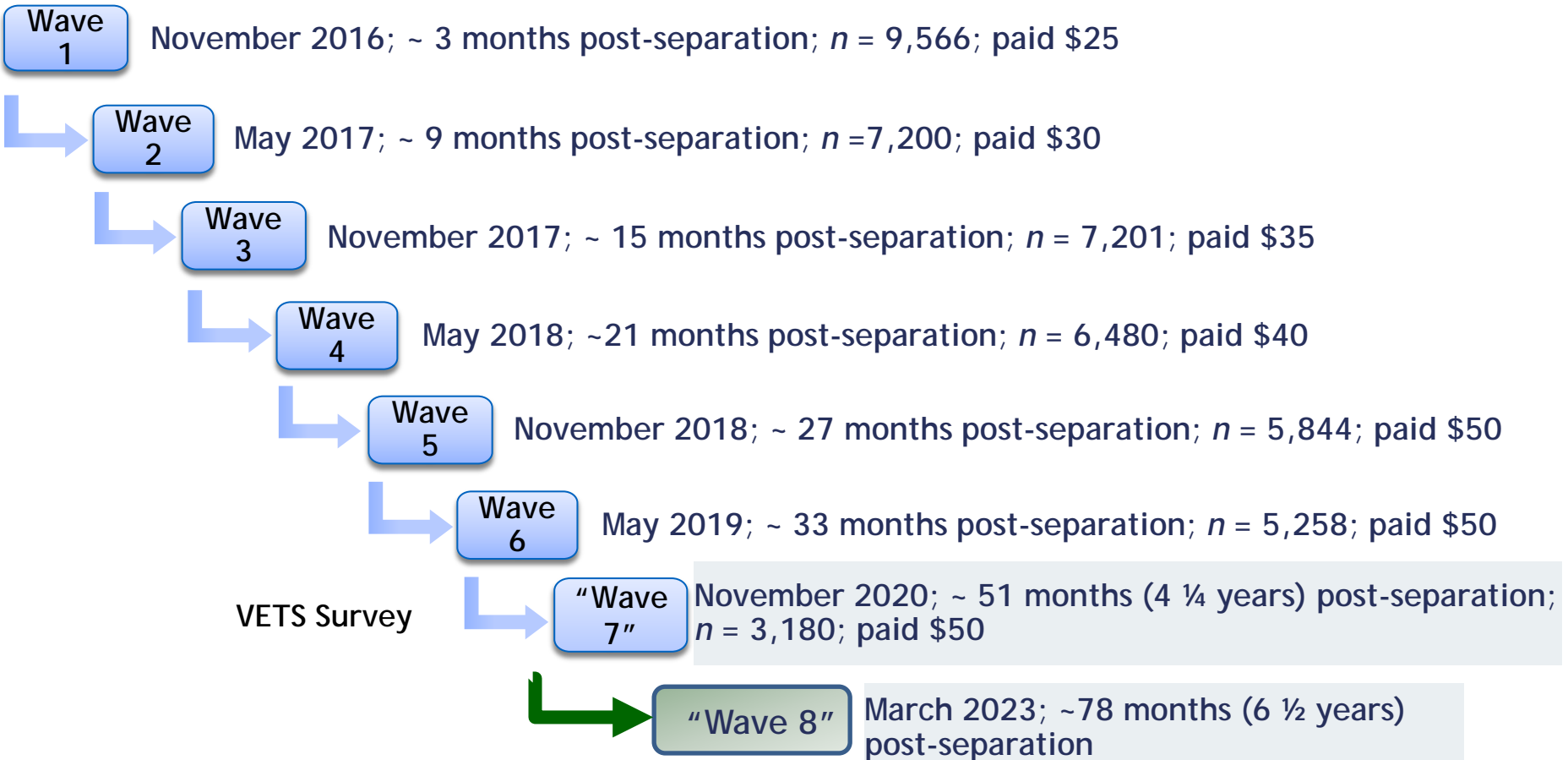
VETERANetwork

Veteran Evaluation and Research Applications Network

The VETERANetwork acts as an applied research and evaluation unit for philanthropies, foundations and other veteran-serving non-profit organizations. It addresses questions and issues related to veterans' transitions to civilian lives.

- Strives to ensure public and private donations are invested in effective programs/services that support veterans' and families' well-being
- Serves as the umbrella for veteran-related Clearinghouse projects

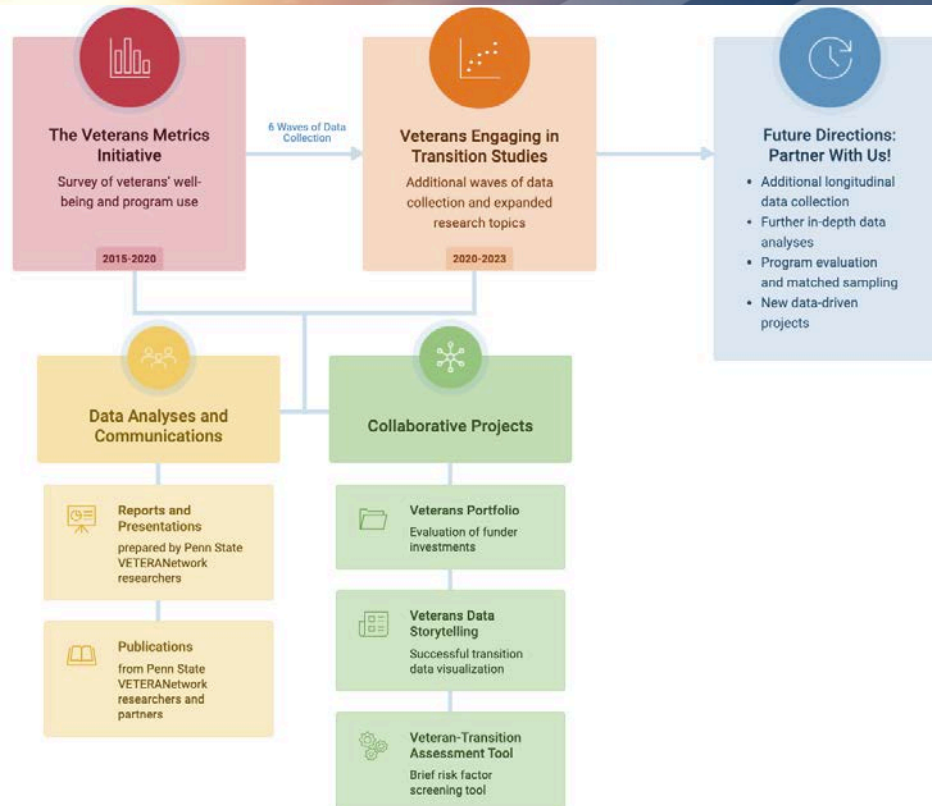
TVMI & VETS Study Data Collection Timeline





VETERan Evaluation and Research Applications Network

A data-driven, collaborative effort aimed at ensuring public and private donations are invested in effective programs and services that support the well-being of veterans and their families.



Veteran-Transition Assessment Tool (V-TAT)

- A brief screener to identify specific veterans' risks related to five domains of well-being outcomes during the transition to civilian life
- The results can be used to guide service providers in the most effective program components to strategically support veterans' well-being

V-TAT Screener Details

- Seven sections which can be selected by service providers for their clients, except for the background and specific experiences sections.
- Display logic is used to ensure veterans only receive items relevant to them.
- Detailed results for health and specific experiences will not be shared with service providers.
- Data will be used to provide reports with evidence-informed recommendations to service providers about their clients.

Section	Basic Items	Program Utilization Items	Total Screener Items
Background (~1 minute)	10	-	10
Employment (~5 minutes)	4 to 14	8 to 9	12 to 23
Education (~2 minutes)	2 to 4	4	6 to 8
Financial (~4 minutes)	11	6	17
Health (~2 minutes)	17	-	17
Social Relationships (~2 minutes)	3	5	8
Specific Experiences (~3 minutes)	14	-	14
Total	61 to 73	23 to 24	84 to 97

THANK YOU!

- Daniel Perkins dfp102@psu.edu

- Clearinghouse Technical Assistance:

Website: www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu

Live Chat: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EST

Email: clearinghouse@psu.edu

Toll Free: 1-(877)-382-9185

The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness



Sound Science, Strong Families, Stronger Service

The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State is a Penn State University applied research center created to help professionals identify, implement, evaluate, and improve programs that strengthen military Service members, veterans, and their families.

Our vision is to ensure United States military families are always supported by practices and programs that are known to be effective and are based on science and evidence. We want to make sure programs are implemented with quality in order to enhance readiness and overall well-being.

Our mission is to engage in applied research and evaluation, implementation science, education, and outreach to advance the well-being and health of military families.

Partnerships

- ★ Air Force Medical Operations Agency
- ★ Army Installation Management Command
- ★ Army Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management
- ★ Army Public Health Command
- ★ Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- ★ Department of Defense Education Activity
- ★ Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program
- ★ Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy
- ★ Henry M. Jackson Foundation
- ★ Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University
- ★ Military Community Advocacy Directorate
- ★ Navy CNIC
- ★ Office of Reserve Affairs
- ★ RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute
- ★ The Heinz Endowments
- ★ The May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
- ★ The Pew Charitable Trusts
- ★ United States Marine Corps

Services Offered



Applied Research
and Evaluation



Curriculum
Development



Instructional
Design



Program Selection
and Implementation

Populations Served



Service
Members



Veterans



Military
Families



Professionals
Serving Military
Families



Family/School/
Community
Organizations

Technical Assistance

The Clearinghouse is here to help you consider, implement, and evaluate evidenced-based programs designed to bolster child, youth, and family resiliency and readiness. Our TA specialists are available via live chat, email, or phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

 1-877-382-9185

 clearinghouse@psu.edu

 militaryfamilies.psu.edu

The Clearinghouse at a Glance

October 2021–September 2022

We have *managed*



Our website has *received*



The Continuum of
Evidence



conducted



The Technical Assistance
team has *addressed*



delivered



facilitated



We have been *awarded*



and published



 PennState

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Can you provide data to track
your program's impact?



Are you able to measure the
results of your program?



Do you want to improve upon
something you are doing but
aren't sure how to approach it?

If you've been quietly asking yourself
(or others have been asking you) these
questions, then you will be pleased
to learn there are experts at the
Clearinghouse who can help.

In fact, we've evaluated more than
1,200 programs to date!



CONTINUUM OF EVIDENCE


CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

SOUND SCIENCE ★ STRONG FAMILIES ★ STRONGER SERVICE



CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

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 clearinghouse@psu.edu

 militaryfamilies.psu.edu



HOW DOES YOUR PROGRAM RANK?

The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness evaluation team uses sound scientific practices to evaluate programs designed to support our military families. We examine each program using methods grounded in science and evidence.

Informed by decades of research in a number of diverse fields (including psychology, human development, family studies, social work, and military psychology), our team conducts a rigorous review process of your program and uses our Continuum of Evidence to determine whether your program is placed as:



WHAT IS AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM?

To qualify for placement of Effective, a program must have positive results from an evaluation using a randomized, controlled trial design, or a well-matched quasi-experimental design. The evaluation must demonstrate scientifically significant positive outcomes sustained for at least one year beyond program completion.

Results must also be demonstrated in at least one other study conducted by researchers not involved with the original successful study. In other words, there must be independent confirmation of positive program outcomes.

HOW DO WE DETERMINE EFFECTIVENESS?

To place programs on our Continuum of Evidence, our evaluation team conducts a rigorous review of literature. This means we ensure scientific rigor by looking at evaluations published in peer-reviewed journals, not just information provided by the program developer.

We look at data and statistics, and make recommendations on areas such as process and design—all to make sure programs result in the desired outcomes that have a lasting, positive impact on the audience.



ASSESSING IMPACT AND VALUE

Our military partners regularly face considerable budgetary pressure. The need for accountability—demonstrating the value of programs and practices in clear terms—is essential to the mission. Programs placed as effective are more likely to have larger impacts for military families.

Our evaluation team at the Clearinghouse is here to help you determine whether your program is having the desired impact on the military families in your care.

To learn more about the Continuum, please visit:
continuum.militaryfamilies.psu.edu

AGING

Ms. Margo Coleman, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Increase direct caregiver awareness on Veteran services through CEU training offered to PA professionals
- Distribute pension poaching tool kit to 50 plus contacts via listserv
- Continue connections with community and state agencies via education, data share, and quarterly guest speakers
- Re-establish Arts in Residency program offered through PA Council on the Arts in 6 of 6 Veterans Homes

Updates

- PA Dept of Aging and VA VISN 4 HUD-VASH Geriatric Specialist connection
- 2 of 6 Veterans Homes re-instating the Arts in Residency Program

Challenges/Barriers

- Red tape around housing and the amount of time for approval
- Finding locations to accept VASH voucher
- Financial share of Arts in residency

HOMELESS

Mr. Brendan Auman, Co-Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Support the creation of a state Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Training/resource sharing on various programs to improve service delivery and available resources for homeless veterans
- Increase the number of veterans participating on the committee who are currently or were formerly experiencing homelessness
- Collaborate with other committees to ensure homeless veteran's needs are being met

Updates

- VA's Goal to prevent and end Veteran Homelessness in 2023 – Read Release [Here](#)
- Eligible Veterans and some former service members can now go to any VA or non-VA hospital for covered emergency health care during an [acute suicidal crisis](#)
- Medical Assistance and CHIP Renewals - <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/phe/>
- Resource: [How Housing First Ends Veteran Homelessness](#)

- HUD Resource: [Increasing the Supply of New Affordable Housing: A Primer](#)

- NLIHC Eviction Record Sealing and Expungement [Toolkit](#) and [Release](#)

- Serving People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
 - [Serving Unsheltered People with Severe Service Needs](#)
 - [Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in US Cities](#)
 - [Taking an Equitable Approach to Unsheltered Homelessness](#)

Challenges/Barriers

- Finding safe, accessible, and affordable housing for both rental and ownership
- Pandemic-era protections are expiring with the end of the Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023

HEALTH PROMOTIONS

Ms. Erica Nocho, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Report on, and work to improve, any programs that promote whole health and trauma-informed care for veterans.
- Continue to promote and share resources or information regarding suicide prevention and intervention.
- Empowering behavior change and actions through increased knowledge about the needs of service members, veterans and families

Updates

- Educational Awareness Campaign:

 - Distribution

 - First focus will be social media

 - Share the posts with other state agencies for wider distribution

 - Collecting content for campaign

 - Content is written for both behavioral health staff and individuals who like state agency social media engines

 - Two prototype media posts have been created; will work getting at least two more for June social media posting

 - Tentative timeline for distribution Summer 2023

 - Communications is prepared to post in May

Discussion within the committee on using all the social media posts for a toolkit

Challenges/Barriers

- Evaluating the effectiveness of social media
- Still need to find additional mixed media solutions to target multiple audiences
- Stigma and bias among health care professions
- Not just sending referrals, but engaging clients in services

--SHORT BREAK--

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Crystal Houser, Chair

Education Assistance and Military Family Educational Programs

- Provide educational assistance to eligible members of the PA National Guard (EAP) and qualifying family members (MFEP)
- MFEP requires additional 6-yr service agreement with the PANG
- www.pa.ng.mil/education/

Updates

- The lesser of 100% of the tuition plus technology fee at the institution where enrolled; OR
- the annual tuition rate and technology fee charged to a PA resident at a state-owned university
- Annual Application Process: Log into www.pheaa.org

Challenges/Barriers

- Waiting to find out in July if tuition is increasing at state-owned universities, as this will impact maximum award

PA State Grant Program

- 2022-23 award year
 - \$5,750 max award
- 2023-24 award year
 - \$5,266 max conditional award
 - Hoping for higher final awards

Updates

- More than \$12.7 billion in grant awards since inception
 - More than 7.6 million awards
- 2021-22 award year
 - Approx. 105,000 recipients
 - \$5,000 max / \$3,864 avg. award
 - Veterans qualify for max award

Challenges/Barriers

- Getting students to complete the application process
- Maintaining purchasing power of the awards as a percentage of tuition

PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)

- Prepares students with skills in high demand by today's employers
- Provides awards to students enrolled in short-term programs of study in the areas of Energy, Health, Manufacturing and Agriculture
- 2022-23 Commonwealth funding for PA-TIP increased from \$6.3 to \$8.652 million
- 2023-24 Re-alignment of eligible programs of study using PA-IDOL

Updates

- 24,961 unique applicants
- 14,475 unique award recipients
- 80 schools with recipients
- \$55,951,941 in grants awarded
- 93% of graduates gained employment
- 73% of recipients graduated

Challenges/Barriers

- Alignment of student demand with available funding

GI Bill®

The Veterans/Military Education Division of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Education has been designated by the Governor of Pennsylvania as the State Approving Agency for Training of Veterans/Eligible persons and Reservists in the field of institutional, correspondence, flight, apprenticeship, and other on-the-job training.

Updates

- Enrollment Manager Rolled Out – March 2023
- Risk Based Surveys – First Year
- Hiring for North East Veterans Education Advisor

Challenges/Barriers

- Review of Educational Institutions
- Distance Education Disallowed for Non College Degree Granting Institutions
- Chapter 35 for High School Students eliminated as of Aug 1, 2026

WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. Elizabeth Cooper, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- PA Women Veterans Toolkit
- Reaching aging women veterans
- Women veterans license plate initiative
- SCI Muncy screening tool
- Nominating women veterans for the 2024 PA Commission for Women's March Women Veterans celebration.

Updates

- Working on possible donations to start the process of bringing a magazine toolkit to PA.
- No email addresses for older women veterans. Work with Aging Committee to collaborate on possible solutions.
- Collaborations with Ally Murr and Celeste Brucklacher regarding possible services provided to women veterans on the VSU at SCI Muncy.

Challenges/Barriers

- Obtaining Email addresses for older women veterans.
- Communicating with the Federal VA to better inform them of the needs of women veterans while undergoing treatments.
- VFW and American Legion relationships to come together as a whole and involve one another in events.

JUDICIARY

Mr. Michael Carrington, Chair

Goals/Initiatives

- Improve outreach efforts to veteran staff within the Department of Corrections (DOC) through collaboration with external agencies
- Expand/enhance programming, workshops, and educational/employment opportunities within the veteran service units (VSUs)
- Increase the amount/availability of veteran-specific trainings and/or educational opportunities for employees/spouses/dependents
- Advocate for the creation/enhancement of veteran courts/tracks
- Educate those that represent veterans in the criminal justice system

Updates

- SCI Phoenix VSU's VVA Chapter 466 completed a clothing drive
- Intergovernmental Agreement between SCI Mercer VSU and Mercer Veteran Treatment Court enacted 3/10/23
- Committee discussed Commonwealth's Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) program
- Department of Corrections "DMVA Registry Challenge" ended 3/31/23
- Senator Mastriano and staff toured the SCI Mercer VSU on 4/18/23
- Permanent charter ceremony for SCI Mercer's American Legion Post (Robert J. Fike Post #110) scheduled for 5/24/23
- DOC Veteran Employee Symposium scheduled at SCI Dallas 5/19/23 for regional employees within the agency
- MOU remains pending between Dept. of Agriculture and Dept. of Corrections

Challenges/Barriers

- Early identification for criminal-justice involved veterans: Possibility of identifying them in the criminal complaint
- Nursing home care for HTP veterans that have been paroled or are approaching their maximum date of sentence
- Early identification of justice-involved veterans and training for first responders dealing with veterans in crisis
- Specialized programming for those incarcerated with PTSD and/or TBI (and an adequate number of professionals to deliver the program)
- Technological needs continue to create barriers for PA VetConnect as well as effective networking between the VSUs

VETERAN OF THE QUARTER

- 20-year Veteran of the United States Army and Pennsylvania National Guard
- Completed one tour in Iraq, two tours in Afghanistan, and one in Kuwait.
- Working for the PA DOC since February 2005
- Advocate and Volunteer for the K-9 Hero Haven Program



Jason
Albert

Major

*SCI Camp
Hill*

GOOD OF THE ORDER

CLOSING COMMENTS

DMVA WEBSITE: www.dmva.pa.gov

Sign up for the Veterans Registry and DMVA Digest!

www.register.dmva.pa.gov

(For veterans, family members, advocates, and caregivers)

NEXT MEETING:

AUGUST 2 at 1:00PM

NCTC Classroom, Bldg. 8-63, Fort Indiantown Gap

***All 2023 GAC-VS quarterly meetings will take place
on the 1st Wednesday of the month**