Trends in Mental Health Policy Related to Service Members, Veterans and their Families

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Overview

- Discuss select federal policy efforts related to the mental health of service members, Veterans and their families
- Highlight the importance of community collaborations
- Briefly describe NCTSN efforts in support of military families
Related Congressional Hearings

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care: The Crown Jewel and Best Kept Secret
- Building Bridges Between VA and Community Organizations to Support Veterans and Families
- Understanding and Preventing Veteran Suicide
- Overcoming Barriers to Quality Mental Health Care for Veterans
- Pending Legislation Regarding Sexual Assaults in the Military
Congressional Caucuses

- Congressional Army Caucus
- Congressional Battlefield Caucus
- Congressional Brain Injury Task Force
- Congressional C-130 Modernization Caucus
- Congressional Caucus on Engaging Community Support for Veterans
- Congressional Caucus on Long Range Strikes
- Congressional Caucus on Unmanned Systems
- Congressional Caucus on Women in the Military
- Congressional Coast Guard Caucus
- Congressional Defense Energy Security Caucus
- Congressional Joint Strike Fighter Caucus
- Congressional Mental Health Caucus
- Congressional Military Family Caucus
- Congressional Military Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Caucus
- Congressional Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus
- Congressional Missile Defense Caucus
- Congressional Navy Mine Warfare Caucus
- Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus
- Congressional Rural Veterans Caucus
- Congressional United Services Organization (USO) Caucus
- Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus
- Congressional Wounded to Work Caucus
- Defense Communities Caucus
- House Air Force Caucus
- House Military Depot and Industrial Facilities Caucus
- Invisible Wounds Caucus
- Military Veterans Caucus
- National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus
- Special Operations Forces (SOF) Caucus
Select Policy Issues of Interest

- PTSD and Psychological Sequelae of TBI
- Recruitment/Retention of Mental Health Providers in DoD/VA
- Suicide Prevention
- Military Families/Dual Military Couples
- Military Sexual Trauma
- DoD, VA and other Research Portfolios
Legislative Successes
Other Relevant Policy Efforts

- Advance Funding for VA Medical Care
- WH Lifted Ban on Military Suicide Condolences
- Exec Order: Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families
  - Expand VA Mental Health Staffing
  - Suicide Prevention
  - Enhance Community Partnerships
  - Improve Research
- VA Sequestration Exemption
In 2012, Joining Forces launched an effort focused on engaging the health care community in supporting the needs of service members, Veterans, and their families related to TBI, PTSD, and other mental wounds of war.
Goal 3.1: Improve military families’ access to community-based behavioral health care through coordination among SAMHSA, TRICARE, DoD, and Veterans Health Administration services.

Goal 3.2: Improve the quality of behavioral health-focused prevention, treatment, and recovery support services by helping providers respond to the needs within the military family culture.

Goal 3.3: Promote the behavioral health of military families with programs and evidence-based practices that support their resilience and emotional health.

Goal 3.4: Develop an effective and seamless behavioral health service system for military families through coordination of policies and resources across Federal, national, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local organizations.
Community Collaborations
The NCTSN was established by Congress in 2000 to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for children and families who experienced or witnessed traumatic events.

The Network is comprised of 170 member sites and affiliates in 44 states who focus on service delivery, training, education, development of resources, and collaboration across researchers, providers, and families.

The NCTSN has had a longstanding commitment to military families. In fact, the most recent call for proposals included a requirement that grantees address military family issues.
NCTSN Military Families Program

- Education and training for NCTSN on military-related issues
- Consultation and technical assistance to enable NCTSN to provide trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions to military families and children
- Key national and regional partnerships with TRICARE, military treatment facilities, medical providers and other partners
Key NCTSN Military Families Resources

- Military Families Learning Community Master Speaker Series: webinars by leading experts on topics including, military culture, PTSD/TBI, grief and loss, and military child specific issues.


- Military Families Knowledge Bank: an online database of resources for and about members of the military, Veterans and their families.
Learn more about the NCTSN

http://www.nctsn.org