

### Integrating Veteran Peer Support in State & Local Systems

2023 MILITARY SOCIAL WORK & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN** 

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023



# **TEXAS VETERANS** COMMISSION

- Claims Benefits
- Education
- Employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Healthcare Advocacy
- Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grants
- Women Veteran Program
- Veterans Mental Health Department





### Veterans Mental Health Department

- Justice Involved Veteran Program
- Homeless Veteran Program
- Military Veteran Peer Network
- Provider Training Program
- Veteran Suicide Prevention Program
- Community & Faith-Based Partnerships







Texas Veterans Commission









### Military Veteran Peer Network

Legislative Mandated Program

Statewide Peer-To-Peer Network

**TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators** 

Over 5, 000 MVPN Peer Volunteers

Broadest Definition of Veteran & Family Member







### V E'L'ERAN



# TVC CERTIFIED

#### **TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators**

- Individual & Group Peer Support
- Military Cultural Competency
- Suicide Prevention & Means Safety
- - Can Serve SMVF Anonymously

- Bridging Local SMVF Connections
- Assist Justice Involved Veterans



### Veteran Peer Integration Across Texas

Criminal Justice System Homelessness Prevention Bridging Clinical Services

#### Community Building

#### Suicide Prevention



## Criminal Justice System

Veteran Treatment Courts
Court Mentorship
SMVF Resources

State & Local Law Enforcement

- Training
- Diversion Opportunities

#### Jails & Sheriff Departments

- JIV Info Cards
- Training
- Groups

**TDCJ Prison & State Jail System**Veteran Programming
Reentry Planning

**Community Supervision** 



### Home essness Prevention

**Homeless Veteran Coordinators** 

- Give/Receive Referrals
- Intervention Planning

#### **Connection to Basic Needs**

- Food Pantries  $\bullet$
- Shower
- Shelter

**Connection to VA Services** System Navigation

**Homeless Outreach Street Teams** (HOST)

• Peer Support Requirement • Lived Experience



### **Peers & Clinical Services**

- Integrated Behavioral Health Approach & Effective Treatment Planning
- Enhance Buy-in & Active Participation
- Assist in Goal Planning
- Often First Point of Contact
- MVPN:
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Connections to LMHAs, VA, & Trusted **SMVF** Community Providers
  - Partner w/ Rural Veteran Counselors





### Leveraging Community Partnerships

#### **Raising Awareness** • Ask the Question Campaign Buddy Check Day Local Campaigns

#### **Communities of Faith**

Often Initial Touch Point

### **Promoting Connectedness**

**Military Cultural Competency** 

• Improve Local Workforce

• Dispelling Myths

• Basics of How to Work w/ Veterans

- Veteran Groups
- SMVF Community Events • In Every Community
- Faith & Allegiance Initiative • Volunteer Opportunities

- $\bullet$ 
  - Maximize Limited Resources in Rural Communities







## Suicide Prevention

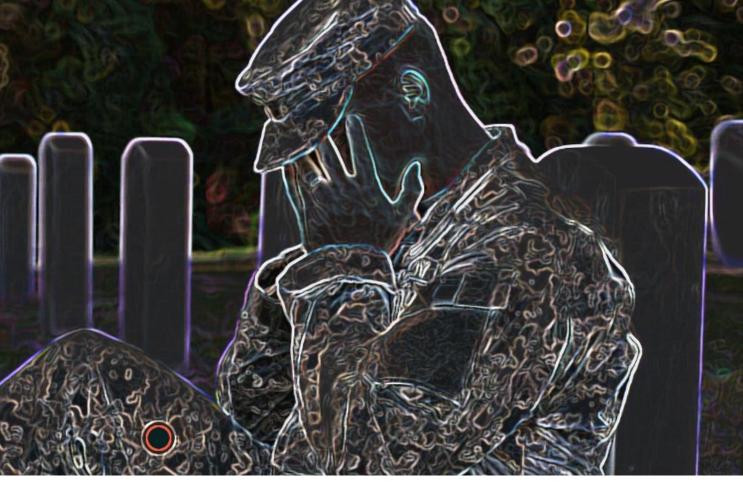
Suicide Risk Screening
• C-SSRS
<b>Gatekeeper Training</b>
• $AS+K?$
Lethal Means Safety
CALM Training
<ul> <li>Safe Storage Options</li> </ul>
<b>Buddy Check Day</b>
• The 1th of Every Month

#### **Local Suicide Prevention Coalitions** Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative

#### **Emergency Services**

- Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams
- LOSS Teams  $\bullet$
- Inpatient & Outpatient Options
- Veteran Crisis Line (988 Press 1) ullet

The 11<sup>th</sup> of Every Month





### www.veteransmentalhealth.texas.gov



512-676-1895



- **Blake Harris, Ph.D. Director, VMHD** | **TVC Licensed Clinical Forensic Psychologist**
- blake.harris@tvc.texas.gov





