



Launching a Community Collaboration to Enhance Mental Health and Support Services for Military Families

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Need

- 1% of adult Americans serve in today's armed forces
- Nationally, Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system serves only half of post-9/11 veterans
- Increasing demand for civilian service providers
- President Obama: Veterans and military families are top priority



Mission

Serving Together: A collaborative partnership to coordinate and strengthen community-based health/mental health, education, employment, and other support services for service members, veterans, and families in Montgomery County MD





Support

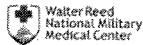
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: 4 year grant
- Montgomery County Government
- 10 National Capital Area Foundations
- Other Local Donors





Montgomery County, MD

- 50,000: Total Veterans
- 8,000: OEF/OIF/OND
- 500: Wounded Warriors
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
- National Intrepid Center of Excellence
- Within 1 hour: Ft. Meade, Ft. Detrick, Andrews Air Force Base, Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore





Goals

- Build community awareness of military family needs
- Coordinate and increase access to services for veterans, service members, and families
- Train behavioral health providers in evidence-based interventions
- Educate military families about mental health issues
- Create user-friendly tools to access local resources, including website and peer navigators
- Evaluate project impact on community and systems change



Advisory Council

- Military installations and National Guard
- Military-serving nonprofits
- Education
- Federal, state and county government
- Business and employers
- Faith communities
- Veterans and family members
- Funders



Evaluation of Year 1

- **Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory:**
<http://wilderresearch.org/tools/cfi/index.php>
 - Purpose
 - Membership
 - Environment
 - Structure/process
 - Communication
 - Resources
- **Interviews with key stakeholders and project staff**



Year 1 Outcomes

- **Advisory Council**
 - Membership
 - Process
 - Communication
 - Resources





Year 1 Outcomes

- Community Awareness
 - 43 Briefings
 - Forums with business and non-profit community
 - School Resource Guide
- Mental Health First Aid Trainings
 - Military families and volunteers
- Behavioral Health Training
 - Substance abuse issues among service members and veterans
- Non-profit military screening project
- Website
 - www.servingtogetherproject.org

Website: www.servingtogetherproject.org



Website



Website





Year 2 Goals

- Peer Navigation System
- Behavioral Health and Primary Care Professionals Needs Assessment
- Circle of Champions Policy Forum





Lessons Learned

- Credible non-profit leadership
- Community-based and data driven
- Outcome-focused
- Wellness-oriented
- Strategic partnerships with range of stakeholders
- Case management programming
- Evaluation

Thank you!

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