

VHWC DISPATCH

April 2026

FOUNDATION

The VHWC brings together parties to build or expand pathways through which Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their care partners optimize health and wellness outcomes.

CONTACT Us

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CORE TEAM UPDATE

The VHWC continues to build momentum in advancing veteran health and well-being across Michigan. April is recognized as Whole Health Month. Therefore, we emphasize the importance of whole-person approaches to care centering on what matters most to veterans.

We remain focused on sharing resources, strengthening cross-sector partnerships, and advancing initiatives aligned with our 2026 priority areas: Housing Insecurity, Oral Health, Suicide Prevention, and Transition.

Please share VHWC updates with your networks and connect colleagues to the resources, events, and information opportunities. Your engagement helps expand the collective impact and strengthens the support available to veterans and their families across the state.

To stay informed, join our [listserv](#). Contact us at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu if you have questions or suggestions for activities.

SPOTLIGHT:

MVAA's Michigan Veterans Leadership Summit '26

Registration is now open for the Michigan Veterans Leadership Summit, taking place May 11-13, 2026, in Grand Rapids. This statewide event brings together veterans, advocates, and partners to engage in meaningful conversations about the programs, policies, and partnerships shaping Michigan's veteran community. The summit creates space for collaboration, shared learning, and connection. [Register here!](#)

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn from leaders and subject matter experts across Michigan
- Engage in discussions on key challenges impacting veterans
- Exchange ideas and innovative practices
- Build relationships with others committed to supporting those who have served

VA Whole Health: Whole Health Month

April is Whole Health Month, a time to focus on what matters most to veterans and how whole-person care supports well-being. The VA's Whole Health approach shifts the focus of care to the individual, emphasizing personal goals, values, and overall well-being rather than focusing on diagnoses. Whole Health empowers veterans to take an active role in their health and the lives they want to lead.

[Research](#) has shown that Whole Health can support veterans in managing chronic conditions such as pain, diabetes, and hypertension, and may also contribute to improvements in tobacco and opioid cessation. Across Michigan, VA medical centers and clinics including facilities in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Battle Creek and Saginaw, offer Whole Health services such as health coaching, group programs, and complementary and integrative health approaches. These resources help veterans identify what matters most to them and build personalized plans to support their health and wellness.

Veterans interested in learning more about Whole Health resources are encouraged to connect with their local VA care team or explore available resources [here](#).

UPDATES: 2026 PRIORITY AREAS

Let our team know about upcoming events and we will share that information through our network. Organizations needing help for their event should also reach out so we can put those requests in front of others who may be in a position to help.

Housing Insecurity: We are working on a webinar encouraging landlords to rent to veterans. If you have content or speaker recommendations, please forward names and email addresses to ihp.vhwc@msu.edu.

Oral Health: We welcome ideas for partnering with current dental and hygiene training programs to help expand access to oral health services for veterans. If you have any contacts or suggestions, please send them our way.

Suicide Prevention: We are looking for opportunities to support suicide prevention trainings and educational offerings across Michigan. Let us know of programs, trainings, or webinars you come across.

Transition: We are seeking input on financial literacy offerings that strengthen housing stability, as well as screeners or tools that can better connect transitioning service members and veterans to resources. Please share programs, contacts, or tools that we should explore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Webinars:

Webinars can be hosted by VHWC for statewide viewing. Email ihp.vhwc@msu.edu to introduce yourself, your idea(s), or make referrals to subject matter experts. Our staff is available to arrange for technical support(s).

Events/Programs:

We are interested in hosting podcasts for more informal and targeted discussions. We would record these for later listening. If you have an interest in hosting or participating with this, reach out to us. Also let us know about your upcoming events for veterans! These are also listed on the [Resources and Events](#) tab of our website to boost engagement.

- Staying Connected: You're Not Alone with Dr. Judy Jacobs- 4/22/26 from 6:30pm-7:30pm @ The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, 48236. This free presentation will explore the impact of isolation and loneliness on physical and mental health, particularly among veterans and others who have experienced trauma. Dr. Judy Jacobs will discuss the importance of connection in building resilience and share practical ways to engage with family, friends, and community. Seats are limited. [Register here!](#)
- Albion VA One-on-One Veteran Assistance Expo- 4/24/26 from 3:00pm-6:00pm @ American Legion Post 55, 1230 Edwards Street, Albion, MI, 49224. Battle Creek VA, MVAA representatives, and Veteran Resource Officers will be on-site to connect with veterans and discuss eligibility, enrollment, claims, [MyHealthVet](#), and federal benefits.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Subscribe at our website and share with your networks.
- Participate with Advisory Council or subcommittee activities.
- Volunteer your expertise: Whether you have ever served in the military, are a health care professional, community leader, or advocate, your input can make a difference.

“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.”

Jeff Miller
