



UPDATE

June 15, 2012

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

SCIENCE AND SERVICE NEWS UPDATES

VA MEDICAL ARTICLE DISCUSSES SPECIALIZED IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERAN HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinicians offer a comprehensive review of the health concerns of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and practical management guidelines for primary care providers in an article published in *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. The article reviews how combat deployments can impact the physical, psychological, and social health of Veterans and describes their unique healthcare needs. This includes the need for assessment and management of injuries associated with blast exposures (including mild traumatic brain injury) as well as mental health conditions such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and substance abuse. Other important health concerns discussed include medically unexplained symptoms, heightened suicide risk, sleep disturbances, and impairments in family, occupational, and social functioning.

Press Release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2327>

HHS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING TO HELP OLDER ADULTS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACCESS LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AND THRIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new \$25 million funding opportunity made possible by the Affordable Care Act to help states strengthen and expand their ability to help seniors and people with disabilities access home and community-based long-term services and supports. Over the next one to three years, funding will support Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in nearly every state. The VA will make an additional \$27 million available over three years in ADRC-funded states through the VA Medical Centers. This funding will increase access to home and community-based services for Veterans through ADRC programs.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120531d.html>

PREVENTION COUNCIL ISSUES ACTION PLAN TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin announced the release of the *National Prevention Council Action Plan*, which aims to increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life. The Action Plan is the next step in the federal implementation of the National Prevention Strategy, a comprehensive plan to tackle such issues as obesity, tobacco use, health disparities, and chronic disease. The Action Plan complements prevention and wellness efforts already underway by the federal, states, tribal and local governments, healthcare systems, businesses, communities, nonprofit organizations, and others.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/06/20120613a.html>

RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES**NIMH DIRECTOR'S BLOG: EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE**

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Director Thomas Insel discusses the potential of using experimental medicine to identify and validate targets for therapeutic development.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2012/experimental-medicine.shtml>

IMPACT OF NIH RESEARCH

These new pages on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) website provide a new resource for the public and NIH stakeholders to easily access information about the impact of NIH research. The pages link off the NIH home page and also include a Toolbox page with links to new factsheets, external reports, news items, and presentations. <http://www.nih.gov/about/impact/index.htm>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF PHARMACOLOGICAL AGENTS TO TREAT INDIVIDUALS WITH CO-OCCURRING MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

This resource offers general principles to assist in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of pharmacologic approaches to support the recovery of individuals with co-occurring disorders. It covers engagement, screening, assessment, treatment planning, and continuity of care.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/General-Principles-for-the-Use-of-Pharmacological-Agents-to-Treat-Individuals-with-Co-Occurring-Mental-and-Substance-Use-Disorders/SMA12-4689>

PHARMACOLOGIC GUIDELINES FOR TREATING INDIVIDUALS WITH PTSD AND CO-OCCURRING OPIOID USE DISORDERS

This resource offers guidelines for medication-assisted treatment for individuals with PTSD and co-occurring opioid use disorders. It covers screening, concomitant treatment, pharmacotherapy, and multiple substances of abuse.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Pharmacologic-Guidelines-for-Treating-Individuals-with-Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder-and-Co-Occurring-Opioid-Use-Disorders/SMA12-4688>

SUBSCRIBE TO SAMHSA'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Subscribe directly to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) YouTube Channel to receive updates on new videos and featured playlists related to behavioral health.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SAMHSA>

FAMILIES ARE THE FRONTLINE: PREVENTING, TREATING, AND RECOVERING FROM SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL DISORDERS

This archived webcast explores prevention, treatment, and recovery from substance use and mental disorders within the context of the family. It examines factors in a strong family support environment and ways to educate families to provide support through recovery. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA12-4675DVD>

PEOPLE IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DIALOGUE

This report recaps a meeting to consider a unified definition of recovery that would capture the essential experiences of individuals recovering from addictions or mental illness. It summarizes dialogue themes, outcomes, and recommendations for further consideration. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/People-in-Recovery-from-Addictions-and-Mental-Health-Problems-in-Dialogue/SMA12-4680>

CDC: YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE — UNITED STATES, 2011

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System monitors six categories of priority health-risk behaviors among youth and young adults: 1) behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2) tobacco use; 3) alcohol and other drug use; 4) sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus infection; 5) unhealthy dietary behaviors; and 6) physical inactivity. This report summarizes results from the 2011 national survey, 43 state surveys, and 21 large urban school district surveys conducted among students in grades 9 through 12. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6104a1.htm>

SCHOOL BULLYING: LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH NEED TO BE MORE FULLY ASSESSED

This report summarizes the results of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the following: 1) what is known about the prevalence of school bullying and its effects on victims; 2) approaches selected states and local school districts are taking to combat school bullying; 3) legal options federal and selected state governments have in place when bullying leads to allegations of discrimination; and 4) key federal agencies' coordination efforts to combat school bullying. The GAO also reviewed research on the prevalence and effects on victims; analyzed state bullying laws and school district bullying policies; and interviewed officials in eight states and six school districts. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-349>

NIHSENIORHEALTH.GOV OFFERS INFORMATION ON MEDICATION AND DRUG ABUSE

Prescription and Illicit Drug Abuse, the new topic on the *NIHSeniorHealth* website, explains why older people may abuse medications and illicit drugs and describes the possible effects of substance abuse on their health. Tips on how to prevent, recognize, and treat substance abuse in older adults are also included. <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/drugabuse/improperuse/01.html>

FACT SHEET ON DRUG COURTS

The Office of Justice Programs has released this fact sheet examining adult and juvenile drug court program models. It also provides facts, research findings, and additional resources regarding drug courts.

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/12juvjust/120612.html>

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE: SUICIDE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS AND REFERRAL/FOLLOW-UP SERVICES

This report from the VA Health Services Research and Dissemination Service examines recent research on suicidal self-directed violence. The review looked at the following questions: 1) what is the effectiveness of specific interventions for reducing rates of suicidal self-directed violence in military and/or Veteran populations?; 2) what lessons can be learned from suicidal self-directed violence prevention intervention research conducted outside of Veteran or military settings that can be applied to Veteran and/or military populations?; 3) what is the effectiveness of referral and follow-up services for reducing rates of suicidal self-directed violence in military and/or Veteran populations?; and 4) what lessons can be learned from research on suicidal self-directed violence referral and follow-up services conducted outside of Veteran or military settings that can be applied to Veteran and/or military populations?.

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/management_briefs/eBrief-no50.cfm

CLINICAL SUPPORT TOOL HELPS TREAT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

The *Substance Use Disorder Toolkit* developed by U.S. Army Medical Command, the VA, and Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) is available to assist healthcare providers treating patients abusing alcohol or drugs.

https://www.qmo.amedd.army.mil/PDFDownload/SUD_download.html

REAL WARRIORS, REAL ADVICE PODCASTS

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS CARE

This podcast discusses the positive outcomes of early interventions when dealing with psychological health concerns. <http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode021>

MUCH IS ASKED, MUCH IS GIVEN BY LEADERS

This podcast discusses the support that leaders can give their warriors.

<http://www.realwarriors.net/podcasts/episode020-transcript>

REAL WARRIORS: HELPING TODDLERS TO PRETEENS COMMUNICATE ABOUT CHANGES

This Real Warriors article provides tips and resources to help parents create opportunities to talk with their children, and initiate conversations in which children can express and cope with their feelings about changes. <http://www.realwarriors.net/family/change/helpcommunicate.php>

DCOE BLOG POSTINGS

WHEN IS ONE DRINK, ONE DRINK TOO MANY?

This blog post provides guidance on the difference between appropriate versus excessive consumption of alcohol. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=375>

DO WOMEN DIFFER FROM MEN IN THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH NEEDS?

This blog post discusses what researchers are learning about how women experience PTSD. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=374>

ONE DAY AT A TIME: SUPPORTING A FAMILY MEMBER WITH PTSD

This blog post provides a firsthand account of one family member's experience helping a Veteran experiencing combat-related PTSD. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=373>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

JUNE 2012

In observance of PTSD Awareness Month, the Department of Defense and VA are raising awareness about the problem, along with providing tools, information, and assistance for service members who may be dealing with PTSD.

http://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/ptsd-awareness/ptsd_awareness_month.asp

HHS Secretary Statement: <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2012/06/06/statement-by-hhs-secretary-kathleen-sebelius-recognizing-posttraumatic-stress-disorder-awareness-month/>

PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PREVENTION

JUNE 19, 2012, 1:00 PM ET

This session of CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds will explore intimate partner violence (IPV), a serious, preventable public health problem that affects millions of Americans. This Grand Rounds will explore prevention efforts aimed at reducing the occurrence of IPV through the promotion of healthy, respectful, nonviolent relationships. These prevention efforts must address change at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels. <http://www.cdc.gov/about/grand-rounds>

WEBINAR: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN MILITARY FAMILIES: COMMUNITY AND MILITARY PARTNERSHIPS

JUNE 26, 2012, 1:00PM ET

This National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) webinar in the Military and Civilian Partnerships Series will present current efforts by community-based organizations to support U.S. Military Family Advocacy Programs related to issues of child abuse and child maltreatment. This presentation will describe evidence-based interventions and coordinated models of care for addressing issues of child abuse in military families. http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=26&cal_m=06&cal_y=2012

WEBINAR: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: WHAT HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW

JUNE 28 2012, 1:00PM-2:30 PM ET

This DCoE webinar will address the impact of IPV on victims' psychological health and identify appropriate screening methods for signs of abuse. In addition, this webinar will examine the relationship between IPV and PTSD, emphasizing provider-level strategies for IPV perpetration. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Events/MonthlyWebinars.aspx>

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

JUNE 25-28, 2012, BLOOMINGTON, MN

The Indian Health Service will sponsor the 2012 National Behavioral Health Conference in Bloomington, MN. This year's theme—*Mobilizing Partnerships to Promote Wellness*—emphasizes the importance of collaboration in working to improve the behavioral health status of American Indian and Alaska Native children and adults. Registration is free and available online. <http://www.ihs.gov/bhconference/index.cfm>

WEBINAR: PTSD AND RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR JUVENILE COURT EVALUATIONS

JULY 10, 2012, 12:00PM ET

This NCTSN webinar will provide an overview of juvenile court evaluation procedures, highlight how PTSD and risk assessments are utilized within these evaluations, and discuss ways to improve their use. http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=10&cal_m=7&cal_y=2012

WEBINAR: CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS

JULY 17, 2012, 12:00PM ET

This NCTSN webinar in the Secondary Traumatic Stress Speaker Series will address the influence of culture on mental health providers coping with secondary traumatic stress (STS) and the choices that clinicians make to seek, or not seek, support. They also will explore how cultural background—including immigration history—informs clinicians' work with children and families who have experienced trauma; illustrate the relationship between culture and STS through a personal case example; and introduce the concept of vicarious resiliency.

http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=17&cal_m=7&cal_y=2012

WEBINAR: CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS - IN SPANISH

JULY 18, 2012, 12:00PM ET

Presenters will deliver the Cultural Implications for Secondary Traumatic Stress webinar, described above, in Spanish. http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=18&cal_m=7&cal_y=2012

WEBINAR: THE APPLICATION OF TRAUMA SCREENING/ASSESSMENT IN CHILD WELFARE SETTINGS: PART I - SYSTEMS LEVEL

JULY 26, 2012, 12:00PM ET

This NCTSN webinar in the Screening and Assessment for Trauma in the Child Welfare Setting Speaker Series will explore issues of implementation and sustainability of universal trauma screening in an already overburdened child welfare system, how to meaningfully and successfully integrate and embed the practice, and ways to address the effects of this practice on case workers.

http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php?view=day&cal_d=26&cal_m=7&cal_y=2012

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME: BUILDING AND SUSTAINING EFFECTIVE CAMPUS RECOVERY PROGRAMS

AUGUST 2-3, 2012, WASHINGTON, DC

This two-day training institute sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Higher Education Center brings together campus recovery program experts to provide information about the research and history and to share key components of successful collegiate recovery communities. Participants will gain knowledge and build skills that will enable them to start a campus recovery program, or strengthen and sustain a program that is already established.

<http://higheredcenter.ed.gov/services/training/institute/if-you-build-it-they-will-come-building-and-sustaining-effective-campus->

2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, AND MEDIA

AUGUST 7-9, 2012, ATLANTA, GA

The National Public Health Information Coalition, SAMHSA, and CDC are pleased to announce the sixth annual National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media. This conference brings together individuals representing academia, public health researchers, practitioners from federal and state government, and the private sector, and provides a forum for collegial dialogue within and across these disciplines. The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and shape the future of health communication, marketing, and media practice. <http://www.cdc.gov/NCHCMM/overview.html>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: RECOVERY MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2012

Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders, celebrates people in recovery, lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible. Recovery Month spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover. <http://recoverymonth.gov/>

2012 Recovery Month Kit: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA12-4690>

SAVE THE DATE: SAMHSA WELLNESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 17 -23, 2012

As part of Recovery Month, SAMHSA is sponsoring National Wellness Week to inspire individuals and organizations to get involved and take one step for wellness. During National Wellness Week, individuals across the country will improve their health behaviors, while also exploring their talents, skills, interests, social connections, and environment to incorporate other dimensions of wellness.

- Monday, September 17: Overview of Eight Dimensions
- Tuesday, September 18: Physical Dimension
- Wednesday, September 19: Intellectual Dimension
- Thursday, September 20: Spiritual Dimension
- Friday, September 21: Social and Emotional Dimensions
- Saturday, September 22: Financial and Occupational Dimensions
- Sunday, September 23: Environmental Dimension

2012 SCIENCE OF ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT

OCTOBER 31, 2012-NOVEMBER 3, 2012, NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

HHS under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health, and the HHS Office of Minority Health, invite registration for the 2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit. The program will facilitate thought-provoking dialogue among presenters from diverse disciplines that are taking unique, complementary, and sometimes distinctively different approaches to health disparities. The overall objective is to forge new alliances and provide a launching pad for creativity, collaboration, and innovation that will accelerate improved health for all Americans and a healthier global society. http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/summit_site/registration.html

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

NIMH: CALL FOR PUBLIC REVIEWERS

NIMH is seeking individuals interested in serving as public representatives on committees that review research grant applications.

Review meetings are typically held in the Washington, DC area, or by telephone or video conference call. Public reviewers fully join the discussion of applications and vote on the merit of each application discussed. They read applications and provide written critiques (usually 1-2 pages), which may focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the application's public health significance and/or innovation; on the feasibility of plans for recruitment, retention, and follow-up of subjects; on outreach efforts to special populations; and on issues pertaining to the protection of human subjects.

Individuals selected to serve as public reviewers typically have had some involvement with mental health care as consumers, family members, mental health professionals, members of advocacy groups, educators, etc. Public reviewers will typically meet one or more of the following criteria:

- experience with mental disorders (e.g., as a person with a mental disorder, a family member, caregiver, or supporter of such a person);
- experience with mental disorders as a mental health care practitioner, payer, or policy maker;
- experience as a research participant in studies of mental disorders; and
- community service involving representation of the interests and perspectives of people with mental disorders (e.g., service on mental health boards or committees, relevant publications, or presentations).

An individual need not meet all four criteria to be selected. NIMH staff will invite selected nominees to an in-person orientation, based on mental health interests and experience, and consideration of demographic and geographic factors. The Institute seeks a demographically and geographically diverse pool of Public Reviewers, and applications from individuals from traditionally under-represented groups are welcome.

Individuals chosen to attend the orientation workshop and participate will then be added to the roster of potential reviewers. Those included on the roster are likely to be asked to serve as a public reviewer over a two-year timeframe.

In order to be considered for the next in-person orientation, please submit an application by July 10, 2012. Please understand that NIMH is likely to receive many more expressions of interest than available opportunities to serve on review panels.

Interested individuals should read more about the NIMH Public Reviewer Program on the NIMH website: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/grants/role-of-public-participants-in-nimh-grant-reviews.shtml>

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORTS

The AHRQ Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus its research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENTS AND PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENTS FOR ADULTS WITH PTSD
(COMMENT ACCEPTED THROUGH JUNE 29, 2012)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-available-for-comment/comment-draft-reports/?pageaction=displayDraftCommentForm&topicid=347&productID=1121&ECem=120601>

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SEEKS INFORMATION ON DISCONNECTED YOUTH

The U.S. ED has released a request for information (RFI) on *Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Disconnected Youth*. The RFI invites organizations to recommend effective approaches to increase the rate at which young people ages 14 to 24 who are homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, unemployed or not enrolled in an educational institution meet educational, employment, and other key development goals. Submissions will be accepted through July 5, 2012.

<https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-13473>

CDC INJURY CENTER LAUNCHES VIDEO CONTEST

In recognition of the CDC Injury Center's 20th Anniversary, the Injury Center is conducting a nationwide video contest to help raise awareness of injury and violence prevention. Individuals can participate in the *Seeing My World through a Safer Lens* video contest by submitting a short, creative video that answers the question, "What does Injury and Violence Prevention Look Like in My Community?" The video should highlight real-life stories and examples of how injuries and violence are being prevented in one's community. Winners will be selected in the following three categories: General Public View, Injury and Violence Professional View, or Student View. The winning video in each category will receive a \$500 cash prize and will be featured on the CDC's Injury Center website. The contest runs now through July 31, 2012.

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/SaferLensVideoContest/>

FUNDING INFORMATION

CENTER FOR GENOMIC STUDIES ON MENTAL DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-13-050.html>

GLOBAL NETWORK FOR WOMENS AND CHILDRENS HEALTH RESEARCH

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-13-006.html>

CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCE AND ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE PILOT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TO DEVELOP NEUROPSYCHIATRIC INTERVENTIONS (SBIR [R43/R44])

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-13-100.html>

NIMH CAREER TRANSITION AWARD FOR TENURE-TRACK AND TENURED INTRAMURAL INVESTIGATORS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-201.html>

STATE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT ENHANCEMENT AND DISSEMINATION

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1206124742.aspx>



The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.