

WARRIOR-FAMILY ROUNDTABLE



“Examining Collaborative Efforts in Wounded Warrior Recovery & Transition Care” Information Paper

When:

Wednesday January 12, 2011
from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EST

Where:

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology
901 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

Roundtable Discussion Topics and Questions to Consider:

- **Barriers and Boundaries to Departments of Defense (DoD)-Veterans Affairs (VA) Collaboration**
 - What are the specific challenges and barriers for DoD-VA impeding collaboration efforts?
 - How can the challenges and barriers be resolved for improved care?
 - What programs are viewed as best practices by DoD-VA?
 - In what ways could DoD-VA work more effectively with outside organizations?
- **Best Practices—Models of Effective Public-Private Partnerships**
 - How do outside organizations view DoD-VA partnership building and outreach efforts?
 - What programs are working well to help wounded warriors and their families in the recovery and transition process?
 - What are some recommendations for deploying best practices and stepping up successful public-private partnership efforts?

Background: On September 10, 2010, the 4th Annual Defense Forum (DFW) Washington, titled: “A New Normal: How is the War Within Transforming our Force and Families,” brought together a distinguished assembly of more than 500 uniformed service and administration leaders, legislators, health professionals, government and non-government organization (NGOs), and other interested individuals to address issues affecting medical care and other support for wounded warriors, veterans and their families and caregivers, particularly issues of psychological health and traumatic injuries. Officials acknowledged nine years of continuous deployments and a country at war have stressed our military and families in ways we could not have envisioned—and the cumulative effects of persistent conflict will be with us for the foreseeable future. The country has rallied around the DoD and VA to help deliver needed care and assistance for our wounded, injured and ill troops and disabled veterans.

Current Issues:

Excerpt from DFW 2010:

Attendee Question: “...How can we bridge the gap between NGOs and our government so we can work together as a partnership for our kids [wounded warriors]?”

GEN George Casey’s [Army Chief of Staff] Response: “Boy, that’s a great point...sometimes we’re hard to help, and I see that wherever I go and we tie ourselves up in knots with our lawyers and our bureaucracy...And we don’t have a one-stop shop where folks can plug in, and we’ve been working at, and trying to make it simpler for five years...”

While much has been done in the last decade to improve collaboration in recovery and transition of wounded warriors, the above excerpt conveys many of the concerns and frustrations voiced by attendees about DoD-VA efforts in institutionalizing seamless transition and removing impediments to establishing cooperative, meaningful relationships outside the agencies.

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