

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Providence VA Medical Center  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Providence VA Medical Center Mental Health Summit**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Providence VA Medical Center will host its annual Mental Health Summit from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the 5th floor auditorium of the main hospital building, 830 Chalkstone Ave, Providence, R.I.

“Our mission at VA is to provide the exceptional health care Veterans have earned through their service, but we know other people and organizations also play important roles in their lives,” said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. “We are inviting clinicians, Veterans and their family members, and other community supporters to come explore how we can all work together to enhance the mental health and well-being of Veterans and their family members in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.”

Presentations and discussions at the summit will include:

- Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act
- National Resource Directory - The Community Experience
- Substance Use Disorder
- Needs of Veteran Families and Caregivers
- Current Innovations for the Treatment of Veterans
- Research Forum

“It’s an unfortunate fact that the sacrifices Veterans have made for all of us have often also placed them under a great deal of stress, which can significantly affect their mental health,” said Bob Tilton, a clinical psychologist at the Providence VAMC. “It takes a community to provide comprehensive support for Veterans in need.”

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