

VETERANS UPDATE

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VA & DHS JOINT SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORT



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to bolster Veteran suicide prevention initiatives.

DHS is the third-largest federal employer of Veterans. The two agencies share common goals in improving Veterans' health and increasing their access to mental

health services. The joint effort will help spread awareness of mental health and VA suicide prevention resources among DHS Veteran employees, and explore ways to enroll them in VA care.

"Our two agencies are committed to ensuring that Veterans receive the care they need, and this landmark partnership will

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 1, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., GO RED for Women's Heart Health, Canteen, basement, main hospital, Providence VAMC. Heart disease is the number one killer of women. Learn more about maintaining a healthy heart.

Feb. 15, 2 - 3:30 p.m., VBA & VAMC Joint Veteran Town Hall, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, Providence VAMC. Get updates and ask questions.

allow us to leverage the strengths of both organizations to reach more Veterans ..." said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Veterans in crisis can call the Veteran and Military Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255, and press 1; or send a text to 838255.

BE THERE FOR THE VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE

Whether you have just a minute or an hour, you can help a Veteran feel less alone.

To someone going through a difficult time, simply reaching out can help them feel included, valued and supported.

Small actions of support – calling an old friend or bringing over dinner – are thoughtful ways to show you care.

See how you can #BeThere, explore ways to show you care, and share these ideas at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/BeThereSupport.aspx>

The advertisement features a background image of a person sitting and looking at a smartphone. Overlaid on the image is the text "#BeThere for Veterans and Service members" in a blue, handwritten-style font. Below this, there are two speech bubble icons and the text "Send a text." in a large, bold, blue font. At the bottom, there is a logo for the Veterans Crisis Line, which includes a star icon, the text "Veterans Crisis Line", and the phone number "1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1".

STUDY TO HELP IDENTIFY VETS AT-RISK



Dr. Jennifer Barredo, a health research scientist with the VA Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, received a \$1 million VA Career Development Award Jan. 1, for a new project to help identify Veterans at-risk for suicide. In this photo, Barredo is recognized by Dr. Robert Swift, chief of the Providence VA Medical Center's Mental Health Service, left, and Mary Ford, executive director of Ocean State Research Institute Inc., right, for her presentation regarding research on the prescription of advanced upper-limb prostheses during Research Day, May 20, 2016. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

A research health scientist with the VA Rehabilitation, Research and Development's Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, or CfNN, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, received a VA Career Development Award Jan. 1 for a project titled "Identification of Veterans At-Risk for Suicide: A Multidisciplinary Approach."

Dr. Jennifer Barredo, who is also an assistant professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School, will use magnetic resonance imaging to study patterns of brain activity in Veterans who may be at risk for suicide. Using an advanced machine learning approach, the project aims to find new ways to identify suicide risk, and develop this into a clinical tool for early detection. New insights into the neurobiology of suicide may

help guide the development of emerging treatments for suicidality. The \$1 million award will fund a five-year project.

"Research that could help better identify Veterans at risk for suicide is critically important," said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. "Preventing the tragic loss of Veterans to suicide – people who have served and sacrificed so much for our country – is a top priority for VA."

The VA Career Development Program was established to attract, develop, and retain talented scientists working to improve Veteran health, care and quality of life.

CfNN is a collaboration between the Providence VA Medical Center, Brown University, Butler Hospital, Lifespan, and Massachusetts General Hospital that seeks to develop, test and implement new therapies and technologies to restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Community Care /
Veteran's Choice Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
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