

VHWC DISPATCH

July 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

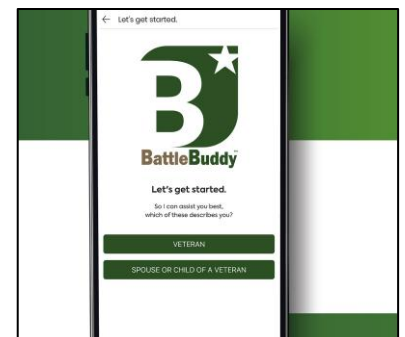
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CORE TEAM UPDATE

We were pleased to host a webinar in support of the Suicide Prevention priority area this month. Dr. Kevin Saulnier, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan presented on *Factors to Improve Identification of Veterans at Risk for Suicide*. The recording of that webinar is being processed and will be available on the website. We have prior webinars [posted](#) and encourage you to share these with your network!

We want to invite our partners to share in the newsletter process. Let us know if you would like to take the opportunity to highlight your organization, work, interests, and activities with the larger community. We welcome the opportunity to forward events shared with us and/or post items on our webpage. We hope these are useful to you and your individual networks.

We are pleased to highlight an upcoming event. Our partners at VETLIFE are hosting [VetFest](#) this Saturday, August 2, 2025, at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. The event runs noon-3:00 pm and is a **free** event for all active duty, retired, or military veteran families. Tickets for eligible individuals are available through the website or on the attached flyer. You may remember VETLIFE from an earlier newsletter where they shared information on their new [Battle Buddy app](#). This app is free from the Apple App Store and Google Play. The goal of the app is to facilitate connections to help veterans optimize their earned benefits. This app is not just for veterans but also formatted so veteran spouses, family members and other caregivers can access resources. This additional access recognizes the



supports these individuals offer in helping veterans obtain benefits. All resources provided through the app have been vetted and screened by the Battle Buddy team. If an organization would like to be considered for inclusion as a resource, you can access the partnership form [here](#) for consideration.

We would appreciate ideas for expanding participation and can be reached at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu with any questions, concerns, and suggestions. If you received this newsletter from someone as a forwarded item, be sure to subscribe to our list serve on the main page of the website. This will add your information to our contact list so you will receive our communications directly. We do not sell the information.

UPDATES: 2025 PRIORITY AREAS

We are reformatting the priority areas to be reflected through one master workplan due to staffing constraints. In that document, we identify proposed activities that are ordered based on their applicability to more than one priority area. Staff continue to collect information and participate in related community events for all four topics to stay informed of activity occurring in each space. We invite the network to let us know if they suggestions for inclusion into local, regional, or state events. We would be particularly grateful to individuals already participating in those spaces to suggest activities where our collaborative could contribute. We remain committed to not asking network partners for monetary contributions to support our activities while at the same time, we do not have a budget to offer financial support ourselves. We appreciate the sharing of *time and talents* as schedules allow.

Housing Insecurity: No new specific activity. We continue to track the idea of a multi-part *transition supports* education series. A suggestion from the brainstorming identified focusing on financial literacy and the relationship to stable housing. Also under consideration are community events to encourage landlord participation with veteran-related housing programs.

Oral Health: We have staff that will attend an oral health workforce meeting this week and have recently shared related events with our network. We look forward to the workforce meeting to provide additional direction and ideas for relevant activities.

Suicide Prevention: We sponsored the webinar this month including availability of continuing education credits in partnership with the MSU College of Nursing. We await more details regarding several death certificate review projects in process to see where the collaborative might contribute.

Transition: No new specific activity. We remain interested in a resource having multiple individual modules as referenced above in the Housing Security section. We expect to use the VA Whole Health model as the foundation for a transition screener to provide a holistic series of content.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Webinars:

We are looking for individuals or teams to present one-hour online sessions. These can be arranged at speaker convenience, and we are particularly interested in having those who operate in the priority areas share their knowledge and experiences. Please 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(s) and work with colleagues approved to obtain continuing education credit where applicable.

Events:

Don't hesitate to inform us about your upcoming events! We will promote these through the [Resources and Events](#) tab of our website and emails to help boost engagement.

- The Michigan Center for Rural Health is launching the [Palliative Care Project ECHO](#) (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) education series. This set of 6 sessions is designed to strengthen provider skills in palliative approaches to care. Free CME and Social Work CEU credits are available.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Subscribe at our website to make sure you receive the latest updates and information and share this content 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.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

John F. Kennedy
