

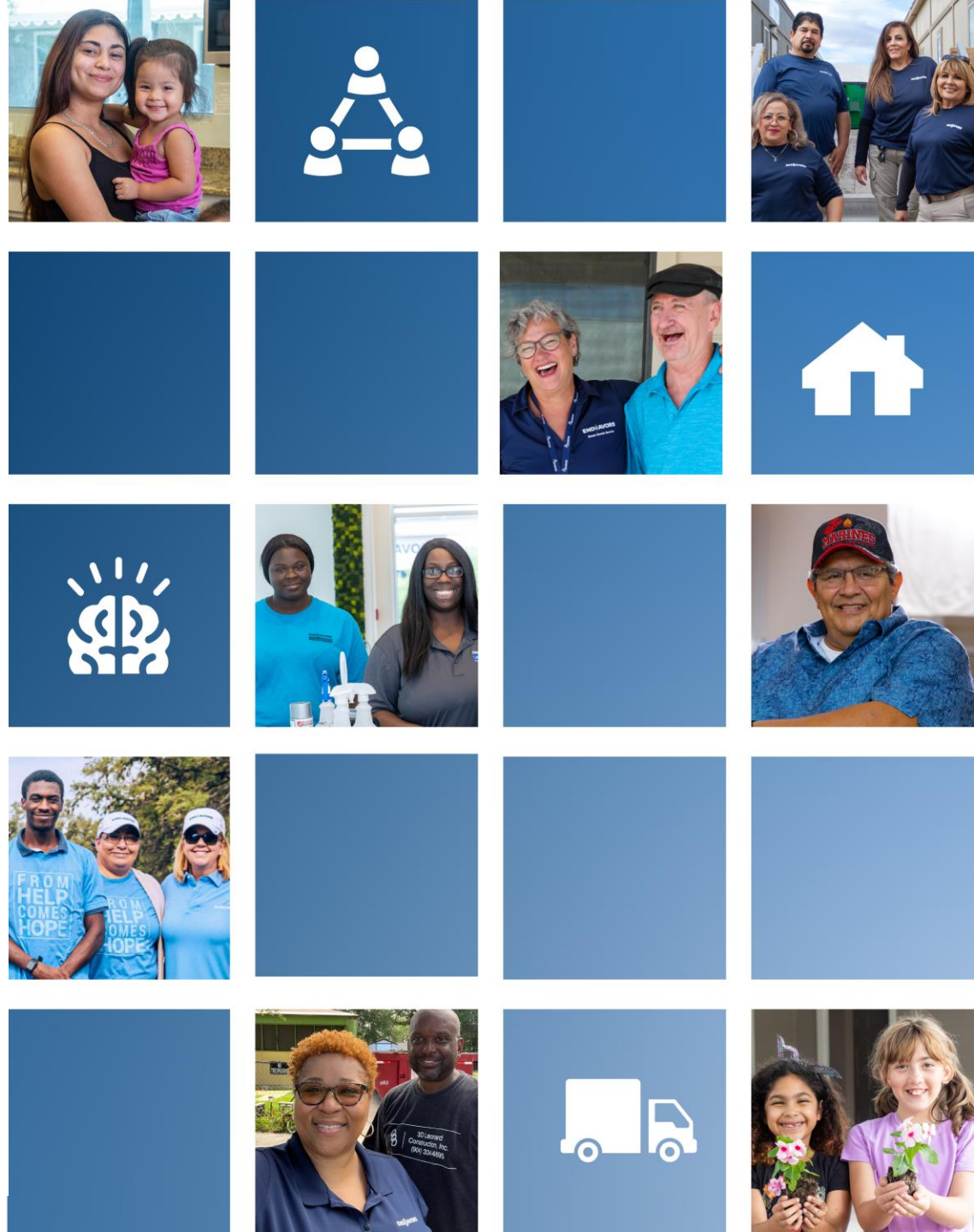
A Community Approach to Reduce Suicide in Military Members Transitioning to Civilian Life

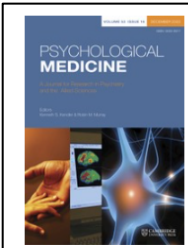
Panel Moderator:

Sierra Hunter, MPH; Program Manager, *Zero Suicide Initiative*

Panelists:

- Mike Eastman, Brigadier General, *US Army (ret)*
- Joseph C. Geraci, PhD
- Ashley Craig, M.Ed
- Jill E. Palmer, DSW, LCSW





A practical risk calculator for suicidal behavior among transitioning U.S. Army soldiers: results from the Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers-Longitudinal Study (STARRS-LS)

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 09 March 2023

Jaclyn C. Kearns, Emily R. Edwards, Erin P. Finley, Joseph C. Geraci, Sarah M. Gildea, Marianne Goodman, Irving Hwang, Chris J. Kennedy, Andrew J. King, Alex Luedtke, Brian P. Marx, Maria V. Petukhova, Nancy A. Sampson, Richard W. Seim, Ian H. Stanley, Murray B. Stein, Robert J. Ursano and Ronald C. Kessler

Psychological Medicine

Article contents

VSI VETERAN SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE

Helping Servicemembers Transition to Their Next Chapter

Show



Psychological Services

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Supporting Servicemembers and Veterans During Their Transition to Civilian Life Using Certified Sponsors: A Three-Arm Randomized Controlled Trial

Joseph C. Geraci^{1, 2, 3, 4}, Ariana Diciara¹, Ashley Greene^{1, 4}, Molly Gromatsky^{1, 4}, Erin P. Finley^{2, 5}, Daniel Kilby^{1, 3}, Sheila Frankfurt^{2, 6}, Emily R. Edwards^{1, 7}, A. Solomon Kurz², Yosef Sokol^{1, 4}, Sarah R. Sullivan¹, Meaghan Mobbs¹, Richard W. Seim², and Marianne Goodman^{1, 2, 4}

VA Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Partnership building for scale-up in the Veteran Sponsorship Initiative: Strategies for harnessing collaboration to accelerate impact in suicide prevention

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VA National Virtual Care Clinic for Transitioning Veterans

Facilitating Veterans Health Administration Primary Care for Transitioning Servicemembers: a Novel Virtual Care Clinic

J Gen Intern Med
DOI: 10.1007/s11606-023-08192-8
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What is the problem?

The 12 months between the end of active military service and reintegration back into civilian life – the **'deadly gap'** – is the most stressful and dangerous time for a new Veteran. During this 12 month period, Veterans commit suicide at rates 2.3x above the national average.

Only Transition Organization with:

- All VA certified and trained Mentors
- Immediate ability to connect High Risk TSM with VA healthcare within 24 hours
- Upstream enrollment - offering seamless continuity for veterans

Over 15000 new Veterans served and growing

The Onward Ops Model

- **Enrollment before leaving service** – MOAs with VA and DoD allow us to enroll Servicemembers 6-12 months before the end of active military service
- **Mentor located in Veteran's destination city** – Veterans are given the option of a Mentor and provided a comprehensive set of tools to manage their transition and connect to proven, vetted resources
- **States are provided awareness of incoming veterans** – Destination communities informed of incoming Veterans months in advance, allowing for proactive outreach and positive condition setting through Onward Ops Career Engine
- **Google Workspace Dashboard** – Every enrollee receives a free dashboard secured to IL-4 standard, enabling a seamless digital transition



VETERAN SPOUSE NETWORK

The University of Texas at Austin
Institute for Military
and Veteran Family Wellness
Dell Medical School & Steve Hicks School of Social Work

VSN provides programming to support military and veteran families as they navigate active-duty life, transition to civilian life, and put down roots after military life.

VSN focuses on filling the **gaps in support** for spouses/partners and family members nationwide.

PEER

SUPPORT

WORKS



@veteranspousenetwork

Endeavors Transition Support Program



OBJECTIVES

- Build and maintain partnerships for resources, support and identifying sponsors
- Community focused marketing
- Community Outreach
- Register Potential sponsors
- Train Sponsors
- Sponsor Support (ongoing education and resources)
- Register transitioning service members (TSM)
- Suicide Risk Screenings
- Connect TSM to Sponsor
- Evaluation and Data collection
- Monthly reward drawing for active members



0-3 MONTH ATTITUDE

- Increase community awareness of veteran suicide
- Increase sponsor awareness of local resources
- Increase education opportunities regarding VA services and qualifications
- Increase sponsor awareness of suicide risk factors
- Increase identification of suicide risk
- Satisfaction surveys completed twice monthly



6+ MONTH CONDITION

- Decrease rates of veteran suicides within 6 months of discharge from military
- Decrease user suicidal risk by addressing SDOH needs upstream
- Increase sustainable stability for TSM
- Increase sense of community
- Previous TSM register to become certified sponsors



Community Approach

Cross-Program Collaboration

