

RETIRED JUSTICE EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON'S VETERANS' CRIMINAL JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES NEWS

“Sharing Information to Benefit All Veterans”

JULY 9, 2017

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Retired Veterans in the Courts Initiative

Evelyn Lundberg Stratton retired from the Ohio Supreme Court at the end of 2012 so as to pursue more fully criminal justice reforms with a particular emphasis on veterans who become involved with the justice system. She established the Veterans in the Courts Initiative in 2009. Video <http://bit.ly/1qICXZ0>

Subscribe to this free weekly, all volunteer-generated, news summary by joining our Veterans in The Courts Initiative Group <http://bit.ly/1DZ3esD>

5,031 providers of veterans' services just like you, nationwide & internationally, receive this free newsletter every week. Another 18,000+ can see it on 5 social media sites. Over 5,900 people in 61 countries have viewed my blog over 11,000 times. Thank you for sharing!

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FEATURED STORIES

Updated VA/DOD PTSD Guidelines and Recommendations Released: Learn About the Changes <http://bit.ly/2tDIXJS>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) released an updated version of the [VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline \(CPG\) for the Management of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) and Acute Stress Disorder \(ASD\)](#)(link is external).

The new version incorporates research conducted since the last revision in 2010 and covers treatment for both PTSD and ASD. There are several new recommendations, so both seasoned and new mental health practitioners should take time to review it.

OPPORTUNITIES

SAMHSA: New Addiction Medicine Subspecialty *Deadline for Applications: July 15, 2017*
<http://bit.ly/2sGRDRf>

The American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) is sponsoring a new addiction medicine (ADM) subspecialty for which board-certified physicians can now [apply](#). The completion of an ADM fellowship is not required if your examination is completed before 2021.

Eligible physicians should apply for certification and share this invitation with others who currently work in addiction medicine. Applications for the exam will be accepted until July 15, 2017. The 3-hour exam will be administered to approved applicants in a range of locations beginning in October 2017.

For additional information about the application and eligibility requirements, please visit ABPM's [ADM FAQ page](#).

Nursing Assistant Jobs: Cleveland VAMC Nursing Assistant Job Fair, July 17th

The Cleveland VAMC will be hiring nursing assistants for their spinal cord unit at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA on July 17th

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress

- [Senate committee moves to speed up years long VA appeals process](#)
 - [Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Passage of Appeals Modernization Bill: Statement by VA Secretary David J. Shulkin, M.D.](#)
- [Senate bill aims to end 'unintended burden' on wounded vets accessing Tricare](#)
- [Bill Could Streamline Process for Troops, Veterans to Get CDL](#)
- [Senators Request Timeline for VA Cerner EHR Implementation](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- [Training: On-Demand CME: Clinical Decision Support for Prescribers Treating Individuals With Co-Occurring Disorders](#)

AMSUS SmartBrief (The Society of Federal Health Professionals) <http://bit.ly/2tDyH35>

- [VA, DOD launch tele-ICU at 5 medical centers](#)
- [The Army's surgeon general on empathy and leadership](#)
- [VA to use ICER reports in drug-price negotiations](#)
- [Ind. health commissioner nominated to be surgeon general](#)
- [Study of VA records ties PPI use to higher mortality risk](#)

Department of Defense (DoD)

- [Prevent TBIs this summer and beyond](#)
- [AFTER TBI: SUPPORTING THE MILITARY CHILD](#)
- [PTSD treatment confronts the trauma behind the disorder](#)
- [Special Report: 2017 DoD Warrior Games](#)
- [Moral Injury: A Mechanism of Harm](#)
- [PTSD treatment confronts the trauma behind the disorder](#)
- ***Reminder: Webinar: Prevalence of and Screening for Neuroendocrine Dysfunction Post-Mild TBI, July 13th***
- ***EVENT: 2017 Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) Summit - State of the Science: Advances in the State of the Science and Best Practices, Sept. 19th - 21st***

BLS Data - June 2017 and 2nd Quarter 2017

As with the first Friday of each month, the BLS employment statistics were released today. We have also included the 2nd quarter 2017 statistic report. Attached is our monthly 'cheat sheet' for your use and information. The national unemployment rate for June 2017

increased slightly from 4.3% to 4.4% and the **Veteran unemployment numbers for June 2017 increased from 3.4% to 3.7%.**

Thanks to all of you who are working directly or indirectly, to ensure our Veterans have meaningful employment.

- [BLS Employment Data - June 2017.pdf](#)
- [BLS Employment Data - 2nd Quarter 2017.pdf](#)

V/R

Curtis L. Coy
VA Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity

VA Research

- [Celebrating PVAMC Research](#)
- [VA secretary Shulkin unveils world's most advanced commercial prosthesis](#)

VA Programs

- [Secretary David J. Shulkin's video message regarding the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.](#)
 - [New VA Law Dramatically Speeds Up Hiring of Medical Center and Network Director Positions](#)
- [VA Expands Transparency, Accountability Efforts: Becomes First Agency to Post Information on Adverse Employee Actions, Requires Senior Official Sign-off on all Settlement Actions above \\$5,000](#)
- [VA secretary and Canadian minister of Veterans Affairs forging partnership to address issues faced by both nation's Veterans](#)
- [Veterans Innovation Partnership allows eligible Veterans to serve as foreign affairs officers](#)
- [VA secretary, VSOs: Changing the VA culture together](#)
- [VA partners with state coordinators to better serve women Veterans](#)
- [Archery Coach Helps Fellow Wounded Warriors Adapt to 'New Normal'](#)
- [VA apprenticeship program to train, employ Veterans to assist other Veterans in properly filing for VA benefits](#)
- **[EVENT: Registration now open for 2017 National Women Veterans Summit, August 25-26 in Houston](#)**
- [VA Secretary Formalizes Expansion of Emergency Mental Health Care to Former Service Members With Other-Than-Honorable Discharges](#)
- [VA's partnership with Salvation Army and Community Rebuilders recognized by 'Connecting with Community' awards program](#)
- [VA and Air Force announce Tele-Intensive Care Unit sharing agreement](#)
- [Every day is PTSD Awareness Day for VA center, doctors](#)
- [VA to Expand Caregiver Stipends, But not Soon](#)
- [Veterans Matter Program and VA Announce Milestone of Helping 1,500 Homeless Veterans Secure Stable Housing](#)

VA Facilities

- [Bay Pines VAHCS Town Hall Meeting, Topic: Suicide Prevention, July 12th](#)
- [Roudebush VA Medical Center Veteran Town Hall, July 12th](#)
- [Philadelphia VAMC Town Hall at Burlington Outpatient Clinic, July 12th](#)
- [Southern Nevada HCS Veterans Hiring Fair and Veterans Town Hall, July 13th](#)
- [Cleveland VAMC Nursing Assistant Job Fair, July 17th](#)
- [Marion VAMC Town Hall, July 19th](#)
- [Maryland VAHCS Town Hall & Open House, July 20th](#)
- [Shreveport VA Holds Job Fair for Nurses, July 21st](#)
- [Greater Los Angeles VAHCS Town Hall, July 26th](#)

- [Celebrating PVAMC Research](#)
- [Richmond VAMC researcher to join Royal College of Physicians](#)

VA OIG Reports

- [OIG Monthly Highlights](#)
- [Healthcare Inspection Dermatology Clinic Staffing and Other Concerns \(2012-2014\)](#)
- [Healthcare Inspection – Alleged Unreported Surgical Incidents and Deaths, VA Caribbean Healthcare System, San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)
- [Review of Alleged Mismanagement of VHA's Patient Transportation Service Contract for the Jesse Brown VAMC in Chicago, IL](#)
- [VA OIG Administrative Investigation Advisory – Alleged Misuse of Government-Owned Vehicle, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, Washington, DC \(17-01079-274\)](#)
- [Owner Of Computer School Admits \\$2.8 Million Veterans' Retraining Assistance Program Education Fraud](#)
- [Healthcare Inspection – Non-VA Colonoscopy Follow-Up Concerns, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, New Orleans, Louisiana](#)

Additional resources from my blog

LIST OF VA TOWN HALLS & OTHER MEETINGS NATIONWIDE: <http://bit.ly/1Gg1DN6>

OHIO

Fisher House to build 2 homes for veterans and families near Cleveland VAMC

<http://bit.ly/2sGJsV6>

CLEVELAND, OH (WOIO) - Fisher House Foundation to build two homes in Northeast Ohio. The VA will begin working with the [Fisher House Foundation](#) to construct not one, but two Fisher Homes in Northeast Ohio.

The Fisher House Foundation is known for their network of comfort homes built near the grounds of major military medical centers. The home provides a place for veterans' families to stay while their loved ones receive treatment.

Located adjacent to the grounds of The Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in University Circle, the homes will have twelve to fourteen suites and accommodate up to 50 family members.

The construction of the homes was made possible by a land transfer from the Cuyahoga Land Bank, as well as over \$3 million in donations from the Northeast Ohio community over the last four years.

AMVETS Department of Ohio Service Foundation will gift \$5,000 to the Veterans

Treatment Court Video Project at Ohio University <http://bit.ly/2tEpl7g>

Dr. Ursula Castellano, Associate Professor of Sociology, Producer and Project Manager of the Veterans Treatment Court Video Project, Ohio University's Center for Law, Justice & Culture announced this week that AMVETS Department of Ohio Service Foundation will gift \$5,000 to the project.

Dr. Castellano also announced that the project has produced two videos and has posted them online. (Follow the links below to view the videos:

- **Effective Weaponry** at <https://vimeo.com/223180344>
- **Back to the Light** at <https://vimeo.com/222273659>

Castellano was awarded a [grant from the Ohio State Bar Foundation](#) for the project. This project has also been generously supported by the Ohio University [Sociology & Anthropology Department](#), the [College of Arts & Sciences](#), the [Center for Law, Justice & Culture](#), and the Office of Sponsored Research.

EVENT: Cleveland VAMC Nursing Assistant Job Fair, July 17th

The Cleveland VAMC will be hiring nursing assistants for their spinal cord unit at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA on July 17th

EVENT: The 2017 Ohio Women Veterans Conference, Columbus, August 12th

<http://bit.ly/2pwg7uE>

[Register now!](#)

Don't miss the Ohio Women Veterans Conference, one of the largest gatherings of women veterans in the nation. This year's conference is August 12, 2017 from 10 am-4pm at The Ohio State University Union in Columbus, Ohio.

Meet your sisters in military service of all eras from WWII to present day Iraq and Afghanistan.

Network with fellow veterans — Ohio is home to 67,000 women veterans — and learn about the benefits, resources and opportunities you have earned with your military service. You will find information about Ohio's new fast track to jobs and education for veterans, services available locally through 88 County Veterans Service Offices, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will share information on its Women Veterans programs and benefits.

More importantly, you will be empowered by Ohio women veterans' strength in numbers. We look forward to seeing you in August!

National Juvenile Justice Network Honors Leaders in Louisiana, Ohio

<http://bit.ly/2sU9HXZ>

The National Juvenile Justice Network has announced its two annual awards.

. . . Amber Evans of Columbus, Ohio won the Emerging Leader Award. She started working for the **Juvenile Justice Coalition** of Ohio in October 2015 as a part-time employee and transitioned to full-time in January 2017 as their policy and community engagement director.

Her nomination praises her for an "inside/outside" strategy that blends traditional organizing and policy spaces. She has also led direct actions on racial justice issues with the **People's Justice Project**.

Additional resources from my blog

- **OPERATION LEGAL HELP OHIO** <http://bit.ly/1Gg0HbK>
- **RESOURCES FOR VETERANS** <http://bit.ly/1Gg21LH>
- **OHIO JOBS FOR VETERANS** <http://bit.ly/1CL3Ay0>
- **RESURRECTING LIVES FOUNDATION** <http://bit.ly/1R9toOV>
- **EVENTS FOR OHIO VETERANS** <http://bit.ly/1Tx7tix>
- **EVENTS FOR LAWYERS & OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR OHIO VETERANS**
<http://bit.ly/2fQHYN7>
- **RESOURCES FOR OHIO VETERANS** <http://bit.ly/2fQNEqI>

STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

Editor's Note: Closely associated with Veterans Treatment Courts and other specialty docket courts dealing with mental illness is the new [STEPPING UP INITIATIVE](#). Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in Jails.

Stepping Up and similar initiatives are an important evolution in the treatment of veterans and others incarcerated with mental illness.

Supreme Court of Ohio Justice Evelyn Lundeberg Stratton (Retired) is the Director of Stepping Up Ohio. We have decided to create this new section of Retired Justice Stratton's News Clips, rather than bury the stories somewhere else.

We particularly wish to thank **County Court Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren in The Criminal Division of the 17th Judicial Circuit, Broward County of Florida**, a Pioneer and Creator of America's first mental health court dedicated to the decriminalization of people with mental illness, for sending us news articles to share with you.

Stepping Up Summit at NACo's Annual Conference Columbus, OH July 21st-24th, 2017
<http://bit.ly/2s4OB90>

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is the only meeting that draws a cross section of elected officials and county staff from across the country.

Attendees from rural and urban counties, large and small budgets and staff – all come together for four days of education, networking and sessions aimed to help improve residents' lives and the efficiency of county government.



The National Association of Counties (NACo), the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Foundation have come together to lead a national initiative to help advance counties' efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails.

With support from the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance and other sponsors, the initiative will build on the many innovative and proven practices being implemented across the country.

[Stepping Up Summit Part One: Identifying People with Mental Illnesses in Your Jail July 23rd](#)

More than 350 counties have passed a resolution to join [Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails](#). To support counties in their efforts, NACo is hosting a two-part Stepping Up Summit to provide counties with the tools and resources they need to further their initiatives.

Part One will focus on providing an overview of strategies counties are using to identify people with mental illnesses in their jails and how they are using this information to inform policies, practices and funding allocations. All counties are welcome to attend the summit.

[Stepping Up Summit Part Two: Implementing Policies and Programs to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Your Jail July 23rd](#)

More than 350 counties have passed a resolution to join [Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails](#).

To support counties in their efforts, NACo is hosting a two-part Stepping Up Summit to provide counties with the tools and resources they need to further their initiatives.

Part Two will highlight policies, practices and programs that counties have implemented along four key measures: the number of people with mental illnesses booked into their jail, the length of stay of people with mental illnesses, connections to treatment and recidivism. All counties are welcome to attend the summit.

BJS: Research: Indicators Of Mental Health Problems Reported By Prisoners And Jail Inmates, 2011-2012 <http://bit.ly/2tDlpDr>

Presents prevalence estimates of mental health indicators among state and federal prisoners and jail inmates by different time periods, demographics, criminal justice history, most serious offense, mental health treatment received while incarcerated, and rule

violations. Indicators were defined as serious psychological distress (SPD) in the 30 days prior to the interview or having a history of a mental health problem. Data are from BJS's 2011-2012 National Inmate Survey. Comparisons to the general population are based on data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, conducted in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Highlights:

- More jail inmates (26%) than prisoners (14%) met the threshold for serious psychological distress (SPD) in the past 30 days.
- Among those who had ever been told they had a mental disorder, the largest percentage of prisoners (24%) and jail inmates (31%) reported they had a major depressive disorder.
- More prisoners (14%) and jail inmates (26%) met the threshold for SPD in the past 30 days than the standardized general population (5%).
- Prescription medication was the most common treatment type for prisoners and jail inmates who met the threshold for SPD in the past 30 days.
- Fourteen percent of prisoners and 10% of jail inmates who met the threshold for SPD in the past 30 days were written up or charged with assault.

DOJ Research: Majority of U.S. Inmates Don't Get Mental-Health Treatment, Study Finds
<http://thebea.st/2tEprvp>

People in jail and prison are 5 times more likely to have a mental-health problem than the general population, the Justice Department reports.

Most aren't getting what they need.

Only one-third of inmates in the U.S. with mental-health problems receive treatment, according to a new Department of Justice report released Thursday. In federal prisons, about half of those who need treatment get it, DOJ found.

Inmates are five times as likely to have a mental-health problem than the general U.S. population.

The report, by Jennifer Bronson and Marcus Berzofsky, found most prisoners and jail inmates with a mental-health problem have at some point received treatment in their lives. Overall, more jail inmates have a current mental health problem than federal prisoners.

A higher percentage of women meet one or both of the criteria: 20 percent of female federal prisoners 32 percent of female jail inmates. Whites were found to have reported a mental health problem more often than black and Hispanic inmates and prisoners.

CA: San Francisco Mayor Lee proposes \$27M package of diversion programs to help reduce jail population
<http://bit.ly/2tDWKyY>

San Francisco leaders are attempting to further reduce recidivism in a city already replete with programs targeting people who repeatedly cycle in and out of jail and the criminal justice system.

The effort adds on to existing programs that are meant to help stop the cycle of poverty, drug abuse and generational incarceration that plagues many of the people stuck in San Francisco's criminal justice system.

The latest plan to slow recidivism comes in the form of a \$27 million budget proposal, which has been public for weeks, but was touted Thursday by Mayor Ed Lee as a new package of funds for diversion.

The not-yet-passed budget proposal would also be aimed at improving services for people with drug abuse issues and mental health problems.

GA: Dougherty County mental health court to expand <http://bit.ly/2sUJ7hG>

DOUGHERTY CO., GA (WALB) - Dougherty County's nationally recognized mental health court is expanding to offer a service to help non-violent, first offenders stay on track.

Dougherty Superior Court Judge Steve Goss requested close to \$24,000 to pay for two part-time positions for the circuit's mental health and substance abuse program.

Goss said the program has resulted in lowered recidivism and fewer people in the jails.

The two POST certified deputies will provide random check-ins for first offenders who are not on state probation, providing a level of supervision the county has never had before.

"Because of that, they are not on state probation, hence, we don't have the capacity to supervise them with probation officers like many of our participants are.

So this would just add a level of supervision and accountability in the community with law enforcement," said Goss.

The money will come from the Drug Abuse Treatment and Education state fund given to the county for specific services like counseling.

GA: Grants to Cobb courts total \$1.32 million <http://on-ajc.com/2sUzqQI>

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners recently accepted grants by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council totaling almost \$1.32 million to fund programs through June 30, 2018:

- \$201,278 for the Mental Health Court, supporting the coordinator and judicial program coordinator positions with a local match of \$22,364 required.

OH: Mercer County Leaders seek ways to help residents with mental illness

<http://bit.ly/2sGTFR8>

CELINA – Leaders from throughout Mercer County met Thursday to determine how to help residents with mental illness issues.

The meeting was on a two-day Stepping Up Initiative conference on Sequential Intercept Mapping aimed at keeping people from slipping through the cracks of the legal system and anticipating what services such people might need.

VT: responders first in U.S. to gain workers' comp for mental health - *The historic legislation could pave the way for responders all over the country* <http://bit.ly/2sDIPHQ>

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Vermont responders will now be the first state in the U.S. to receive workers' compensation for mental health issues.

[VTDigger](#) reported that the Professional Firefighters of Vermont and the Vermont Troopers Association said the extreme conditions in which they work take a toll on not only the body, but the mind as well.

Our members will be able to access treatment that will keep our firefighters and paramedics on the street, and keep them healthy so they can continue to provide the essential emergency services Vermonters call for every day," Professional Firefighters of Vermont president Bradley Reed said.

The bill overturns a Vermont Supreme Court ruling that prohibits responders from receiving workers' compensation for mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Prior to the bill, workers' compensation was only allowed for mental health if it was related to a physical injury.

CSG Justice Center Newsletter: Collaborative Approaches to Public Safety

<http://bit.ly/2sUmxWj>

Lists of publications, resources, and recent news items including this two highlighted stories:

- [Stepping Up Celebrates Two Years of Efforts to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails](#)
- [North Dakota Judge Supports Shift in Treatment for the State's Criminal Justice Population](#)

A Message from the Chair and Vice Chair of the CSG Justice Center

<http://bit.ly/2sGWTnK>

As you may know, Michael D. Thompson, the director of The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, informed the leadership of the CSG Justice Center's board and David Adkins, CEO of the Council of State Governments, that he would be leaving the organization at the end of June to join The Pew Charitable Trusts.

As state leaders in the corrections and behavioral health fields, we have a deep appreciation for the remarkable things that Mike (pictured right) has accomplished over the last 20 years: building an organization that has helped states across the country become more data-driven in their efforts to improve criminal justice policies and practices through justice reinvestment and to promote what works to reduce recidivism; bringing together different systems—such as the criminal justice and behavioral health systems—to tackle shared challenges; and advancing cutting edge research that informs critical policy discussions, such as in the area of school discipline.

What we are most eager to communicate to you now is Mike's biggest accomplishment: the team of people who *are* the CSG Justice Center. This organization is uniquely good at what it does—providing practical, nonpartisan, research-driven strategies and tools to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

There are two reasons in particular for this. First, the board that shapes and guides the work of the CSG Justice Center is an extraordinary bipartisan cross-section of policymakers in the U.S. who are deeply invested in the success of the CSG Justice Center. Second, the diverse and committed staff represent a level of expertise, experience, and political acumen that is nothing short of exceptional.

We are very pleased that Suzanne Brown-McBride, the organization's deputy director, has agreed, at the request of the board's executive committee, to serve as the acting director following Mike's departure at the end of June.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

ABA: New online tool helps veterans identify legal issues and take action to resolve them <http://bit.ly/2sH6FWY>

WASHINGTON, June 28, 2017 — The American Bar Association, ARAG® legal insurance and CuroLegal today announced the launch of a new online tool, [Legal Checkup for Veterans](#). The free web-based application helps veterans identify legal needs in their lives – and provides them with straightforward suggestions and resources to help resolve their legal issues.

The online tool is part of a signature initiative by ABA President Linda Klein to improve legal services for veterans, and will complement other resources being developed by the ABA [Veterans Legal Services Commission](#).

“Legal Checkup for Veterans is a much-needed tool that offers a necessary first step in solving this important group’s access to justice issues,” Klein said. “It provides veterans with free and fast help in identifying their legal needs and clear paths to resolution.”

An easy-to-navigate online questionnaire walks veterans through various questions about their lives and offers them “take action” options based on their individual circumstances. It also provides veterans with useful advice about what they can expect when reaching out to resources for resolution – including documents they will need to resolve their problem and sample questions they should be prepared to ask.

CuroLegal, a legal technology company, designed and developed the application with the support of a cross-departmental team from ARAG® legal insurance, as well as a number of subject-matter expert volunteers.

PLI: EVENT: Webcast/San Francisco, CA: A Guide to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for Advocates: How to Effectively Address PTSD in Matters Involving Veterans and Others Affected by Trauma (Free), July 19th

What You Will Learn

Led by a faculty that includes a VA psychologist with extensive clinical expertise in PTSD and lawyers specializing in mental health-related advocacy, this training will provide:

- An understanding of how trauma and PTSD affect the brain;
- A description of PTSD symptoms and how they affect people in their day-to-day lives;
- Discussion of how PTSD symptoms can be relevant in legal proceedings;
- Guidance for developing relevant information and evidence about PTSD;
- Insight into mental health reports, evaluations, and other clinical evidence; and
- Strategies for working effectively with mental health professionals to develop and present information about PTSD that supports advocacy for those affected by trauma.

MCCS Forward (Marine Corps Community Services): Veterans Justice Outreach, Re-entry Programs, and Veterans Treatment Court <http://bit.ly/2sHhV5H>

Once a Marine, Always a Marine: everyone knows a Veteran. What if that Veteran is in legal trouble? Do you know who to contact if they need assistance or which resources are available to them? We’ve gathered a few useful programs for Veterans that may be struggling with legal issues, incarceration, and re-entry.

Veterans with police involvement, criminal charges, or incarceration often have difficulty navigating the traditional justice system and obtaining positive outcomes. The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs has programs that partner with the justice system to improve outcomes for those Veterans and their communities.

- Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program
- Health Care for Re-entry Veterans and Resources (HCRV)
- Veterans Treatment Court

. . . Still searching for more in-depth assistance with Veterans Court? Contact your installation’s [Information, Referral, and Relocation](#), and [Marine For Life Network](#).

IL: Vets court graduates two more <http://bit.ly/2sUvtev>

Hopkins and Denby are the 12th and 13th graduates of the program that began in 2013, according to Michael Roof, the court's coordinator and superintendent of Veterans Assistance Commission for Kankakee County.

Currently, there are six veterans in the program with two more under consideration, Roof said.

... Lisa Rogers, the program's first woman graduate, put it this way: "Recovery is a lifelong marathon."

MT: Tester announces resources to help Montana veterans recover from addiction - Senator Announces \$325,000 for Great Falls Veterans Court <http://bit.ly/2tDO0st>

BIG SANDY — U.S. Senator Jon Tester today announced \$325,000 to expand the Veterans Treatment Courts in Great Falls and enhance services for its participants. Veterans Treatment Courts provide an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for former service members struggling with addiction, helping them address the underlying causes of their addiction and putting them on a path to recovery instead.

"Our service men and women risk everything to protect the people of this country and often endure mental and physical trauma as a result," Tester said. "We owe our veterans a chance at redemption and recovery, and that's exactly what Veterans Treatment Courts do. These courts have a proven track record of making a real difference in the lives of many men and women who served."

The funding comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and will go towards expanding the capacity of the Great Falls Veterans Treatment Court to provide even more veterans with recovery support and care.

Established in November of 2013 by Great Falls District Judge Gregory Pinski, the Great Falls Veterans Treatment Court requires participants to attend hundreds of meetings and treatments sessions with legal and health professionals over an 18 month period.

The program celebrated its first graduating class in March of 2015. Nationally, studies show that 75 percent of veterans successfully complete the program and among those successful graduates, 70 percent do not reoffend over the next two years.

NH: Gov. Sununu Signs Veterans Court Bill into Law <http://bit.ly/2sGDNOF>

Governor Chris Sununu has signed legislation to establish uniform guidelines for the state's veterans courts.

Veterans courts give some vets grappling with mental health or drug use problems a chance to solve them without going to jail. These courts already exist in Nashua, Manchester, and the Upper Valley.

The law spells out ten key components for them. Those components include monitoring of veterans in the program and the integration of alcohol, drug, and mental health services.

Under the legislation, veterans who complete the treatment programs spelled out by the court can, after at least one year, petition for the annulment of the charges or conviction that put them in the court.

The law takes effect in 2018.

NY: EVENT: Women Veterans' Rights Legal Stand Down, NYC, July 24th
<http://bit.ly/2tDTofk>

NY Legal Assistance Group offers an informational presentation called "**Women Veterans' Rights**" on July 24, 11am.

NY: New Traffic Court Tries to Keep Veterans on the Road of Return (NYT Feature Story) <http://nyti.ms/2tDnQpL>

. . . Last year, a survey released by the United States [Department of Veteran Affairs](#) found that, among former service members who were homeless or at risk, help restoring driver's licenses and resolving outstanding warrants and fines ranked as one of the highest unmet needs.

Suffolk County has the largest veteran population in New York State and one of the largest in the country. At the Touro Law Center Veterans' and Servicemembers' Rights Clinic on Long Island, veterans were often looking for help with traffic citations they could not afford to pay, said Ken Rosenblum, the clinic's retired director. One veteran, he said, had \$9,000 in unpaid fines.

For a struggling veteran, losing the ability to drive legally had the potential to snowball into a devastating chain of events. "It's a one-way ticket to homelessness," Mr. Rosenblum said. "If you don't have a driver's license on Long Island, you can't get to work. You can't get to medical treatment."

. . . Veterans advocates on Long Island encouraged officials here to create a court program exclusively handling the traffic cases of former service members after finding that Mr. Rodriguez's situation was far from unique, and reflected a widespread problem among former service members.

. . . Steve Bellone, the Suffolk County executive, who served in the United States Army, said the traffic court for veterans shows the county's responsibility "to make sure when they return home, we're doing everything we can to assist their transition back to civilian life."

Advocates praised the program as "forward thinking," stepping in to provide help before a problem spirals further downward.

UK: Police force will offer veterans help <http://bbc.in/2tDQdUK>

A new service aimed at reducing the number of crimes committed by veterans has been launched by Thames Valley Police.

It will see anyone with armed forces links who comes into contact with officers through welfare or criminal incidents given access to support.

A government report in 2014 estimated 3-7% of prisoners in England and Wales had military backgrounds.

Thames Valley will be working alongside military charity SSAFA.

A police spokesperson said other forces will also adopt the service in future.

Both **Nottingham Police** and **Kent Police** have piloted similar projects but Thames Valley said its scheme will have the first "established referral mechanism".

Julie McCarthy from SSAFA said she hoped the project would help with the rehabilitation of veterans and lower re-offending rates.

PC Anthony Colton, from Thames Valley Police, said the project was about providing "better support" for the armed forces community.

Additional resources from my blog

1. LIST OF NATIONAL AND STATE LEGAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

<http://bit.ly/19DC5zu>

2. U.S. VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS LOCATIONS <http://bit.ly/1Lf1VX5>

PTS/TBI/MST

An Innovative Program Uses Cartooning as a Tool to Help Struggling Veterans

<http://bit.ly/2sGFYlw>

An innovative program embraces cartooning as a tool to help veterans heal from the wounds of war.

A partnership between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction, Vermont and the nearby Center for Cartoon Studies encourage veterans to communicate, comic book-style, in periodic classes and multi-day seminars.

Cohen Veterans Bioscience Newsletter, The Arrow – June 2017 <http://bit.ly/2sGUA49>

- [Summary of the Psychiatric Genomic Consortium Workshop](#)
 - [Read the highlights of the workshop at CohenVeteransBioscience.org.](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) - Cohen Veterans Bioscience is Chairing the Wearables and Mobile Health Workshop](#)
- Department of Defense (DOD) State of the Science Summit
- **EVENT Webinar: Animal Modeling 102 – Frameworks and Case Studies for Translational Model Systems of PTSD, Wednesday, July 19, 2017**
- [Get to Know Our Team: Retsina Meyer, PhD](#)

Research: Study to test electromagnetic pulses to brain to treat PTSD (Subscription)

<http://bit.ly/2tDqLin>

Consortium to Alleviate PTSD to study whether [#PTSD](#) can be treated with electromagnetic pulses or TMS to the brain

EVENT: BWJP Webinar: New Research on Women Veterans and Intimate Partner Violence (Jul 27th, 1-2:30PM Central) <http://bit.ly/2tDryQ5>

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is associated with a wide-range of health and social impacts, especially for women. Women veterans may be at increased risk of experiencing IPV and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities are now routinely screening female patients for IPV experience.

This webinar will present findings from the first examination of VHA IPV screening results of nearly 9,000 female patients.

Associations with demographic and military service characteristics, mental health diagnoses, housing instability, and healthcare service utilization hold implications for understanding the scope of IPV clinical screening disclosure, risk factors associated with IPV experience, and need and opportunity for clinical intervention.

Mental health, wounded warrior caregivers <http://bit.ly/2tDRFqi>

Editor's Note: The article was written for The Washington Times by Emery A. Popoloski, an alumni of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Military Caregiver Fellowship and the Fellows Program Coordinator for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and herself a military caregiver.

Caring for a wounded warrior takes an emotional toll on their caregivers.

RAND's "Hidden Heroes: America's Military Caregivers' Report" reported on the statistical data of mental illness among military caregivers. However, there is no report which

specifically focuses on the darker side of military caregiving — suicidal thoughts, self-harm and in the worst cases, suicide itself.

According to RAND, 38 percent of post-9/11 military caregivers, and 19 percent of pre-9/11 military caregivers have Major [Depressive Disorder](#) (MDD). Many of the post-9/11 caregivers who suffer from MDD are female, younger, of lower-education and income levels, and usually have at least one minor child.

I've seen this depression on the faces of my military caregiver friends, and I have felt it. When the service member or veteran is in need of medical care, the caregiver ignores their own well-being — sometimes depression, sometimes to the brink of death and sometimes martyrdom.

How can a military caregiver slip into depression? From what I've witnessed, it does not happen overnight, instead it is a slow buildup of multiple factors from geographic location to lack of community support.

Additional resources from my blog

- **RESURRECTING LIVES FOUNDATION** <http://bit.ly/1R9toOV>
- **EVENTS FOR VETERANS & VETERAN SERVICE PROVIDERS** <http://bit.ly/1Gq1nOi>

SUICIDE

Research study suggests possible ties between low cholesterol levels and suicide risk in Vets <http://bit.ly/2sGwyqd>

. . . Reuter's [database study](#), published in April 2017 in *Research in Nursing & Health*, finds that Veterans with total cholesterol levels below 168 mg/dl (milligrams per decileter) appear to be at higher suicide risk than those with higher levels. That figure is approximately 25 to 30 mg/dl lower than what cardiology groups consider a desirable cholesterol level for adults. High cholesterol levels may put one at risk for heart disease, heart attack, or stroke.

In addition, according to the study, cholesterol levels in Veterans reporting suicide ideation, or thoughts of committing suicide, and suicide attempts were much lower than the group reporting neither. Plus, there was a notable increase in suicidality with as little as a 20 percent reduction in a Veteran's normal cholesterol level.

SPRC: The Weekly Spark <http://bit.ly/29EvMvH>

- [Looking Past the Complexity](#)
- [Burden of Physical Health Conditions Linked to Increased Risk of Suicide](#)
- [TENNESSEE: TN Suicide Prevention Network Celebrates Passage of Tullis Act of 2017](#)
- [CANADA: House of Commons Report on Indigenous Suicide Issues 28 Recommendations](#)
- [HHS Announces a \\$4.9 Million Grant to Reduce Suicides on College and University Campuses](#)
- [Deciphering Suicide and Other Manners of Death Associated with Drug Intoxication: A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Consultation Meeting Summary](#)
- [Trends in Injury Deaths in the United States, Canada, and Australia from 2000 to 2014](#)

ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH NEWS IS POSTED IN THE SECTIONS BELOW.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Atlantic Cape Community College: Veterans Lounge Opens at Atlantic Cape's Local Campus <http://bit.ly/2tE7mO2>

COURT HOUSE – As part of its efforts to better serve area veterans, Atlantic Cape Community College has opened a new lounge and will offer TeleHealth services at the Cape May County Campus, 341 Court House-South Dennis Road, Court House.

The veterans lounge will serve as a meeting place for current Atlantic Cape veteran students to convene, relax and get to know one another. In the lounge, there are couches, a computer and internet access, relevant veteran community resources and television, according to a release.

The veterans lounge at the Cape May County Campus is the first of the college's three lounges. Spaces are identified for similar lounges at the Atlantic City Campus and in the Student Center under construction at the Mays Landing Campus.

The college will also provide veterans with the ability to connect to health providers to address any health-related matters virtually through TeleHealth in the future.

University of Southern California (USC) Research: The possible long-term complications of traumatic brain injury <http://bit.ly/2sGPTHN>

USC researcher uses sophisticated techniques to understand the effects of such injuries among older adults

After a traumatic brain injury, when do the first indications of possible long-term complications — including dementia — appear and is it possible to stave them off?

A five-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke totaling more than \$1.5 million will support one facet of brain injury research through 2021. The project will examine the effects and prognoses of small bleeds, or microhemorrhages, in the brain following traumatic brain injury in older adults.

"We want to understand whether these microhemorrhages are benign or whether they can cause serious problems for patients down the line," said Andrei Irimia, an assistant professor at the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology who uses sophisticated neuroimaging techniques to understand the effects of brain injuries and improve the quality of life of sufferers, especially older adults.

Only 2 percent of R01 grants go to researchers under the age of 35. Irimia said the grant reflects not only the increase in attention paid to the topic of brain injury itself but also the National Institute of Health's interest in supporting precision medicine research; traumatic brain injury is a challenge that demands a personalized approach, he noted.

"No two TBIs are the same — they vary from patient to patient," he said. "It's difficult to study at the population level."

Stetson University: Stetson Veterans Law Institute Director Tapped for Federal Judgeship <http://bit.ly/2tEo7bW>

Stetson University College of Law Veterans Law Institute director and Professor of Law Michael P. Allen has been selected by President Trump for a federal judgeship on the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims based in Washington, D.C.

Professor Allen is a renowned expert on the law of veterans' benefits, and has testified before Congress and written widely on veterans' benefits issues.

Congress created the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in 1988 to hear appeals from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

GENERAL NEWS

Allstate looks to hire veterans in the *northwest*, offers \$10,000 award for referrals
<http://bit.ly/2sGKwbn>

Allstate Insurance Company has announced its intent to boost its sales force in Washington state and Oregon by hiring military veterans – and will award \$10,000 for a referral.

In order to recruit more former active-duty and retired military agency owners, Allstate is offering the cash award to any member of the general public who refers an eligible candidate, according to a news release, which is payable after the candidate has been hired.

New York Passes Veterans Legislation

- [**Passage of Bill Protecting Veterans and Military from Discrimination in NYC.**](#)
The New York State Legislature has passed a bill that was supported by the State Council of Veterans Organizations to add PTSD to the state's list of conditions eligible for treatment using medical marijuana. Governor Cuomo's office is reviewing the legislation; it is unclear what his action will be.
- [**Passage of Bill Allowing Marijuana as Treatment for PTSD**](#)
The NY State Legislature has passed a bill that was supported by the State Council of Veterans Organizations to add PTSD to the state's list of conditions eligible for treatment using medical marijuana. Governor Cuomo's office is reviewing the legislation; it is unclear what his action will be.

Veterans aim to build *first Fisher House in Michigan* to house military families

<http://bit.ly/2tEbJJb>

. . . Years later, she's ready to give back.

In February, Melcher joined a three year long process to bring Michigan its first Fisher House.

"Just because I took the uniform off, it in no way means my service is done," said Melcher, now executive director of Fisher House Michigan.

"Fisher House Michigan is a way for me to continue my service, since I was never able to fight side by side with my brothers and sisters."

Melcher is working to raise \$300,000 in a Memorial Day Match campaign.

The group already has raised \$189,000 so far,

Additional resources from my blog

- **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS** <http://bit.ly/1Gg21LH>
- **EVENTS FOR VETERANS & VETERANS SERVICE PROVIDERS** <http://bit.ly/1Gg1nOi>
- **VETERANS JOB LISTINGS AND HIRING FAIRS WEBSITES** <http://bit.ly/19Dz2ay>
NEWSLETTERS & BLOG FOR VETERANS <http://bit.ly/1GQzKjf>

"VETERANS IN JUSTICE"

LinkedIn Professional Group (VIJ)

Please join us on LinkedIn or Facebook for networking and discussions on the issues regarding veterans in the criminal justice system. This group's mission is to connect professionals and advocates who work with and for justice-involved veterans and to share ideas and practices for

assisting those veterans -- from the conditions that lead to justice involvement, through initial police contact, arrest, criminal case processing, conviction, sentencing, incarceration, and release. Access our group at <http://linkd.in/1947vfS> Facebook: www.facebook.com/veteransinjustice

Join The National Discussion - 1,344 Professionals in VIJ Group

Active Topics

- [Webinar: New Research on Women Veterans and Intimate Partner Violence \(Jul 27, 1-2:30PM Central\)](#)
- [New online tool helps veterans identify legal issues and take action to resolve them](#)
- [Webcast -- A Guide to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) for Advocates: How to Effectively Address PTSD in Matters Involving Veterans and Others Affected by Trauma \(9:00-12:30 Pacific, Jul 19th\)](#)
- [California bill would allow troops and vets to avoid conviction on DUI offenses](#)
- [Pain Management and Opioid Use with Veterans and Service Members](#)
- [PTSD/TBI and Discharges](#)
- [Sexual Assaults in Military Drop, Reporting Goes Up, Annual Report Reveals](#)
- [ADDRESSING THE FLOW OF VETERANS INTO PRISON](#)

LINKEDIN GROUPS

[Military and Veteran Benefit Forum](#)

Veteran Mentor Network <http://linkd.in/1fOlqOt> 28,933 members

Institute for Veteran Cultural Studies <http://linkd.in/1cz3gq1>

NAMI <http://linkd.in/1cz3Gg7>

BI-IFEA (Brain injury-Ideas for Education & Advocacy) <http://linkd.in/1cz4e5V>

Military-Civilian: Hot Jobs and Careers for Veterans and Their Families <http://linkd.in/1c59DkM>

VETERANS IN JUSTICE GROUP <http://linkd.in/12APdMS>

Cuyahoga County Ohio Veterans and Supporters (Bryan A. McGown "Gunny") <http://linkd.in/Zxwx1f>

Veteran Employment Representatives <http://linkd.in/ZxwUcc>

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS POST DEPLOYMENT FOR PROVIDERS, COMBAT VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES <http://bit.ly/1RVPLFI>

Midwest Military Outreach, Inc. <http://linkd.in/1eiMTkJ>

Military Veteran Job Fairs & Hiring Conferences <http://linkd.in/Zxx4jS>

Wounded Warrior Resources <http://linkd.in/17TMNhJ>

The Value of a Veteran <http://linkd.in/15vD7H4>

MILITARY MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS POST DEPLOYMENT FOR PROVIDERS, COMBAT VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES <http://linkd.in/1fkQLA8>

(Please email us other groups that you find and think would be informative and useful for our audience)

VETERANS IN THE COURTS INITIATIVE BLOG

estrattonconsulting.wordpress.com

To focus this newsletter on veterans-related criminal justice and mental illness issues and to shorten it to a more manageable size, we have moved our tables & lists of reference materials and other longer term information to retired Justice Stratton's blog. Please follow the links below for that information.

Operation Legal Help Ohio http://bit.ly/1Gq0HbK	National Legal Assistance http://bit.ly/19DC5zu	VA Town Halls & Events http://bit.ly/1Gq1DN6
Jobs & Hiring Fairs Listings http://bit.ly/19Dz2ay	Events: Conferences, Webinars, etc. http://bit.ly/1Gq1nOi	Additional Resources http://bit.ly/1Gq21LH
Current Newsletter http://bit.ly/19ovER5	2015 Newsletters http://bit.ly/1FKASAC	Ohio Resources For Veterans http://bit.ly/19ouWn0

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- **Marco Bongioanni**, MSE Readjustment Counseling Therapist, U.S. Army Veteran, Bronx Vet Center, Bronx, NY
- **Lily Casura**, journalist, author and founder of Healing Combat Trauma - the award-winning, first website to address the issue of combat veterans and PTSD (established February 2006). *Lily is also a public policy grad student, IWMF grantee and NASW award winner.*
- **U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) Wayne Gatewood**, of Quality Support Inc. Wayne disseminates a daily Veterans News e-mail to an international audience
- **Dr. Ingrid Herrera-Yee**, Project Manager, Military Spouse Mental Health Pipeline, National Military Family Association. Dr. Herrera-Yee is currently a Board Member for the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), Military Spouses of Strength, Military Mental Health Project and the National Guard Suicide and Resiliency Council among others. She has also been a special contributor to NBC News, Military Times, Air Force Times, Military Spouse Magazine and BuzzFeed. She spends her free time mentoring spouses through eMentor and Joining Forces. Dr. Herrera-Yee received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and was a Clinical Fellow at Harvard University.
- **U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) James Hutton**, Dep Assistant Secretary (Acting), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Col. US Army (Ret) - Iraq War Veteran.
- **Justice for Vets**, Justice For Vets is a professional services division of the National Association of Drug Court professionals, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Alexandria, VA. Justice for Vets believes that no veteran or military service member should suffer from gaps in service, or the judicial system when they return to their communities. As the stewards of the Veterans Treatment Court movement
- **Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren**, Pioneer, America's first mental health court dedicated to the decriminalization of people with mental illness
- **Kathy Platoni, Psy.D.**, DAAPM, FAIS, Clinical Psychologist, COL (RET), US Army, COL. Ohio Militia, www.drplatoni.com, Veteran ~ Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, (Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan), Co-Author and Co-Editor, Fort Hood Massacre Survivor, National Combat Trauma Expert
- **Mary Ellen Salzano**, founder/facilitator of the CA Statewide Collaborative for our Military and Families
- **Patrick W. Welch, PhD**, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret), Veterans Advocate & Educator, Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court - Senior Mentor

HOW TO JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER

There are three ways to join my newsletter:

- Join my *Veterans In The Courts* Initiative Google Group at <http://bit.ly/1DZ3esD> or,
- Subscribe to my *Veterans In The Courts Initiative* Blog for immediate news and for my weekly newsletter at <http://bit.ly/1DP1TCi> or,
- Please contact my editor Pete Miller at cruzen@gmail.com and request to be added.

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Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice & Mental Illness

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