

VHWC DISPATCH

August 2025

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

VHWC
c/o 965 Wilson Road
A522 East Fee Hall
E. Lansing, MI 48824
517-432-4325
ihp.vhwc@msu.edu
<https://vhwc.msu.edu>

WEBSITE NOTIFICATION

Michigan State University transitioned to a new web-hosting platform which has impacted most websites. If you have trouble accessing vhwc.msu.edu, or encounter a “page not found” message when visiting our site, clear your cache and then reload the page. If you continue to have difficulties, please email us at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu.

CORE TEAM UPDATE

The Administrative Core Team is continuing to advance *existing* initiatives aligned with the 2025 priority areas: housing insecurity, oral health, suicide prevention, and transition. Efforts to create new proposals will begin when additional resources have been identified. We always welcome questions, concerns, and suggestions. We are available through email at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu, if you want to speak with someone, you can call Kathleen Oberst at 517-432-9824. If you have not signed up for our list-serve, you can do that [here](#).

We invite you to take advantage of the VHWC network to showcase your organization’s work, interests, and activities. We are happy to promote events shared with us and advertise through our website and email list-serve. Our goal is to ensure these resources and opportunities are disseminated broadly and useful to you and your networks.

We are happy to publicize registration information for a free webinar that supports the *Suicide Prevention* and *Transition* priority areas. Join [PsychArmor](#) and [STEP \(Support The Enlisted Project\)](#) on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, from 1200-1300 ET, for their ***Suicide Prevention & Financial Wellness Training***. This training is “designed to equip professionals with the tools to recognize and respond to suicide risk viewed through the critical lens of financial

wellness and mental health". This session will be hosted by PsychArmor's CEO, Dr. Tina Atherall and STEP Vice President, Kathi Bradshaw. Content will focus on the link between financial challenges and mental health status as well as present supportive strategies. The training is intended for professionals who work with military-connected individuals. The webinar will be a live-stream of an in-person event occurring in California. Additional details and the webinar registration link are available [here](#).

Colleagues at [The War Memorial](#) are hosting two free September events as well. Advance registration is requested:

- **9/11 Service of Remembrance-** Thursday, September 11, 2025, from 0830-0930 EST. A ceremony with moments of silence for lives lost on 9/11/2001. Featured speaker: Ed Zier, former COO of Baseline Financial services, whose offices were on the 77th and 78th floors of the South Tower. [Register here!](#)
- **Vietnam War Commemoration: Flying the P-3 Orion- A Pilot's Story-** Thursday, September 18, 2025, from 1800-1930 EST. Retired Navy Captain Randy Hotton shares his experience piloting the P-3 Orion during Operation Market Time in Vietnam. [Register here!](#)

UPDATES: 2025 PRIORITY AREAS

We expect to share the reflected master workplan shortly. That document will emphasize dissemination of existing programs and opportunities where VHWC can be of service to amplify messaging. We invite everyone to let us know if they have local, regional, or state events they are looking to advertise. If you are looking for specific supports for your events, let us know and we can connect you with others in the network who may be able to help. We remain committed to not asking network partners for monetary contributions to support VHWC related activities while at the same time, we do not have a budget to offer financial support ourselves to sponsor events. Our goal is to emphasize sharing of *time and talents* as schedules allow.

Housing Insecurity: Ideas remaining for exploration include the link of financial literacy and stable housing. Also under consideration are community events to encourage landlord participation with veteran-related housing programs.

Oral Health: Information is being collected regarding dental-related occupation trainings available through the state.

Suicide Prevention: The PsychArmor/STEP training is one opportunity to support the brainstorming idea of financial literacy related to mental health. September is Suicide Prevention Month; we are working on a flyer that partners could personalize and use to promote the Veteran Crisis Line. We continue to obtain more details regarding several death certificate review projects in process to see where the collaborative might contribute.

Transition: We remain interested in a resource having multiple individual modules. We have contacted a VA policy subject matter expert to explore a series of webinars to provide information on existing health-related policies and specific eligibility requirements. This information could also support a transition screener using the VA Whole Health model as the foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Webinars:

Reach out if you have a topic that you would like to present to our members through a webinar. We generally look for one hour of content and record sessions so they are available afterwards. Email us at 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. Occasionally, continuing education credits for health professionals may be available. We are looking for partner organizations who could support a continuing education credit review function. If you have such an organizational skill, please reach out to us at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu.

Events:

Don't hesitate to inform us about your upcoming events! We promote these through the [Resources and Events tab](#) of our website in addition to directed emails and inclusion in our newsletter to boost engagement. Several upcoming events include:

- 2025 Women's Retreat hosted by [Operation Injured Soldiers](#), October 10-12, 2025. This is free. Information is available by contacting Michelle Tomasek at this [email](#).
- 2025 [Veterans Health Conference](#) hosted by the University of Michigan Chronic Pain & Fatigue Research Center and The Publicly Engaged Research Core on Saturday, October 25th, from 0915 to 1500 EST in-person at the University of Michigan Detroit Center and or virtually via Zoom. More details are forthcoming. [Register here!](#)
- American Nurses Association (ANA) is hosting its next webinar on November 5, 2025, from 1200 to 1300 EST as part of its ongoing series supporting providers who work with veterans and military-connected families. Registration details will be available soon. The following pocket-cards have been shared for provider use.
 - [Have You Ever Served?](#) – target audience a veteran patient
 - [Serving on the Homefront](#) – target audience is military-connected individuals (partners, spouses, caregivers)
 - [I Serve 2](#) – target audience is military children

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 served in the military, are a health care professional, community leader, or advocate, your input can make a difference.

“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.”

Abraham Lincoln
