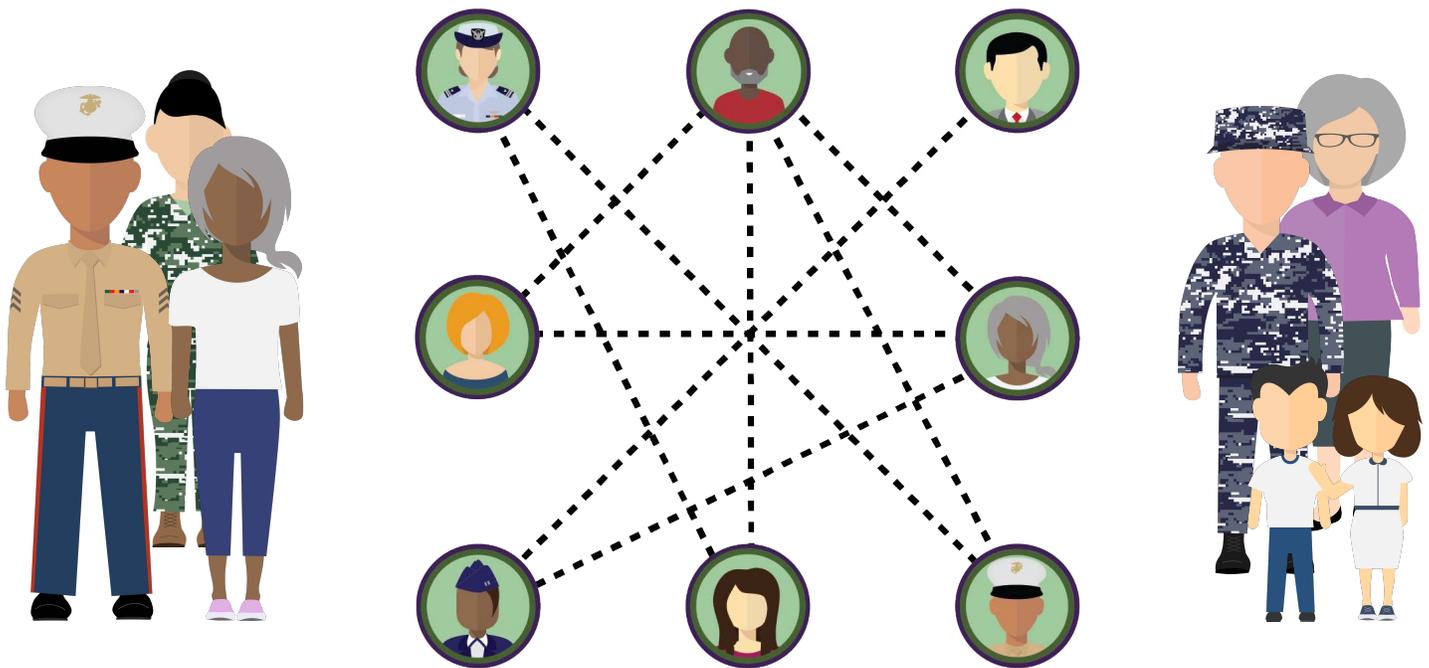


ARIZONA COALITION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES
**12th ANNUAL STATEWIDE
SYMPOSIUM**
IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES



APRIL 20 & 21, 2022
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CENTER
EVENT GUIDE

www.AcmfEventCenter.org



12th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

April 20 & 21, 2022 | Arizona

We are pleased to welcome you to our Virtual Conference Center for the 12th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families. This virtual format will once again give you the opportunity to network, connect and learn from people across the state of Arizona and beyond! Don't miss the chance to participate in this informative and interactive experience with representatives of the military, government and all different parts of our community.



Thank you for being a part of a community that cares for all who serve and their families. And thank you for being a part of strengthening the Be Connected Ecosystem of Support!

-The Symposium Planning Team

The Arizona Coalition for Military Families is a nationally-recognized public/private partnership focused on building Arizona's capacity to care for and support all service members, veterans, their families and communities. The initiatives of the Coalition are funded in part by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, AHCCCS and other public and private sector stakeholders. Learn more about the work of the Coalition and our partners at: www.ArizonaCoalition.org

12th Annual Symposium Planning Committee

DEE PERSON
Planning Team Lead
Arizona Coalition for Military Families

SPENCER BECK
Phoenix VA Health Care System

MONICA CABRERA
VA Regional Office

CARA GARCIA, LCSW
Phoenix VA Health Care System

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Services

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Arizona Department of Veterans'
Services

AMANDA YANEZ
Arizona Coalition for Military Families

Event Team

DIRECTOR - JEFF COOPER
SyndiKast

PRODUCER - STACY LLOYD
Llyod Media Group

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE
AND OUR EVENT TEAM FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

EVENT GUIDE CONTENTS

- Sponsor Acknowledgments
- Event Agenda
- Breakout Session Planning Guide
- Breakout Session Descriptions

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SYMPOSIUM EVENT SPONSORS!

– TITLE SPONSORS –



VA



- Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
- Phoenix Regional Office

– PARTNER SPONSORS –



– SUPPORTING SPONSORS –



Special thanks to the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and AHCCCS for continued partnership in support of Arizona's service members, veterans & their families.



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

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The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) is a state agency that serves and provides advocacy to Veterans, service members and their families.

ADVS provides direct services to Arizona's Veteran community through benefits counseling, Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, Arizona State Veteran Homes and many other programs that support Veterans.

For Arizona Veterans and those who care for them.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

If you're a service member, veteran or family member looking for support, information or resources, help is available **24/7 at 1-866-4AZ-VETS** or at the **National Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, option 1.**

The Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS) collaboratively partners in a comprehensive state-wide, nationally recognized suicide prevention program called "Be Connected".



The Phoenix VA Health Care System has a dedicated suicide prevention team. Veterans have access to same-day services in Mental Health during regular hours, in-person, via phone, or through MyHealthVet secure messaging.

The Phoenix VA Health Care System has an established Mental Health Call Center ensuring timely access. Connect with the Veterans Crisis Line to reach caring, qualified responders with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to **838255**

Support Matters.



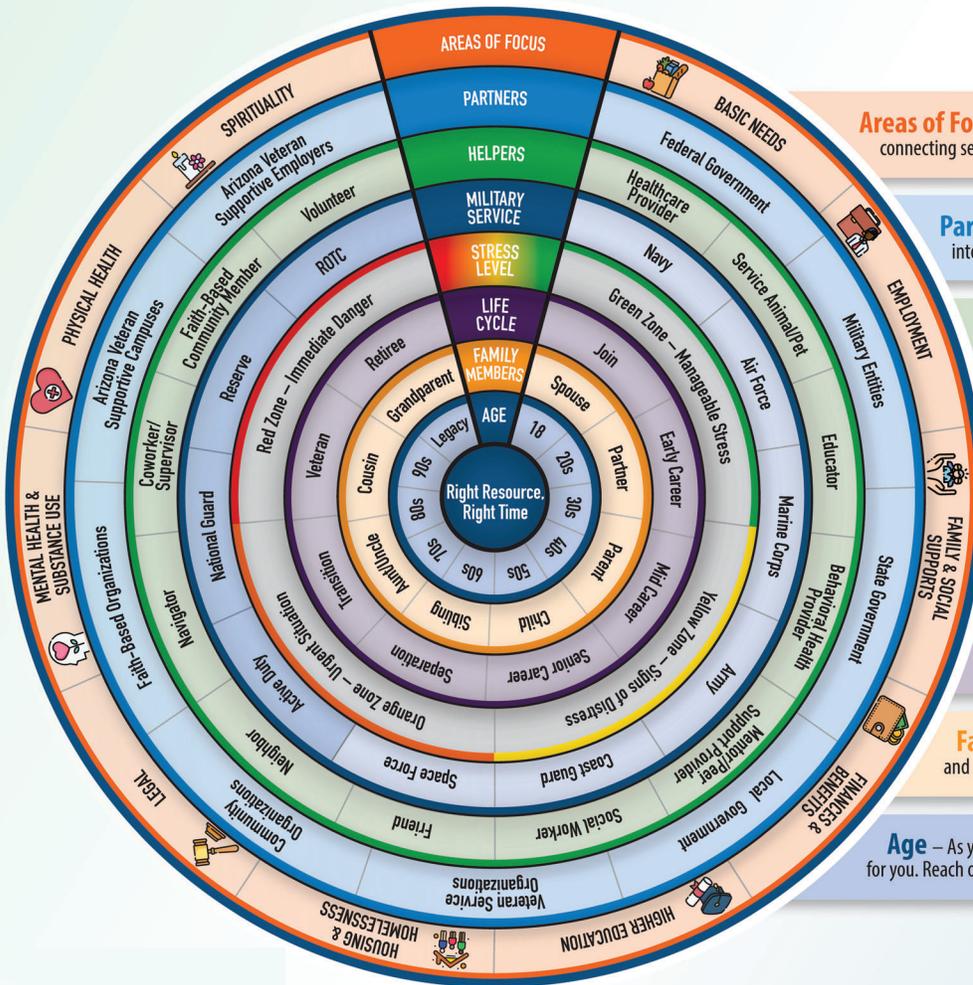
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Areas of Focus – Be Connected focuses on all of the social determinants of health, by connecting service members, veterans & family members to support and resources.

Partners – We deliver services and support through our unified, statewide, interconnected partner network, enabling us to maximize our collective impact.

Helpers – Helpers play a key role in engaging and connecting people and families to the resources and support they need, when they need it.

Military Service – We’re here for all service members and veterans – regardless of branch, component, length/era of service and discharge status.

Stress Level – Our upstream approach means support is available across the stress levels, with a goal of earlier intervention.

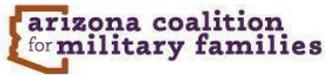
Life Cycle – Be Connected offers resources throughout the military life cycle, from the start of service to separation and beyond.

Family Members – Every family member matters to Be Connected and our team is here for you with support and connection to resources.

Age – As your needs change and evolve throughout your life, Be Connected is here for you. Reach out to our team today for personalized support.

We’re on a mission to connect every Arizona service member, veteran & family member to support and resources through our Ecosystem of Support - a unified network of people, organizations and communities.

Learn more and join us at www.ConnectVeterans.org



2022 STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Speakers and topics will be updated as confirmed and are subject to change.

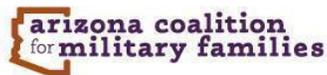
Note: All times are Arizona (Pacific). View the current agenda and register at: www.ArizonaCoalition.org/symposium

DAY 1 – SYMPOSIUM – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

Log in to the virtual conference center:

www.AcmfEventCenter.org

DAY 1 – SYMPOSIUM – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022							
0730 – 0800	Log in to the virtual conference center: www.AcmfEventCenter.org						
0800 – 0915	GENERAL SESSION Opening Ceremony Be Connected Leadership Partners & the Path Forward						
0915 – 0925	BREAK – Transition to Breakout Session						
	TRACK	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION	EMPLOYMENT	DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE	BENEFITS	FOOD INSECURITY
0925 – 1010	BRIEFING I <i>Choose one</i>	Removing Barriers: The Process of Going From Unsheltered to Housed Penny Miller, LCSW, Phoenix VA Health Care System & Barbara Goe, U.S. VETS	Transportation Programs United: Successes and Barriers in Rural Transportation Kent Ellsworth, Verde Valley Caregivers Association & Christopher Vertrees, Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization	Transition Truths & MilSpouse Survival Strategies Anthony Reed, PhD, Transition Assistance Program & Sonia Vasquez, Arizona Coalition for Military Families	The Intersection of Traumatic Brain Injury and Intimate Partner Violence Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD, Phoenix VA Health Care System & Brain Injury Alliance of AZ	VA Benefits Overview John Guse, Michael Watson, PhD, & Kimberly Kordik, MACCJ, Phoenix VA Regional Office	Resources to Address Food Insecurity in the Military Connected Community Isabel Kozak, DNP, ANP-C, RN & Kristen Ellis, RDN, Phoenix and Southern AZ VA Health Care Systems
1010 – 1020	BREAK – Transition to Breakout Session						
	TRACK	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION	EMPLOYMENT	DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE	FAITH & SPIRITUALITY	CAREGIVING
1020 – 1130	Briefing II Road to Solutions <i>Choose one</i>	Removing Barriers to Housing Joanna Carr, Arizona Housing Coalition & Joselyn Wilkinson, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services	Interactive Solution Session on Developing a Successful Rural Transportation Pipeline	Interactive Solution Session on Creating Financial Stability for Military Spouses	Interactive Discussion on Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence: Making Connections	Veteran Spiritual Healing: Building Spiritual Strength Irene Harris, PhD, New England VA Health Care System & Linda MacLeish, LPC, E-RYT, Franciscan Renewal Center	VA and Community Caregiver Support Programs Laura Priest, MPA, LCSW & Carol Combs & Jennifer Hopek, LCSW, Northern AZ, Phoenix & Southern AZ VA Healthcare Systems
1130 – 1140	BREAK – Transition to General Session						
1140 – 1200	GENERAL SESSION						
1200 – 1230	Virtual Community Networking Lounge						



2022 STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Speakers and topics will be updated as confirmed and are subject to change.

Note: All times are Arizona (Pacific). View the current agenda and register at: www.ArizonaCoalition.org/symposium

DAY 2 – SYMPOSIUM – THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022							
0730 – 0800	Log in to the virtual conference center: www.AcmfEventCenter.org						
0800 – 0900	GENERAL SESSION Expanding the Ecosystem of Support						
0900 – 0910	BREAK – Transition to Breakout Session						
	TRACK	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION	EMPLOYMENT	DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE	BENEFITS	FAITH & SPIRITUALITY
0910 – 0955	BRIEFING III <i>Choose one</i>	Best Practice from a Successful Coalition to End Homelessness: Tucson & Kingman <i>Pat Farrell, Jerry Ambrose Veteran Council, Karen Charles, LCSW & Jocelyn Muzzin, LCSW, Northern AZ & Southern AZ VA Health Care Systems</i>	Navigating the VA Transportation Program for Veterans, Caretakers & Agencies <i>Cristopher McHugh, Northern AZ VA Health Care System & Marzette King, Phoenix VA Health Care System</i>	Veteran Friendly or Veteran Awesome?! <i>Michael Brice, BW Cyber LLC, & Anthony Gilbert, Raytheon Missiles and Defense</i>	Military Sexual Trauma: Resources & Support Available at the VA and in the Community <i>Dylan Richard, PhD, Phoenix VA Health Care Systems & Doreen Nicholas, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence</i>	Navigating the Newly Implemented VA Presumptive Conditions: Process to Apply for Related Benefits <i>John Guse, Michael Watson, PhD, & Kimberly Kordik, MACCJ, Phoenix VA Regional Office</i>	Faith Communities and Veteran Support: Forming a Military/Veteran Ministry <i>Mike Wold, Institute for Healing of Memories</i>
0955 – 1005	BREAK – Transition to Breakout Session						
	TRACK	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION	EMPLOYMENT	DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE	SELF CARE & WELLNESS	TRAUMA INFORMED CARE
1005 – 1120	BRIEFING IV Road to Solutions <i>Choose one</i>	Interactive Solution Session on Coalition Building and Expansion to End Homelessness	Interactive Solution Session on Combining Transportation Solutions & Telehealth Care	Interactive Discussion on Creating Veteran Affiliated Employee Resource Groups to Retain Veteran Talent	Interactive Solution Session Creating a Coordinated Network of Support for Military Affiliated Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors	The Importance of Reconnecting 24+ Months into the Pandemic and Our Altered State of Living <i>Georg Hishaw, MD, Southern AZ VA Health Care System</i>	How to Support Trauma Informed Providers <i>Courtney Baker, PsyD & Amanda Van Hofwegan, LCSW, Phoenix VA Health Care System</i>
1120 – 1130	BREAK – Transition to General Session						
1130 – 1200	GENERAL SESSION - Closing						
1200 – 1230	Virtual Networking Lounge for Career Seekers						



Mercy Care Supports the **Arizona Coalition for Military Families' 12th Annual Statewide Symposium.**

Thank you for all you do for service members, veterans, their families and the community at large.

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TriWest is proud to sponsor the Arizona Coalition for Military Families 2022 Statewide Symposium. We applaud the work ACMF and all symposium attendees do to support Service members, Veterans and their families.

TriWest is privileged to serve our nation's Veterans by providing access to high-quality health care and wellness services, including behavioral health, crisis management and counseling.



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Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
VETERAN BENEFITS COUNSELORS



The **Arizona Department of Veterans' Services** provides a network of **Veteran Benefits Counselors (VBCs)** who give information, counseling and assistance to Veterans, their dependents and survivors in matters pertaining to federal and state benefits earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States.

VBCs are working remotely and continue to assist Veterans, service members and their families. You can now get assistance virtually, over the phone or through email!

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VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CENTER GUIDE

When you get to the symposium website (www.AcmfEventCenter.org), click anywhere to enter the virtual conference center



Once you get to the conference lobby, make your choice and click on the symposium banner in the center to select where you want to go. For example, click on General Sessions to go to the general session.



You can also click the menu button in the top-right-hand corner of the site at anytime to visit anywhere in the virtual conference center.



- Home
- Lobby
- Agenda
- General Sessions
- Breakout Sessions
- Lounge
- Presenters
- Sponsors
- About
- Help Desk

There is a lounge for virtual networking!

Visit the Agenda page to easily join any session you would like to visit.

Wednesday, April 20

Thursday, April 21

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

TIME (MST)	SESSION
0730-0800	Visit our Sponsors & Exhibitors
0800-0915	GENERAL SESSION Opening Ceremony Be Connected Leadership Partners & the Path Forward Join Session
0915-0925	BREAK Transition to Breakout Session
0925-1010	BRIEFING I (Choose One) Removing Barriers: The Process of Going From Unsheltered to Housed Penny Miller, LCSW , Phoenix VA Health Care System This session will focus on VA homeless services and how veterans can move from homelessness to obtaining secure housing. The presenter will discuss components of the Hub for VA Homeless Services, identify three ways to access homeless care services, highlight available housing resources, define the Veterans By Name List and its purpose, and look at two main events that assist in addressing ending Veteran homelessness. Join Session



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It is the policy of HonorHealth to provide equal opportunity in employment. Selection and employment of applicants will be made on the basis of their qualifications without regard to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or any other legally protected status.



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and facing a
financial
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Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
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Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Minority Veterans Program

The ADVS Minority Veterans Program eliminates barriers to accessing services for minority Veterans, while promoting inclusion and equity.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, just over 40% of minority Veterans are using their VA benefits. Minority Veterans are a widely underrepresented community comprised of numerous demographics.

This program aims to ensure every Veteran in Arizona has the knowledge of and access to all benefits and resources available.

Program Goals:

- Promote the use of Federal and State Benefits
- Support and initiate educational and sensitized activities for ADVS staff and the public
- Perform minority-specific outreach
- Advocate on behalf of minority Veterans

To stay up to date with everything happening in the minority Veteran community make sure to sign up our email list at:

<http://bit.ly/AZMinorityVets>

For more information contact: azminorityvets@azdvs.gov

12th ANNUAL STATEWIDE SYMPOSIUM IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SESSION SELECTION GUIDE

- Each day of the Symposium, participants are invited to join the virtual conference center.
- There are two general sessions each day.
- There are two breakout sessions each day. You are welcome to attend sessions in any of the six tracks each day.
- Please see the event agenda for an overview of the entire schedule and the virtual conference center for links to the general sessions and breakout sessions.
- Visit <http://www.AcmfEventCenter.org/symposium/presenters> for brief bios on all our presenters.

The following pages have short descriptions of each briefing to help you plan your Symposium experience.

TRACKS



Housing



Food Insecurity



Transportation



Faith & Spirituality



Employment



Caregiving



Self-Care & Wellness



Domestic & Sexual Violence



Benefits



Trauma Informed Care

SESSION SELECTION GUIDE

View the agenda in the Virtual Conference Center: <https://AcmfEventCenter.org/symposium/agenda>

Wednesday, April 20	Thursday, April 21
Login Network 0730 - 0800	Login Network 0730 - 0800
General Session 0800 - 0915	General Session 0800 - 0900
Break 0915 - 0925	Break 0900 - 0910
<p style="text-align: center;">BRIEFING SESSION I 0925 – 1010</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choose One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Removing Barriers: Unsheltered to Housed <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Programs United <input type="checkbox"/> Transition Truths & MilSpouse Survival Strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection of TBI & IPV <input type="checkbox"/> VA Benefits Overview <input type="checkbox"/> Resources to Address Food Insecurity in Military Community 	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIEFING SESSION III 0910 – 0955</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choose One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Best Practice from a Successful Coalition to End Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Navigating the VA Transportation Program <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Friendly or Veteran Awesome?! <input type="checkbox"/> MST: Resources & Support <input type="checkbox"/> Navigating Newly Implemented VA Presumptive Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Forming a Military/Veteran Ministry
Break 1010 - 1020	Break 0955 - 1005
<p style="text-align: center;">BRIEFING SESSION II 1020 – 1130</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choose One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Removing Barriers to Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Developing a Successful Rural Transportation Pipeline <input type="checkbox"/> Creating Financial Stability for Military Spouses <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Spiritual Healing: Building Spiritual Strength <input type="checkbox"/> VA & Community Caregiver Support Programs 	<p style="text-align: center;">BRIEFING SESSION IV 1005 – 1120</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Choose One:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Coalition Building and Expansion to End Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Combining Transportation Solutions & Telehealth Care <input type="checkbox"/> Creating VAERG to Retain Veteran Talent <input type="checkbox"/> Creating a Coordinated Network of Support for Military Affiliated Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnecting 24+ Months into the Pandemic <input type="checkbox"/> How to Support Trauma Informed Providers
Break 1130 – 1140	Break 1120 - 1130
General Session 1140 - 1200	General Session 1130 - 1200

BRIEFING SESSION I | Page 1

APRIL 20, 2022 0925 - 1010

AcmfEventCenter.org

Removing Barriers: The Process of Going From Unsheltered to Housed	
<p>Penny Miller, LCSW Phoenix VA Health Care System</p> <p>Barbara Goe U.S. VETS, Phoenix</p> <p>Track: Housing</p>	<p>This session will focus on VA homeless services and how veterans can move from homelessness to obtaining secure housing. The presenters will discuss components of the Hub for VA Homeless Services, identify three ways to access homeless care services, highlight available housing resources including Supportive Services For Veteran Families (SSVF), define the Veterans By Name List and its purpose, and look at two main events that assist in addressing ending Veteran homelessness.</p>

Transportation Programs United: Successes and Barriers in Rural Transportation	
<p>Kent Ellsworth, Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition</p> <p>Christopher Vertrees, Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)</p> <p>Track: Transportation</p>	<p>This session will focus on community supported transportation programs in rural areas of the state, successful partnerships and overcoming barriers. Presenters will share two successful transportation programs for veterans in rural Southeastern Arizona, and Verde Valley, which offers transportation from Northern Arizona to health care providers in urban and metropolitan areas of the state. Participants will learn how to volunteer in their local areas with organizations supporting transportation programs in the state.</p>

Transition Truths & MilSpouse Survival Strategies	
<p>Anthony Reed, PhD, Army Transition Assistance Program (TAP)</p> <p>Sonia Vasquez, Arizona Coalition for Military Families</p> <p>Track: Employment</p>	<p>Presenters will provide information about the military-civilian transition process, and how supporting the military spouse and family during that transition is key. They will provide an 'in the trenches' first-hand account of the TAP program, how Be Connected complements TAP, and how providers can understand the mindset during this timeframe (intrinsic vs. extrinsic). Attendees will learn how the transition process caters to the service member and their spouse or partner to ensure a successful transition.</p>

BRIEFING SESSION I | Page 2

APRIL 20, 2022 0925 - 1010

AcmfEventCenter.org

The Intersection of Traumatic Brain Injury and Intimate Partner Violence

Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD,
U of A College of
Medicine - Phoenix,
Phoenix VA Health Care
System & The CACTIS
Foundation

**Track: Domestic &
Sexual Violence**

When intimate partner violence (IPV) becomes physical, the assaults often focus on the head, neck, and face, putting victims at high risk for concussion/traumatic brain injury (TBI). Victims of IPV experience the psychological and physical effects of the trauma, as well as the physical, sensory, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and emotional consequences of TBI. TBI from IPV occurs with greater frequency and more intensity than TBI reported for other causes. Yet, most treatment professionals focus exclusively on the effects of the trauma and don't screen for TBI. The neurological symptoms of repeated TBI add to the challenges of overcoming IPV. This session will elevate awareness for the intersection of TBI and IPV in order to provide assessment(s), referral for care, and community support for victims.

VA Benefits Overview

**John Guse, Kimberly
Kordik, MACCJ, Michael
Watson, Ph.D.**
US Department of Veterans
Affairs

William Glennon, VSD
Central Region Manager,
Arizona Department of
Veterans' Services

Track: Benefits

This session will offer a general overview of VA Benefits to include: how to apply for benefits, requesting discharge upgrades, and exploring specific markers when applying for benefits with Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) related claims. Presenters will ensure that participants understand the essential elements for claim approval, including the required nexus for service-connected disabilities. This session will also identify the wide variety of no-cost services provided by the State of Arizona's Veteran Benefits Counselors (VBCs) and how to access additional State benefits and resources available to Arizona's service members, veterans and family members.

Resources to Address Food Insecurity in the Military Connected Community

**Dr. Isabel Kozak, DNP,
ANP-C, RN** Phoenix VA
Health Care System

Kristen Ellis, RDN
Southern Arizona VA
Health Care System

Track: Food Insecurity

This session will provide information on the "Veggies for Veterans" program to address food insecurity for Veterans in transitional housing who are enrolled in the Phoenix VA. Presenters will also discuss the "Patriot Pantry" at the Tucson VA which began in 2021 to help relieve food insecurity for Veterans enrolled in VA services. The story behind this program will be discussed, how it currently operates, how it has expanded, and the possible future of the program. The team of dietitians and diet technicians at SAVAHCS identify food insecure Veterans and meet with them to provide an emergency food supply, grocery store gift cards, produce vouchers, and community resources.

BRIEFING SESSION II | Page 1

APRIL 20, 2022 1020 - 1130

AcmfEventCenter.org

Interactive Solution Session: Removing Barriers to Housing

Joanna Carr, Arizona
Housing Coalition

Joselyn Wilkinson,
Arizona Department of
Veterans' Services

Track: Housing

This will be an interactive discussion with the Arizona Housing Coalition and Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Statewide data will be shared during this session and involve deeper dive discussions with community members and frontline workers in this field. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this facilitated solution session.

Interactive Solution Session: Developing a Successful Rural Transportation Pipeline

Kent Ellsworth,
Verde Valley
Caregivers Coalition

Christopher Vertrees,
Southeastern Arizona
Governments
Organization (SEAGO)

Track: Transportation

Rural communities have encountered challenges coordinating internal and external resources to address veteran transportation issues. In this discussion, participants intend to cultivate output/action items for future goals in rural areas. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this facilitated solution session.

Interactive Solution Session: Creating Financial Stability for Military Spouses

Anthony Reed, PhD,
Army Transition
Assistance Program
(TAP)

Sonia Vasquez, Arizona
Coalition for Military
Families

Ayla Linder,
Arizona Coalition for
Military Families

Track: Employment

This will be an interactive discussion with the Army Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Arizona Coalition for Military Families' Career Navigation Team. Survey results have shown that there is a high degree of financial instability due to a lack of advanced placement portable career opportunities for military spouses while their spouse is stationed in Arizona. This conversation will review common truths about military-civilian transition, and provide survival strategies for military spouses to help them create success during the process. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this facilitated solution session.

BRIEFING SESSION II | Page 2

APRIL 20, 2022 1020 - 1130

AcmfEventCenter.org

Interactive Discussion on Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence: Making Connections

<p>Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD, U of A College of Medicine - Phoenix, Phoenix VA Health Care System & The CACTIS Foundation</p> <p>Track: Domestic & Sexual Violence</p>	<p>Given the high prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), identification of TBI is critical in delivering appropriate services and support to those who need them. As a follow-up to the presentation by Dr. Lifshitz earlier in "Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and TBI," Subject Matter Experts will engage the participants in: understanding the connection to brain injury (BI) and IPV; connecting to resources in the military and brain injury communities to address this topic; engaging the participants in a dialogue on making those connections to expand the community response to victims of BI in IPV in the military.</p>
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Veteran Spiritual Healing: Building Spiritual Strength

<p>Linda MacLeish, LPC, E-RYT Franciscan Renewal Center - Casa Military Ministry</p> <p>J. Irene Harris, Ph.D. VA Maine Health Care System</p> <p>Track: Faith & Spirituality</p>	<p>This session will introduce the audience to the VA designed Building Spiritual Strength Program and show its benefits. This includes an introduction to the program by Dr. Irene Harris of the VA. She conducted the research which led to the approval by the VA of the BSS Program, and she continues to be the leader of this program. It also includes a panel of BSS facilitators and participants facilitated by Linda MacLeish, a member of the Franciscan Renewal Center's Veteran Ministry and leader of the team that has brought this program to Arizona.</p>
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VA and Community Caregiver Support Programs

<p>Laura Priest, MPA, LCSW Northern Arizona VA Health Care System</p> <p>Carol Combs Phoenix VA Health Care System</p> <p>Jennifer Hopek, LCSW Southern Arizona VA Health Care System</p> <p>Track: Caregiving</p>	<p>This session will introduce the audience to the VA Caregiver Support Program, with an overview of available clinical programs, eligibility criteria and application processes. It will include a discussion of key differences in services available throughout rural Arizona with a focus on long term care services and supports. Presenters will make a call to action on inclusive care and community support availability. This is a call to action on inclusive care and community support availability. Discussion of several community resources for support will be included.</p>
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Best Practice from a Successful Coalition to End Homelessness: Tucson and Kingman	
<p>Patrick Farrell, Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council of Mohave County, Inc. (JAVC)</p> <p>Karen Charles, LCSW Northern Arizona VA Health Care System</p> <p>Jocelyn Muzzin, LCSW Southern Arizona VA Health Care System & Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness</p> <p>Track: Housing</p>	<p>This session will cover Case Conferencing, with discussion of the transition of Veteran Case Conferencing over time and its impact on the numbers of Veterans experiencing homelessness. An overview of Operation 6 – a project of Jerry Ambrose Veteran Council (JAVC) – will be introduced with: description of the community in Mohave County; a brief history of the project and collaborations involved; description of the program, mission/goals for services, population served, data; project involvement, admissions, pandemic; challenges; impact on the community, with anonymous veteran statements; and closing thoughts about VASH.</p>

Navigating the VA Transportation Program for Veterans, Caretakers & Agencies	
<p>Cristopher McHugh U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Marzette King Phoenix VA Health Care System</p> <p>Track: Transportation</p>	<p>This session will cover the VA Beneficiary Travel (BT) Program, supporting eligible veterans with transportation or mileage reimbursement for travel expenses. Presenters will explain qualification for BT, requesting transportation and filing a reimbursement claim for traveling to and from appointments. Presenters will also give an overview of the Veteran Transportation Service (VTS), and explain how eligibility for VA care equals eligibility for the VTS which provides transportation to all VA or VA authorized appointments.</p>

Veteran Friendly or Veteran Awesome?!	
<p>Anthony Gilbert Raytheon Missiles and Defense</p> <p>Michael Brice BW Cyber Services</p> <p>Track: Employment</p>	<p>This session will continue the discussion introduced during this morning's general session. Solutions will be offered to employers who want to learn how to become veteran supportive, not just in their hiring initiatives, but retaining them through the use of Veteran Affiliated Employee Resource Groups (VAERG). The session will provide employer strategies that attract and grow service members, veterans, and their families as employees; and how to grow and tap into the Arizona Veteran Supportive Employer (AVSE) network to support military connected students, current and future.</p>

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Military Sexual Trauma: Resources & Support Available at the VA and in the Community

<p>Dylan Richard, PhD Phoenix VA Health Care System</p> <p>Doreen Nicholas Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence</p> <p>Track: Domestic & Sexual Violence</p>	<p>This presentation will discuss an overview of Military Sexual Trauma (MST), prevalence, associated disorders and symptoms/reactions to MST, VA eligibility/benefits, various treatment options for symptoms associated with MST, VA-specific resources, and community-based resources.</p>
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Navigating the Newly Implemented VA Presumptive Conditions: Process to Apply for Related Benefits

<p>John Guse, US Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Kimberly Kordik, MACCJ US Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Michael Watson, Ph.D. US Department of Veterans Affairs</p> <p>Track: Benefits</p>	<p>In this session, Phoenix VA Regional Office representatives will discuss all VA presumptive conditions and the process to apply; VA resources and process; how to connect VA presumptive conditions; navigating the newly implemented presumptive conditions focused on Agent Orange and Gulf War related respiratory conditions, and how to apply for disability benefits based on these conditions. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) Veteran Benefit Counselors (VBCs) will also participate in this breakout.</p>
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Faith Communities and Veteran Support: Forming a Military/Veteran Ministry

<p>Mike Wold Institute for Healing of Memories – North America, Casa Veterans Ministry and Franciscan Renewal Center</p> <p>Track: Faith & Spirituality</p>	<p>This session will highlight the important role that faith communities play in serving and healing service members, veterans and their families. Presenters will introduce the audience to the Be Connected Faith Network (BCFN) and show how it is helping faith communities serve veterans and their families. Attendees will see examples of the positive impact of faith communities on veterans and their families, hear from a combat veteran on how his faith and faith communities have helped with his healing, and receive information on how to start a military/veteran ministry. You will hear from successful faith community military/veteran ministry founders.</p>
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Interactive Solution Session: Coalition Building and Expansion to End Homelessness

Patrick Farrell,

Jerry Ambrose Veterans
Council of Mohave
County, Inc. (JAVC)

Jocelyn Muzzin, LCSW

Southern Arizona VA
Health Care System &
Tucson Pima
Collaboration to End
Homelessness

Track: Housing

This will be an interactive discussion spotlighting the current absence of a landlord coalition in Arizona to prevent veteran homelessness. How can we work towards creating an Arizona Veteran Landlord coalition? How do you start a coalition to help combat homelessness? This discussion will highlight JAVC's efforts and how they have been doing it in Kingman and surrounding areas. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this facilitated solution session.

Interactive Solution Session: Combining Transportation Solutions & Telehealth Care

Cristopher McHugh

U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs

Marzette King

Phoenix VA Health Care
System

Track: Transportation

This discussion will examine how to connect rural Arizona veterans, who don't qualify for current VA transportation partnership programs, to regional community resources. VA and community organizations, such as the DAV, face challenges when recruiting volunteers to assist with transportation needs of our veterans to VA health care facilities. This conversation will focus on how we can successfully engage and retain volunteers to support VTS, and if telehealth is a useful tool to provide greater access to rural veterans. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this facilitated solution session.

Interactive Discussion Session: Creating/Supporting Veteran Affiliated Employee Resource Groups to Retain Veteran Talent

Anthony Gilbert

Raytheon Missiles and
Defense

Michael Brice

BW Cyber Services

**Sonia Vasquez & Ayla
Linder**

Arizona Coalition for
Military Families

Track: Employment

This interactive discussion will be led by the Arizona Coalition for Military Families' Career Navigation Team. ACMF will share various partner resources designed to upskill and offer professional growth to military-connected employees to promote retention. Additionally, ACMF will review the Arizona Corporate Council on Veteran Careers (ACCV) guide to creating a Veteran-Affiliated Employee Resource Group (VAERG) which offers additional support to military-connected employees and builds a military-friendly work culture. We welcome attendees to join us in this interactive discussion.

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Interactive Solution Session: Creating a Coordinated Network of Support for Military Affiliated Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors

Dylan Richard, PhD Phoenix VA Health Care System	Sexual and domestic violence service providers currently do not have coordinated support across Arizona communities. In this focused conversation, participants hope to increase awareness to agencies, AHCCCS providers, and the community about Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and to promote better agency organization for veterans who don't qualify for VA benefits or choose not to receive VA services due to their negative experience and lack of support as MST victims in the service. We welcome attendees to join us in the discussion during this solution session.
Doreen Nicholas Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence	
Track: Domestic & Sexual Violence	

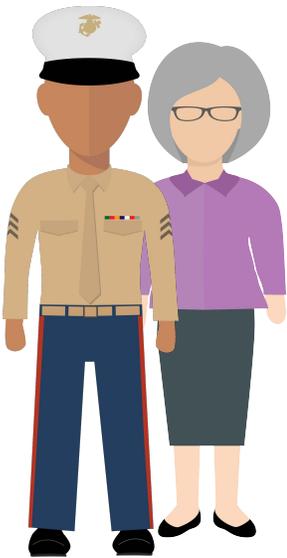
The Importance of Reconnecting 24+ Months into the Pandemic and Our Altered State of Living

Georg Hishaw, MD Department of Neurology & Psychiatry, University of Arizona School of Medicine and Southern Arizona VA Health Care System	Over the past 24+ months of living in a COVID world, all of us, our service members, veterans, and military families have been impacted by prolonged social isolation characterized by reduced social connections and contact. Social isolation has been linked to anxiety, stress, and other mental health issues, including cognitive impairment. This presentation will focus on the importance of reconnecting, reengaging, and reestablishing relationships to find the joy in life through connections with family, friends, and other important people in our lives. The presenters will share in person and virtual reconnecting strategies.
Track: Self Care & Wellness	

How to Support Trauma Informed Providers

Courtney Baker, PsyD Phoenix VA Health Care System	In this session, presenters will: define burnout, compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma; discuss challenges that trauma-informed providers experience in the workplace; and provide resources and skills to implement in order to combat compassion fatigue and burnout.
Amanda Van Hofwegen, LCSW Phoenix VA Health Care System	
Track: Trauma Informed Care	

ARIZONA COALITION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES
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IN SUPPORT OF SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES



**THANK YOU
FOR
JOINING US!**



**APRIL 20 & 21, 2022
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CENTER
EVENT GUIDE**