

# VHWC DISPATCH

October 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](mailto:ihp.vhwc@msu.edu)  
<https://vhwc.msu.edu>

## CORE TEAM UPDATE

The Administrative Core Team continues to publicize activities aligned with our 2025 priority areas: Housing Insecurity, Oral Health, Suicide Prevention, and Transition. We invite partners to share these opportunities across networks to maximize reach. Contact us at [ihp.vhwc@msu.edu](mailto:ihp.vhwc@msu.edu) and join the [list-serve](#) to stay current.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Veterans Administration Whole Health Model

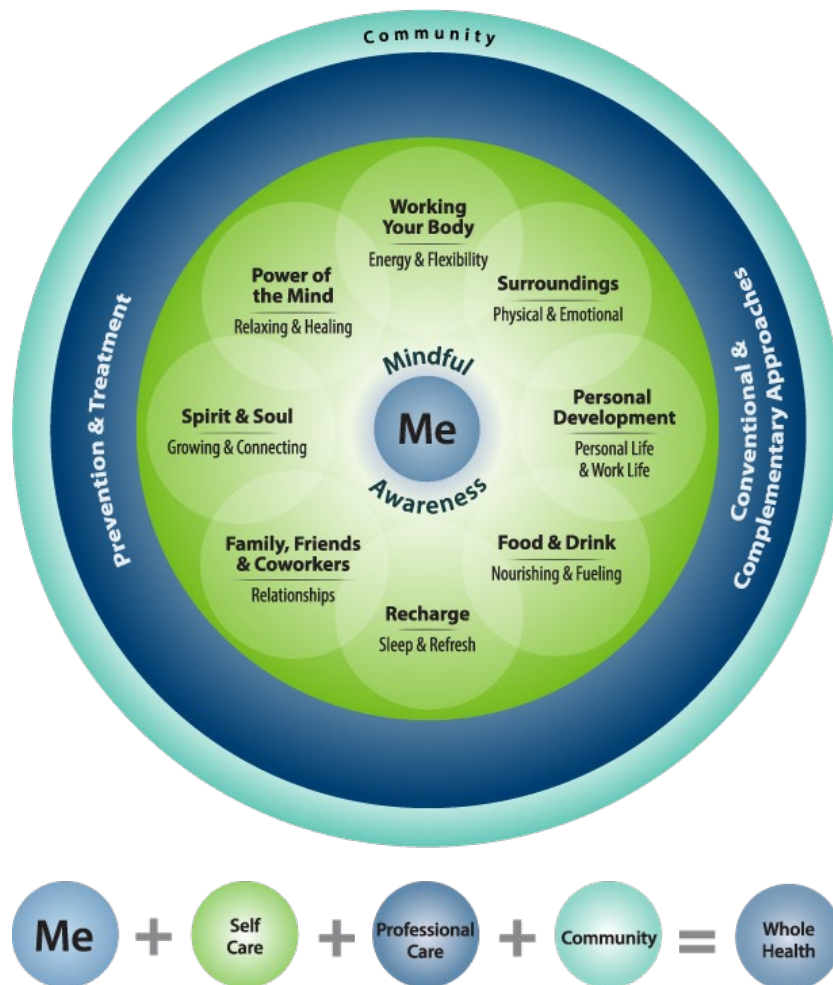
The VHWC intentionally selected the VA's Whole Health Model as the organizing framework. The goal was to consider a holistic, veteran-defined approach supporting an existing effort rather than introducing a competing model. Whole health helps care partners anchor with "what matters to the veteran," connect well-being with clinical care, and streamline collaboration across partners by defining personalized health plans based on each veteran's values, needs, and goals. We're sharing resources this month to remind our network about Whole Health and why it remains the right fit for our collaborative's work.

### What is Whole Health?

[Whole Health](#) is VA's person-centered approach that begins by asking what is important to an individual veteran and co-creates a holistic care plan aligned with the veteran's Mission, Aspiration, and Purpose (MAP) taking into account their goals, values, and life context. Four key areas are emphasized in the Whole Health model, the individual (Me), self-care areas, professional care services and community involvement. Per the VA Whole Health Office, "With Whole Health, the Veteran is at the center of their

personal health and wellness.” The self-care areas contribute to overall health and well-being. These include Moving the Body, Surroundings, Personal Development, Food & Drink, Recharge, Family, Friends & Co-Workers, Spirit & Soul, and Power of the Mind. Professional care services involve both traditional health care like medications or procedures as well as complementary and alternative care services like yoga or acupuncture. In the Whole Health model, emphasis is placed on prevention in addition to treatment of existing health conditions. Lastly, inclusion of the individual’s own community is an important factor to support the Whole Health model. Community is defined by the individual as anyone who they rely on as well as including those who rely on them. The Whole Health model is shown in Figure 1 as a target with the individual at the center and the other areas wrapping around them.

**Figure 1: The Circle of Health**



Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration. Whole Health: Circle of Health Overview. VA.gov. October 27, 2025, <https://www.va.gov/wholehealth/circle-of-health/index.asp?>

The benefit of the Whole Health Model is how it aligns care with the individual's goals, priorities, and preferences for their own health and well-being. The Whole Health office has an app that individuals can use to support their Whole Health journey. October spotlights Person-Centered Care Month. Interested individuals can explore the [Personal Health Inventory](#), the [Live Whole Health app](#), and connect with a [Whole Health Coach](#) (available through local VA facilities).

## UPDATES: 2025 PRIORITY AREAS

We invite organizations to let us know if they have local, regional, or state events they want to advertise. Events needing volunteers may also reach out to recruit assistance. We will not ask collaborative members for monetary contributions to support VHWC related activities. Our goal is to emphasize sharing of *time and talents* between partners.

**Housing Insecurity:** Events to encourage landlord participation with veteran-related housing programs are under consideration.

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

**Suicide Prevention:** The [Lansing Area Veterans Coalition](#) with support from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), the Medication-Induced Suicide Prevention and Education Foundation in Memory of Stewart Dolin (MISSD), and other community partners is hosting an upcoming seminar, *Veteran Harms Reduction: Exploring the Relationship Between Medication and Veteran Suicide*. It is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 11am – 5pm in the Mackinac Room at the Anderson House Office Building located at 124 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. The program is intended for veterans, families, healthcare providers, case managers, social workers, academic partners, and community members. This event focuses on practical strategic to prevent suicide and recognize medication-related risks and has been approved for CME and CEU for social workers. Learn more and register [here](#)! This session will include a panel discussion on adverse drug effects, and a film screening of *Medicating Normal*.

**Transition:** We remain interested in a resource having multiple individual modules as referenced above in the Housing Security section.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### Webinars:

We would like to offer MI-based webinars in addition to sharing national resources. Reach out if you have a topic that you would like to present. The goal is to offer one hour of content and record sessions for later viewing. Email [ihp.vhwc@msu.edu](mailto: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). Occasionally, continuing education credits for health professionals may be available.

### Events:

Don't hesitate to inform us about your upcoming events! We promote these through the [Resources and Events](#) tab of our website and emails to help boost engagement in addition to directed emails and inclusion in our newsletter. Here are more opportunities offering throughout the state to get involved.

- The War Memorial Veterans Day Breakfast (Grosse Pointe Farms): Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 8:00AM-11:00am. Complimentary for veterans; guest tickets available. Advance RSVP required. Register [here](#).
- Oakland County Veterans Resource Fair: Friday, November 14, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm @ Activities Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. On-site support includes VA enrollment help, benefits/claims assistance, career and housing counseling, and other resources. Free food boxes are available. Register [here](#).
- [SALUTE](#) Veteran Health Community of Practice: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 2:00pm. Session: *"Academia's Role in Training Providers to Serve Veterans."* A great opportunity for academic partners and anyone involved in health care professional training to learn how university programs are preparing clinicians for veteran-centered care. Register [here](#)!
- The War Memorial Veterans Resource Fair on Thursday, February 12, 2026. Organizations that directly promote and benefit veterans, active-duty service members, and retired military are invited to participate. Applications for vendor tables are due January 10, 2026. Contact Alex Szwarc at [aszwarc@warmemorial.org](mailto:aszwarc@warmemorial.org) with questions. Full details and the application are available [here](#).

### 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.

---

*"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*

---