

**VA/SAMHSA GOVERNOR'S AND MAYOR'S CHALLENGE  
TO PREVENT SUICIDE AMONG SERVICE MEMBERS,  
VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

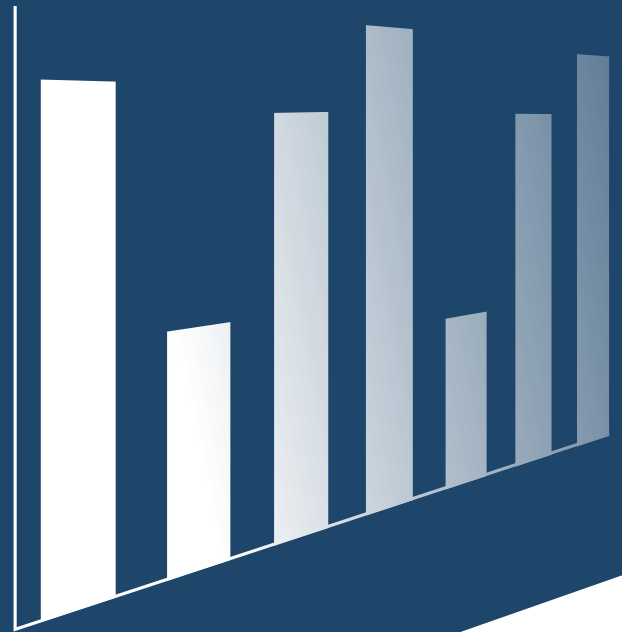
AUGUST 2-3, 2022



# ***INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE***



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



**VA**

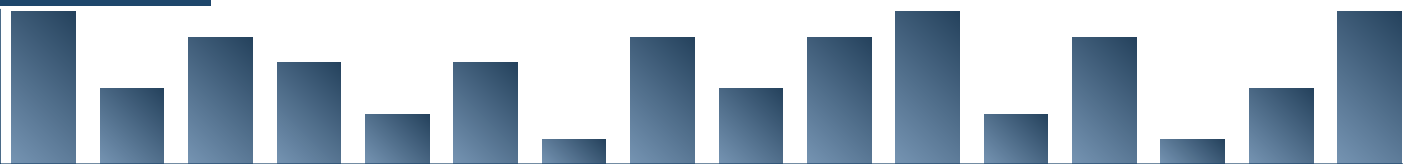
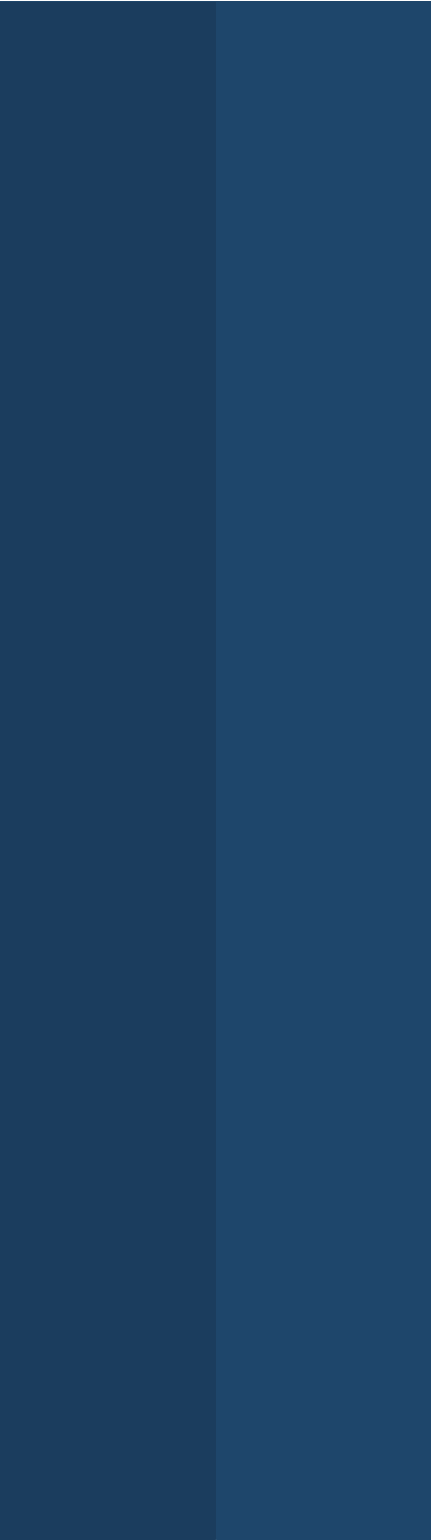


U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

***SAMHSA***  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



**VA/SAMHSA**  
Innovations Conference



# Tuesday, August 2, 2022



**VA/SAMHSA**  
Innovations Conference

8:30am-  
9:30am ET

## Opening Remarks/Special Recognition

Edison Ballroom

**Cicely K. Burrows-McElwain, LCSW-C**, Director, Technical Assistance Resource Center (TARC), Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

**Matthew Miller, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Executive Director, VA Suicide Prevention Program; Executive Director, PREVENTS, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

9:30am-  
9:55am ET

## Breakout Session Spotlight

Edison Ballroom

### » **Spotlight 1: Postvention Support for Suicide Loss Survivors**

**Carla Stumpf-Patton, Ed.D., LMHC**, Senior Director of Postvention Programs, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

### » **Spotlight 2: Safe Messaging for Suicide Prevention Awareness**

**Daniel J. Reidenberg, Psy.D.**, Executive Director, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education; Managing Director, National Council for Suicide Prevention; General Secretary, International Association for Suicide Prevention

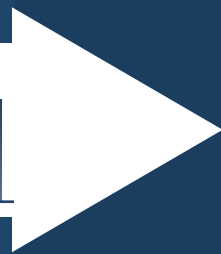
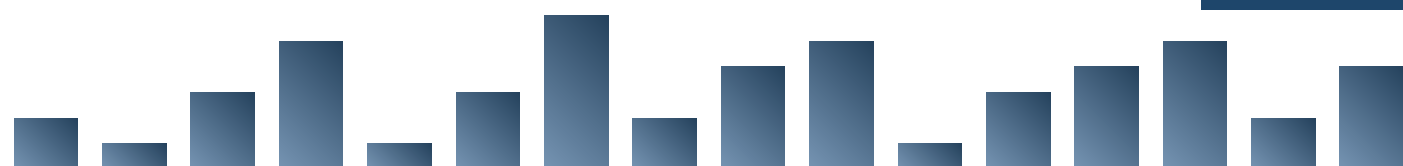
### » **Spotlight 3: Addressing Needs of Tribal Veterans**

**Elciena "Cici" Baker**, Vice Commander, Nazlini Chapter; Secretary, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council; Property Manager/Veteran Benefits Coordinator, Veteran Services USA; Veteran, U.S. Navy; Veteran, U.S. Army

9:55am-  
10:00am ET

## Transition Time

1





**VA/SAMHSA**  
Innovations Conference

2

10:00am-  
10:50am ET

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1

Edison Ballroom

### » Workshop 1: Crisis Response Track

#### Law Enforcement & Veterans Crisis Line Integration

**Moderator: Cailen Haggard, LISW-S**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 10, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Gregory Hughes, LICSW**, Director, Field Operations, Veterans Crisis Line, VHA, VA

#### State Example—Washington:

**Codie Garza, M.S.P.H.**, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Veteran Services, Counseling and Wellness, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

### » Workshop 2: Data, Program Development and Evaluation Track

Wright

#### SAMHSA's Population-Level Behavioral Health Data Surveillance

**Moderator: Philip Paty, M.P.A.**, Project Associate, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center, Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA)

**Jennifer Hoenig, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Branch Chief, Populations Survey Branch, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ), SAMHSA

**Suparna Das, Ph.D.**, Branch Chief, Treatment Services, CBHSQ, SAMHSA

### » Workshop 3: Diverse Populations Track

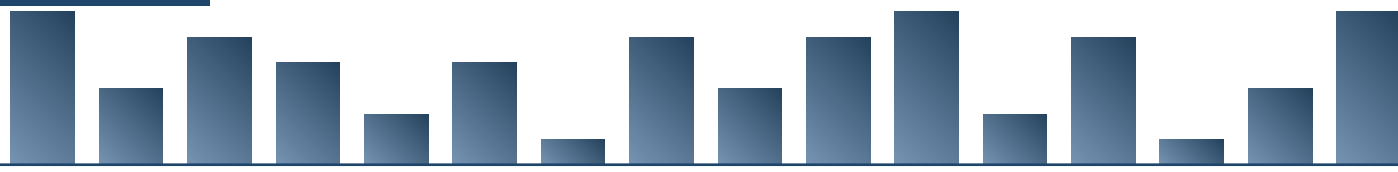
Bell

#### Suicide Prevention for Diverse Age Groups

**Moderator: Michelle Lee Sing, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 7, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Elisa Borah, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, Research Associate Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin; Director, Institute for Military and Veteran Family Wellness

**Gregory Leskin, Ph.D.**, Director, National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Military and Veteran Family Program, UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Trauma





» **Workshop 4: Families and Caregivers Track**

Whitney

**Postvention Support: Loss Survivors**

**Moderator: Laura Rasnake, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 9, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Carla Stumpf-Patton, Ed.D., LMHC**, Senior Director of Postvention Programs, TAPS

**Erin L. Higgins, LCSW, LAC**, Postvention Lead and Consultant, Postvention Program, Rocky Mountain MIRECC, VHA, VA

» **Workshop 5: Protective Factors Track**

Banneker

**Safe Messaging for Suicide Prevention Awareness**

**Moderator: Cicely K. Burrows-McElwain, LCSW-C**, Director, TARC, Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Kimberly Torguson**, Director of Communications, National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

**Daniel J. Reidenberg, Psy.D.**, Executive Director, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education; Managing Director, National Council for Suicide Prevention; General Secretary, International Association for Suicide Prevention

**State Example—Wyoming:**

**Jen Davis**, Senior Policy Advisor, Health and Human Services, Office of Governor Mark Gordon, State of Wyoming

**Transition Time**

**Concurrent Workshop Sessions 2**

Edison Ballroom

» **Workshop 1: Crisis Response Track**

**Suicide Prevention in Emergency Departments**

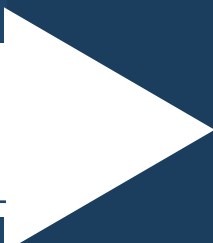
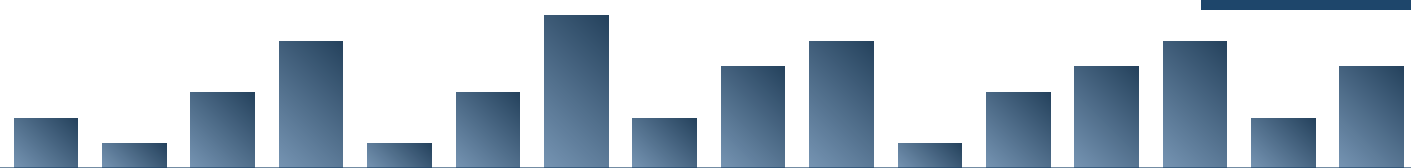
**Moderator: Aaron Eagan, M.P.H., RN**, Director, Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Bridget Matarazzo, Psy.D.**, Director for Clinical Services, Research Psychologist, Rocky Mountain MIRECC, VHA, VA

**Terresa Humphries-Wadsworth, Ph.D.**, Associate Project Director, Education Development Center

10:50am-  
11:00am ET

11:00am-  
11:50am ET





» **Workshop 2: Data, Program Development and Evaluation Track**

Wright

**Developing a Mortality Review Committee**

**Moderator: Maxie Pulliam, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 22, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Kimberly Repp, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Chief Epidemiologist, Supervisor, Research, Analytics, Informatics and Data, Medical Examiner's Office, Washington County Public Health Division

» **Workshop 3: Diverse Populations Track**

Bell

**Perspectives of Women Veterans of Color**

**Moderator: Qwynn Galloway-Salazar, Ph.D.**, Founder, In Their Honor

**Col. Wanda Wright (USAF, Ret.), M.Ed., M.B.A., M.P.A.**, Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

**Amy Au, LICSW, CCFC**, Consultant, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center

**Melissa McKennon, M.A.**, Consultant, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center

**Elciena "Cici" Baker**, Vice Commander, Nazlini Chapter; Secretary, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council; Property Manager/Veteran Benefits Coordinator, Veterans Services USA; Veteran, U.S. Navy; Veteran, U.S. Army

» **Workshop 4: Families and Caregivers Track**

Whitney

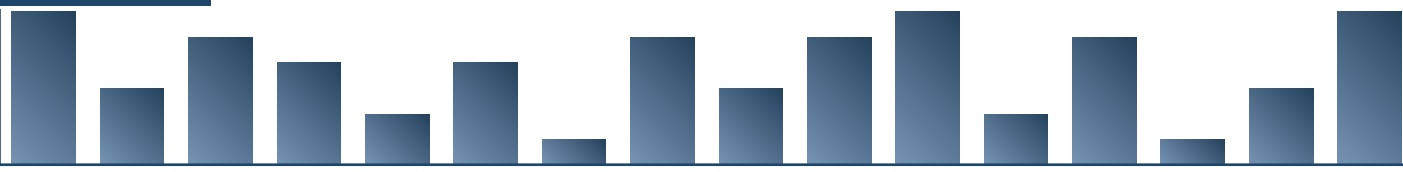
**Social Determinants of Health for Families in Transition**

**Moderator: Angela Wright, J.D.**, Senior Project Associate, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, PRA

**Gabby L'Esperance, Ph.D.**, Director, Research and Program Evaluation, Military Family Advisory Network

**State Example—Arizona:**

**Nicola Winkel, M.P.A.**, Project Director, Arizona Coalition for Military Families





» **Workshop 5: Protective Factors Track**

*Banneker*

**Housing Stability for Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF)**

**Moderator: Meredith Malpass, LCSW, LCAS, CCS**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 6, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Jen Elder, M.Sc.**, Director, Homeless and Housing Resource Center, PRA

**Vincent Morales**, Co-founder, Veterans Community Project

**Lunch**

*On Your Own*

**Innovative Practices Showcase (Poster Presentations)**

*Edison Ballroom*

**Moderator: Cicely K. Burrows-McElwain, LCSW-C**, Director, TARC, Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Duane France, M.A., M.B.A., LPC**, Co-director, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

**Team Presentation 1—Michigan:** Michigan Veteran Connector and She Is a Veteran

**Team Presentation 2—Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania Caring Messages Campaign

**Team Presentation 3—Maryland:** Serving Those Who Served – A Public Library Program

**Team Presentation 4—Arkansas:** CampConnect Program Resource Kiosks

**Team Presentation 5—Kentucky:** Kentucky Purple Star School Award Program

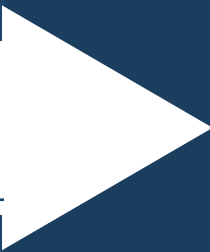
**Team Presentation 6—Wisconsin:** Live Today—Put it Away Gun Storage Program

**Team Presentation 7—American Samoa:** Veteran Food Security Program

5

11:50am-  
1:00pm ET

1:00pm-  
2:00pm ET





2:00pm-  
2:50pm ET

### Plenary Session

Edison Ballroom

### Building Trust and Increasing Connectedness: Saving Lives Through Veteran Engagement and Feedback

*John W. Boerstler*, Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office, VA

2:50pm-  
3:00pm ET

### Transition Time

3:00pm-  
3:50pm ET

### Concurrent Workshop Sessions 3

Edison Ballroom

#### » Workshop 1: Crisis Response Track

#### Crisis Intercept Mapping

*Moderator: Barbara Lattimore, Ph.D.*, Senior Project Associate, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, PRA

*Richard McKeon, M.P.H., Ph.D.*, Branch Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, Division of Service and Systems Improvement, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

#### State Example—Maryland:

*Joy Ashcraft, LMSW*, Director, Maryland's Commitment to Veterans Service Access and Practice Innovation, Behavioral Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health

#### » Workshop 2: Data, Program Development and Evaluation Track

Wright

#### Methods to Increase Data Collection and Program Evaluation

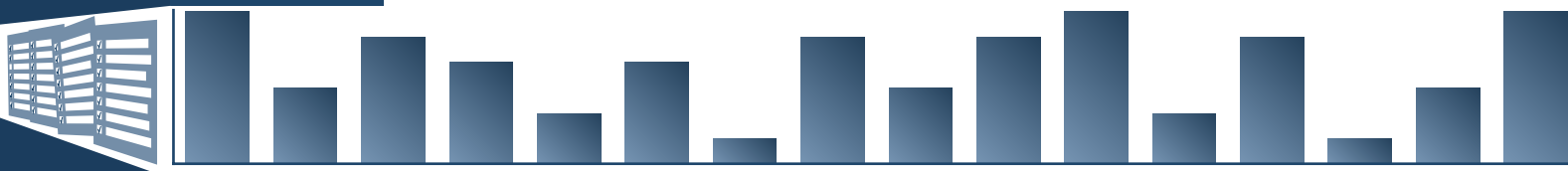
*Moderator: Andrea Le, M.P.H.*, Social Science Analyst, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

*Rani Hoff, Ph.D., M.P.H.*, Director, Northeast Program Evaluation Center, VISN 1 New England MIRECC, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

#### State Example—Pennsylvania:

*SGM Richard Hamp (USA, Ret.)*, Special Assistant, Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

*Janice Pringle, Ph.D.*, Lead Investigator, University of Pittsburgh's Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU)







» **Workshop 3: Diverse Populations Track**

*Bell*

**Addressing the Needs of Tribal Veterans**

**Moderator: Jessi M. Atherton, B.S., B.S.N., RN**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 23, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Elciena “Cici” Baker**, Vice Commander, Nazlini Chapter; Secretary, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council; Property Manager/Veteran Benefits Coordinator, Veterans Services USA; Veteran, U.S. Navy; Veteran, U.S. Army

**State Example—Washington:**

**Larry Pruitt, Ph.D.**, Director, Suicide Prevention Services, VA Puget Sound Health Care System

**Tina L. Orwall, M.S.W.**, Washington State Representative, 33rd District, State House of Representatives

» **Workshop 4: Families and Caregivers Track**

*Whitney*

**Supporting Military-Affiliated Children**

**Moderator: Alicia Carey, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 15, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Mayer Bellehsen, Ph.D.**, Director, Northwell Health

**State Example—Utah:**

**Cory Pearson**, Deputy Director, Veterans Services, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

**Carol Ruddell, M.A.**, Administrator, Suicide Prevention and Crisis Programs, Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

» **Workshop 5: Protective Factors Track**

*Banneker*

**Financial Stability for the Military-Affiliated Population**

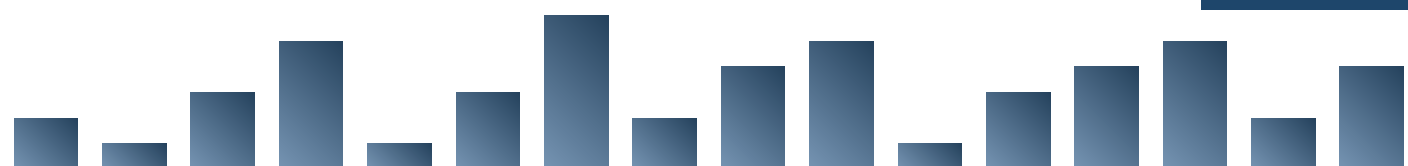
**Moderator: Stacey Owens, M.S.W., LCSW-C**, Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

**David Treacher**, Deputy Director, Government Relations, National Military Family Association

**James D. Rodriguez, M.A.**, Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS), U.S. Department of Labor

**Transition Time**

3:50pm-  
4:00pm ET





**VA/SAMHSA**  
Innovations Conference

8

4:00pm-  
4:45pm ET

## **Keynote: Moderated Discussion on 988 Implementation/Closing Remarks**

*Edison Ballroom*

**Moderator: Aaron Eagan, M.P.H., RN**, Director, Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Richard McKeon, M.P.H., Ph.D.**, Branch Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, Division of Service and Systems Improvement, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

**Lisa K. Kearney, Ph.D., ABPP**, Executive Director, Veterans Crisis Line, VA Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

4:45pm ET

## **Networking Reception**

*Exhibit Hall*

Hosted by RallyPoint

# **Wednesday, August 3, 2022**

8:00am-  
8:10am ET

## **Welcome Back**

*Edison Ballroom*

**Stacey Owens, M.S.W., LCSW-C**, Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

8:10am-  
8:30am ET

## **Breakout Session Spotlight**

*Edison Ballroom*

### » **Spotlight 1: Rural Community Collaboration and Outreach**

**Jess Hegstrom**, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Lewis and Clark Public Health, Montana

### » **Spotlight 2: Vocational and Educational Opportunities for Veterans and their Family Members**

**Michael Bianchi, M.B.A.**, Senior Director, Education and Career Training, Institute for Veterans and Military Families

### » **Spotlight 3: Psychological Autopsy and VA's Suicide After Action Program**

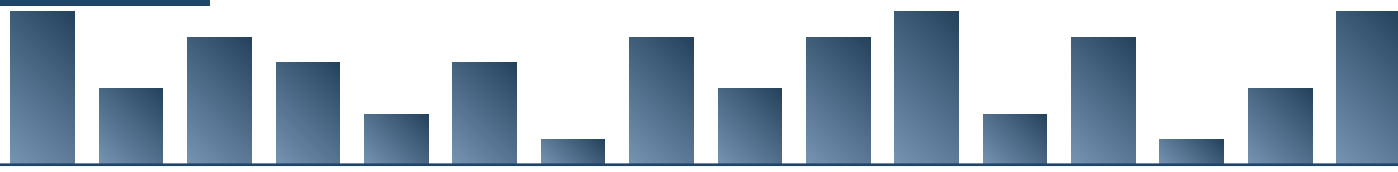
**Stephanie Gamble, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director, VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

8:30am-  
8:50am ET

## **Opening Remarks**

*Edison Ballroom*

**Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.**, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services





8:50am-  
9:00am ET

## **Transition Time**

9:00am-  
9:50am ET

## **Concurrent Workshop Sessions 4**

*Edison Ballroom*

### » **Workshop 1: Crisis Response Track**

#### **Postvention Support: Attempt Survivors**

**Moderator: Jessica Bradstreet, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 8, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Kyle A. Heath**, Team Operations Coordinator, Peer Support Outreach Center, Veterans Crisis Line, VHA, VA

**Shawn Moore, LMSW**, Program Manager, Financial Wellness, Elizabeth Dole Foundation

### » **Workshop 2: Data, Program Development and Evaluation Track**

*Wright*

#### **Practical Application of Data Analysis**

**Moderator: Maryam Basmenji, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 12, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Amy Shearer, Ph.D.**, Associate Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation

**Ann Price, Ph.D.**, President, Community Evaluation Solutions

### » **Workshop 3: Diverse Populations Track**

*Bell*

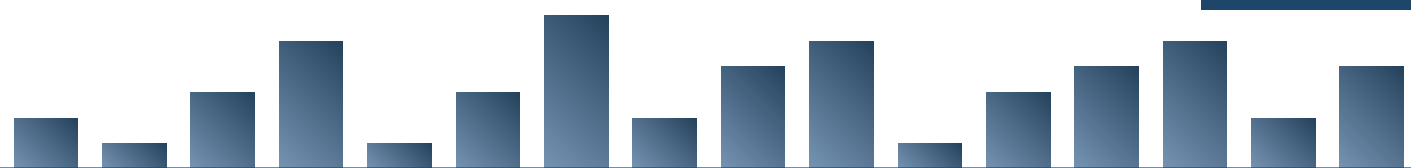
#### **Rural Community Collaboration and Outreach**

**Moderator: Chantel Boudreau, M.A.**, Project Associate, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, PRA

**Lisa Brenner, Ph.D.**, Clinical Research Psychologist, Director, Rocky Mountain MIRECC, VHA, VA

#### **Community Example—Helena, Montana:**

**Jess Hegstrom**, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Lewis, and Clark Public Health, Montana





» **Workshop 4: Families and Caregivers Track**

Whitney

**Supporting Service Member Families (Active, Guard and Reserve)**

**Moderator: Chris Mackowiak, Ph.D.**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 1, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Andrew Moon, Psy.D.**, Associate Director, Program Oversight & Training, Defense Suicide Prevention Office

**Laura L. Neely, Psy.D.**, Program Analyst, Military Community Support Programs, Military Community and Family Policy, Department of Defense

**State Example—Indiana:**

**Sylvia Maixner, M.B.A.**, Indiana State Coordinator, Building Healthy Military Communities

» **Workshop 5: Protective Factors Track**

Banneker

**Vocational and Educational Opportunities for Veterans and their Family Members**

**Moderator: Barbara Lattimore, Ph.D., LPC, CPCS**, Senior Project Associate, SAMHSA’s SMVF TA Center, PRA

**Michael Bianchi, M.B.A.**, Senior Director, Education and Career Training, Institute for Veterans and Military Families

**Meg O’Grady, M.Ed.**, Senior Vice President, Military Affairs, National University System

**Transition Time**

9:50am-  
10:00am ET

**Concurrent Workshop Sessions 5**

Edison Ballroom

10:00am-  
10:50am ET

» **Workshop 1: Crisis Response Track**

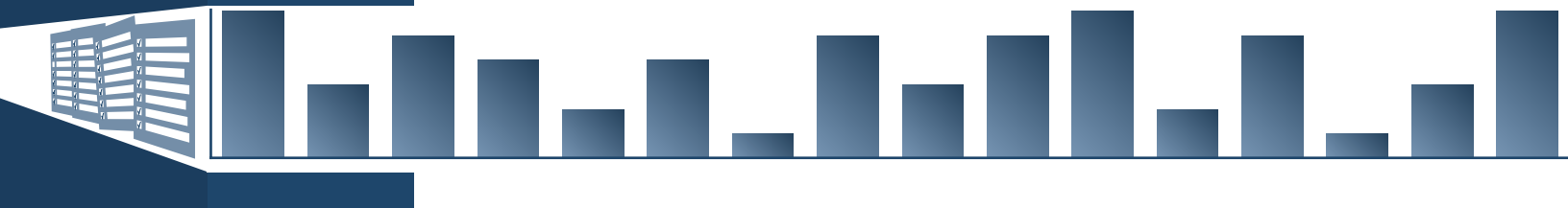
**Lethal Means Safety and Firearm Storage**

**Moderator: Sabah Ocasio, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 2, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Aimee Johnson, LCSW**, Owner, Aimee J. Consulting

**State Example—Georgia:**

**Deidre Paige Howell, LCSW**, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Atlanta VA Medical Center





» **Workshop 2: Data, Program Development and Evaluation Track**

*Wright*

**Psychological Autopsy and VA Suicide After Action Program**

**Moderator: Kendra Barnes, LCSW**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 20, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Stephanie Gamble, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director, VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

**Community Example—Houston, Texas:**

**Clifton Brent Arnsperger, LCSW**, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, VHA, VA

» **Workshop 3: Diverse Populations Track**

*Bell*

**Incorporating Diverse SMVF Populations in Suicide Prevention Planning**

**Moderator: Duane France, M.A., M.B.A., LPC**, Co-director, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, PRA

**Juliette McClendon, Ph.D.**, Acting Chief Medical Officer; Director, Medical Affairs, Big Health

**State Example – Michigan:**

**Zaneta Adams, J.D.**, Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

**Julie Cortright**, Health and Welfare Analyst, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

» **Workshop 4: Families and Caregivers Track**

*Whitney*

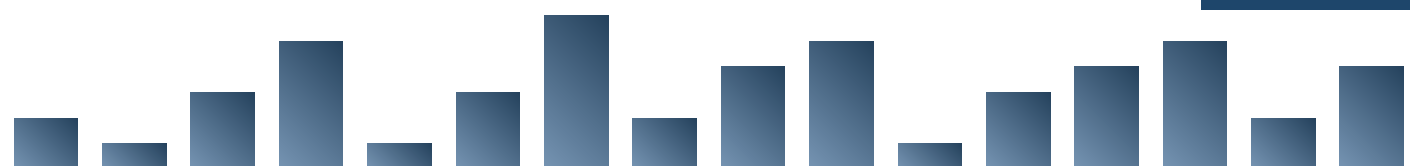
**Caregiver Resources and Suicide Prevention**

**Moderator: Julia Caplan, LCSW-C**, Community Engagement and Partnerships Program Manager, VISN 4 & VISN 5, Community-Based Interventions, Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Roxana Delgado, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health San Antonio; Research Advisor, Campaign for Inclusive Care, and Dole Caregiver Fellow Alumna, Elizabeth Dole Foundation

**State Example—New York:**

**Garra Lloyd-Lester**, Coordinator, Community and Coalition Initiatives, Suicide Prevention Center of New York, Office of Mental Health





» **Workshop 5: Protective Factors Track**

*Banneker*

**Interpersonal Connectedness and Peer Support**

**Moderator: Melissa McKennon, M.A.**, Consultant, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center

**Col. Dave Lewis (USAF, Ret.)**, Director, Harris County Veteran Services Department

**State Example—South Carolina:**

**David Rozelle, M.A.**, Director of Operations, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Maj. Mark Holyfield, USMCR**, Executive Director, Vantage Point

10:50am-  
11:00am ET

**Transition Time**

11:00am-  
12:00pm ET

**Communities of Practice**

*Edison Ballroom*

12:00pm-  
12:15pm ET

**Closing Remarks**

**Cicely K. Burrows-McElwain, LCSW-C**, TARC, Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Program, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA, VA

**Stacey Owens, M.S.W., LCSW-C**, Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA

12:15pm-  
1:15pm ET

**Lunch**

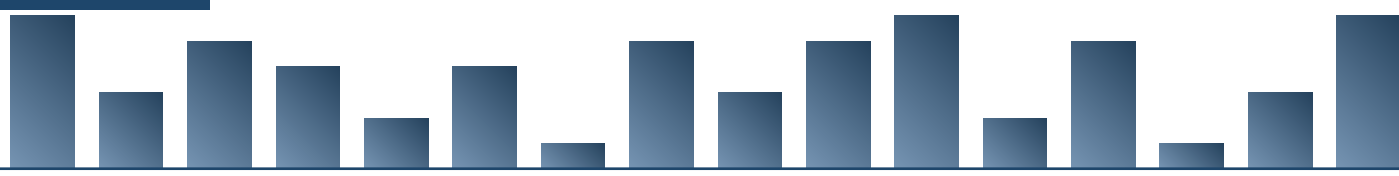
*On Your Own*

1:15pm-  
4:00pm ET

**Governor's and Mayor's Challenge Team Lead Meeting**

*Edison Ballroom*

*Please use the QR code below to fill out an evaluation of this event—thank you!*



*Innovations Conference Meeting Rooms: Westin Alexandria—2nd Floor*



**VA/SAMHSA**  
Innovations Conference

