

## **Highlights – September 2019**

### ServingTogether Staff Attend Annual AWP Symposium

ServingTogether staff had the pleasure of being invited as an AmericaServes Coordination Center to attend the 6th annual **America Warriors Partnership Warrior Community Integration Symposium** in Atlanta GA. The symposium provided a great opportunity for staff to connect and share best practices with fellow AmericaServes coordination centers from across the United States. The symposium itself was packed full of relevant workshops, general sessions and guest presentations with the overarching theme of Community Integration.

One of the presentations that stood out for our team was by with Eric D. Caine, MD called **"Rethinking Suicide Prevention."** In this presentation, Dr. Caine examined Suicide Prevention as a Public Health issue and the need for coordinated systems of care at the public health level in order to connect veterans with the supports and services needed prior to their needs escalating into potentially suicidal ideations.

As providers and a key part of The ServingTogether Network your organizations are delivering the type of coordinated care and wrap around services in our communities seen as vital by Dr. Caine for a successful model of suicide prevention. Dr. Caine theorized that only through this type of community level intervention will we move the needle on suicide prevention (as opposed to crisis intervention) in America. Click HERE for a look at <u>Full AWP Symposium Agenda</u>.

## **Bringing Toastmasters to Our Local Veterans**

ServingTogether and the Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals have joined forces with Toastmasters International to form a Veteran Focused Toastmasters Club in the National Capital Region.

The special chapter is inviting veterans, wounded warriors, transitioning military personnel and caregivers to experience the Toastmasters program that works to build skills in public speaking, job interview situations and experiencing group settings



build skills in public speaking, job interview situations and experiencing group settings. The program seeks to build self-confidence and maximize potential.

The second demonstration meeting of the Toastmasters Club specifically focused to include Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Transitioning Military, Caregivers and Friends took place at the Steven A Cohen Clinic on Wednesday, September 25th. In order to formally begin a new club, 20 members are needed. The group plans to continue to hold demonstration and interest generating meetings until they reach capacity.

If you or any one you know would like to be a part of this Veteran Focused Toastmasters Club, please attend the upcoming meeting on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals in Silver Spring, MD.

Register Here: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849a8ab2fa2fc1-toastmasters</u>.

In need of assistance? If you are a service member, veteran or family member in need of assistance, please fill out the Get Assistance Form on ServingTogetherProject.org or give us a call at 1-855-738-7176.





## ServingTogether and MCVET are offering our program's first Baltimore Course of

## Mental Health First Aid: Military and Veteran Module

If you a veteran or an individual working with veterans in our community this is the training for you.

Family members and personnel working with military, veterans and families are often not aware of how to engage veterans with mental illnesses and addictions. **Mental Health First Aid** training aims to increase mental health literacy and to decrease stigmatizing attitudes in our communities. Like regular First Aid or CPR, Mental Health First Aid is designed to give people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of specific illnesses.

#### **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, SPACE IS LIMITED.**

bit.ly/MHFANov1

DATE: Friday, November 1, 2019 from 8:30am to 5:00pm

LOCATION: MCVET, 301 N. High Street Baltimore, MD 21202

COST: FREE & refreshments and lunch are provided!

For questions please contact Christy Kenady at ckenady@every-mind.org



#### **Two New Providers Joined the ServingTogether Network in September!**

**ServiceSource** is a leading nonprofit disability resource organization with programs and operations in 12 states and the District of Columbia. The organization serves more than 25,000 individuals with disabilities annually through a range of innovative and valued employment, training, habilitation, housing and other support services **Shelters to Shutters** is a national 501c3 organization that transitions individuals and families out of homelessness to economic selfsufficiency by educating and engaging the real estate industry to provide employment and housing opportunities.

# ServingTogether & Community Partner Collaborative Meetings for October

Community	Date	Time	Location
Frederick County CVEB	October 1, 2019		Mount St Mary's College Frederick Campus 5350 Spectrum Drive, Frederick, MD
Fairfax County Veterans Collaborative	October 1, 2019		Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042
Southern Maryland Veteran Collaborative	October 3, 2019		Charlotte Hall Veterans Home 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board	October 8, 2019	(6:30 pm – VEAC Planning Session)	Loudoun County Government Center 1 Harrison St SE, Leesburg, VA 20175
Prince George's County Collaborative	October 15, 2019		Prince George's County Office of Veteran Affairs 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Rd Suite L-023
Fort Belvoir Collaborative	October 17, 2019		USO Fort Belvoir 5940 9th St, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Frederick Veteran Support Network	October 22 , 2019		Mental Health Assoc. of Frederick 226 S. Jefferson ST Frederick MD



Our next Regional Community of Practice Training event will be announced soon!

### **Military Culture and Moral Injury in Veterans**

Tentatively: Tuesday, November 5

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1 – 4 pm
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Attend virtually from your own computer

More details will be released soon...