

Workshop on Identifying and Managing Veteran Suicide Risk in Non-VA Healthcare Settings

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
9:00 am – 5:00 pm ET



**National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Keck Center
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001**

View the live webcast: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/05-23-2023/workshop-on-identifying-and-managing-veteran-suicide-risk-in-non-va-healthcare-settings>

**NATIONAL
ACADEMIES** *Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences

Workshop on Identifying and Managing Veteran Suicide Risk in Non-VA Healthcare Settings

May 23, 2023

Briefing Book Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Welcome Letter	3
Agenda	5
Biographical Sketches	11
National Academies Statement on Harassment	23

May 18, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's *Workshop on Identifying and Managing Veteran Suicide Risk in Non-VA Healthcare Settings*. We are grateful to our sponsor, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to explore issues related to identifying and managing suicide risk for veterans who receive care outside of Veterans Health Administration facilities. Sessions will cover a variety of topics, including the experiences of veterans in seeking care; the legislative policy context and VA guidelines for clinical practice; the landscape of veteran health care and suicide risk; and best practices, knowledge gaps, and challenges for the assessment and mitigation of suicide risk.

We welcome your involvement in the workshop, and each session includes time for audience Q&A. If you are joining us virtually, please use the chat box on our website (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/05-23-2023/workshop-on-identifying-and-managing-veteran-suicide-risk-in-non-va-healthcare-settings>) to ask questions. When doing so, please give your name and affiliation. The proceedings of the workshop will be published by the National Academies Press and may incorporate your comments and ideas. Archived presentations and videos from the workshop will be available on the website within 1-2 weeks of the event.

We look forward to this important workshop and hope you find the workshop presentations to be informative and that suggestions made by workshop participants will contribute to the prevention of veteran suicide.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Strauman, PhD
Workshop Planning Committee Chair

Tina M. Winters
Project Director

[This page intentionally left blank]



Workshop on Identifying and Managing Veteran Suicide Risk in Non-VA Healthcare Settings

May 23, 2023

Keck Center of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Room 208

500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC

And Via Webcast Accessible on the Event Page:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/05-23-2023/workshop-on-identifying-and-managing-veteran-suicide-risk-in-non-va-healthcare-settings>

Workshop Goals:

- Examine the landscape of Veteran health care and suicide risk.
- Discuss optimal ways to identify Veterans who receive their healthcare outside the Veterans Health Administration system.
- Explore how states, healthcare systems, and community-based organizations account for and manage suicide risk among Veterans who are not engaged with VA and VHA systems.
- Consider best practices for suicide risk identification and care for VA-purchased care in community settings.
- Identify best practices to inform Veterans at non-VA entities about VA benefits and connect individuals with benefits for which they are eligible.

AGENDA

ALL TIMES EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME

9:00 am Welcome, Sponsor Perspective, and Workshop Goals

Daniel J. Weiss, PhD
*Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences; National Academies of
Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*

Matthew A. Miller, PhD, MPH
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

Timothy J. Strauman, PhD
*Department of Psychology and School of Medicine, Duke University
Chair, Workshop Planning Committee*

9:15 am **Setting the Stage: Understanding the Scope of the Problem and the Experience of Veterans and Their Families in Seeking Care**

Session Introduction

Carl A. Castro, PhD (Col, US Army-Ret)
*Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California
Member, Workshop Planning Committee*

Jeannette E. South-Paul, MD (Col, US Army-Ret)
*Meharry Medical College
Member, Workshop Planning Committee*

Panel Discussion

Fetima McCray, BS (Veteran, US Marine Corps)
Federal Employee and Member, Disabled Veterans of America

Bryan Moore, AA (1SG, US Army-Ret)
Caregivers on the Homefront

Shawn Moore, LMSW
Elizabeth Dole Foundation

Allen Levi Simmons, BSET (Veteran, US Marine Corps)
Give an Hour Ambassador

Moderators:

Carl A. Castro, PhD (Col, US Army-Ret)
*Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California
Member, Workshop Planning Committee*

Jeannette E. South-Paul, MD (Col, US Army-Ret)
*Meharry Medical College
Member, Workshop Planning Committee*

10:00 am **Understanding the Policy Context**

Veterans Policy Overview: Who is a Veteran and the Criteria for VA Health Care

Heather M. Salazar, ABD, MA
*RAND Corporation's Office of Congressional Affairs and RAND Epstein Family
Veterans Policy Research Institute*

VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for the Assessment and Management of Patients at Risk for Suicide

Lisa A. Brenner, PhD

University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

Discussion and Audience Q&A

Moderator: Edward R. Hirt, PhD

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Indiana University

Member, Workshop Planning Committee

10:45 am **BREAK**

11:00 am **Understanding the Landscape of Veteran Health Care and Suicide Risk: To Whom Are We Reaching Out?**

Examining Factors that May Contribute to Increased Suicide Risk for Veterans

John McCarthy, PhD, MPH

Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan

Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

Transitioning from Military Service to Civilian Life: A Period of Elevated Risk?

Rajeev Ramchand, PhD

RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute and RAND Corporation

Member, Workshop Planning Committee

Using Clinical Practice Guidelines to Inform Suicide Prevention Efforts

Lisa A. Brenner, PhD

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

Discussion and Audience Q&A

Moderator: Rachel Sayko Adams, PhD, MPH

Department of Health Law, Policy & Management, Boston University School of Public Health

Member, Workshop Planning Committee

12:20 pm ***“Bombs Over Baghdad”***

Allen Levi Simmons, BSET (Veteran, US Marine Corps)

Give an Hour Ambassador

Introduction: Carl A. Castro, PhD (Col, US Army-Ret)

Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California

Member, Workshop Planning Committee

12:30 pm **LUNCH**

- 1:30 pm** **Identifying and Managing Suicide Risk for Individuals Receiving Healthcare Outside the Veterans Health Administration: Best Practices, Gaps, and Challenges**
- Setting the Context*
Eric Caine, MD
Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Center
Member, Workshop Planning Committee
- Lessons Learned from the Governor’s and Mayor’s Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families*
Cicely Burrows-McElwain, MSW, LCSW-C
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Stacey Owens, MSW, LCSW-C
Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Suicide Prevention at Cohen Veterans Network: Approaches to Policies, Practices, and Training*
Stephanie Renno, DSW
Cohen Veterans Network
Member, Workshop Planning Committee
- Suicide Prevention in Health Systems – Evidence and Opportunities for Veterans*
Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD, LMSW
Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research, Henry Ford Health
- 3:00 pm** **BREAK**
- 3:15 pm** **Identifying and Managing Suicide Risk for Individuals Receiving Healthcare Outside the Veterans Health Administration: Best Practices, Gaps, and Challenges (continued)**
- Discussion and Audience Q&A*
Moderator: Eric Caine, MD
Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Center
Member, Workshop Planning Committee
- 3:45 pm** **Best Practices for Suicide Risk Identification and Care in VA-Purchased Community Care Settings**
- Suicide Prevention Opportunities and Challenges with the Growth of VA-Purchased Community Care*
Megan E. Vanneman, PhD, MPH
Division of Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine; Division of Health System Innovation and Research, Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Utah School of Medicine
Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

Discussion and Audience Q&A

Moderator: Timothy J. Strauman, PhD

*Department of Psychology and School of Medicine, Duke University
Chair, Workshop Planning Committee*

4:30 pm Summing Up, Reflections, and Future Considerations

Rajeev Ramchand, PhD

*RAND Corporation and RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute
Member, Workshop Planning Committee*

5:00 pm ADJOURN WORKSHOP

[This page intentionally left blank]

Workshop on Identifying and Managing Veteran Suicide Risk in Non-VA Healthcare Settings

Biographical Sketches

Workshop Planning Committee Members



Timothy J. Strauman, PhD (Chair)

Department of Psychology and School of Medicine, Duke University

Timothy J. Strauman is a professor and former chair of the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences in the Duke University School of Medicine. His research interests focus on the psychological and neurobiological processes of self-regulation, conceptualized in terms of a cognitive/motivational perspective, as well as on the relation between self-regulation and affect and how such processes might contribute to psychopathology. His lab's clinically focused research includes the development and validation of a new self-regulation - based therapy for depression, self-system therapy, and the use of neuroimaging techniques to examine the mechanisms of action of treatments for depression. He is a former president of the

Academy of Psychological Clinical Science, a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, a former member of the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences at NAS, and a founding fellow of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy. He has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from New York University.



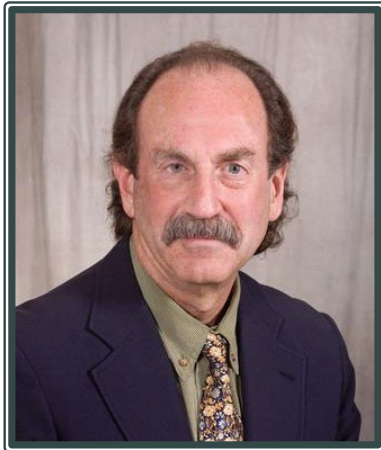
Rachel Sayko Adams, PhD, MPH

Department of Health Law, Policy & Management, Boston University School of Public Health

Rachel Sayko Adams is a research associate professor in the Department of Health Law, Policy and Management at Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). Prior to joining BUSPH, she was a senior research scientist at the Institute for Behavioral Health at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy & Management, where she led a portfolio of addiction health services research for over a decade. She is a health services researcher with expertise studying substance use, access and quality of substance use treatment, and morbidity

and mortality outcomes in high-risk populations (e.g., military/Veterans, persons with traumatic brain injury or other disabilities). She is multiple principal investigator (MPI) on a

RO1 from the National Institute of Mental Health and the Office of the Director at NIH which is integrating administrative claims data from the Department of Defense and Veterans Health Administration to enhance suicide prevention efforts for military members following deployment. Together with her colleagues, she has led studies from the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and Uniformed Services University at the Department of Defense. She received her PhD in social policy at Brandeis University.



Eric Caine, MD
University of Rochester Medical Center

Eric Caine, now professor emeritus, led the Department of Psychiatry of the Univ. of Rochester Medical Center from 1993-2017. He founded with colleagues the URM Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide in 1998. During the past three decades, he has devoted his efforts to suicide prevention—merging injury prevention and mental health perspectives to forge new public health, community-oriented approaches to preventing suicide, attempted suicide, related adverse outcomes (e.g., fatal drug intoxication) and their antecedent risks. He has served as a consultant to the VA and CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), and now is a member of

NCIPC’s Board of Scientific Counselors. He has been the principal investigator/program director for two research centers from NIMH and one from CDC, as well as recipient of funding of sustained funding from the NIH Fogarty International Center. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School.



Carl A. Castro, PhD
Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California

Carl A. Castro is currently professor and director of the Military and Veteran Programs at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. He served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years, retiring at the rank of colonel. He participated in the Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo Campaigns, Operation Northern Watch, and the Iraq War. He has chaired numerous NATO and international research groups and he is currently chair of a NATO research group on Military Veteran Transitions and co-chair of a NATO group exploring military and veteran radicalization. His current research efforts are broad and include: (a) the exploration of the military culture that leads to acceptance and integration of diverse groups; (b) understanding and ameliorating the effects of military trauma

and stress, especially combat and deployment, on service members and their family; (c) the prevention of suicides and violence such as sexual assault and bullying; and (d) evaluating the process of transitioning into the military and transitioning from military service back to civilian life. He received his PhD in psychology from University of Colorado Boulder.



Edward R. Hirt, PhD
Indiana University

Edward R. Hirt is a professor of psychology and director of pedagogy at Indiana University in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. His central research interests are in the areas of self-regulation, self-protective behavior, social identity, judgment/decision making, and the interface between motivation and performance. His research focuses on how individuals deal with self-threats and work to sustain motivation and effective goal pursuit in the face of challenges and failures. He has served as Associate Editor of both the *Journal of*

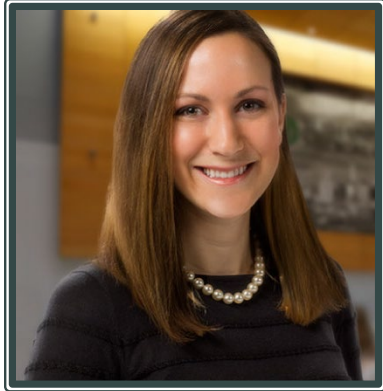
Personality and Social Psychology and the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, and just completed his term as president of the Midwestern Psychological Association. He has served on the Executive Boards of both the Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP) and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) and is a Fellow of both organizations. He received his BS degree in Psychology from the University of Dayton and his PhD in social psychology from Indiana University.



Rajeev Ramchand, PhD
RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute and
RAND Corporation

Rajeev Ramchand is codirector of the RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute and a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. He studies the prevalence, prevention, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders in adolescents, service members and veterans, and minority populations. He has conducted many studies on suicide and suicide prevention including environmental scans of suicide prevention programs, epidemiologic studies on risk factors for suicide, qualitative research with suicide loss survivors, and evaluations of suicide prevention programs. He has also

developed freely available tools to help organizations to evaluate their own suicide prevention programs. He has testified on suicide prevention before the United States Senate, House of Representatives, and California State Senate and recently served on the Department of Defense Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee. Other current areas of research include military and veteran caregivers; the role of firearm availability, storage, and policies on suicide; the impact of disasters on community health; and using public health approaches to study and prevent hate and violent extremism. He received his PhD in psychiatric epidemiology from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Stephanie Renno, DSW
Cohen Veterans Network

Stephanie Renno is the senior director of clinical practice and training at the Cohen Veterans Network where she oversees the network-wide training of clinical evidence-based practices and processes and works directly to support each clinic in delivering state of the art clinical services to veterans and military families. She has worked in both government and not-for-profit sectors providing and overseeing mental health services for veterans, service members and their families. Other areas of expertise, research and experience include family interventions for

Substance Use Disorders, implementation of measurement based care in health systems and treatment of PTSD. She received her DSW from the University of Pennsylvania, her MSW from University of Chicago, and her BS from University of Illinois.



Jeannette E. South-Paul, MD
Meharry Medical College

Jeannette E. South-Paul (NAM) joined Meharry Medical College as the senior vice president and chief academic officer in December 2021. Prior to this appointment, she was the Andrew W. Mathieson UPMC Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine from 2001 – 2020 retiring from Pitt in 2020. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and UPMC, she served as a Medical Corps officer in the U.S. Army, retiring in 2001 while serving as Chair of Family

Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and previously as Vice President for Minority Affairs at the same institution. Dr. South-Paul was responsible for the educational, research and clinical activities of the undergraduate and graduate medical education, faculty practice, and community arms of 3 family medicine residencies and seven ambulatory clinical sites in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania and responsible for the academic missions of 5 additional UPMC Family Medicine residencies in Pennsylvania. She has served in leadership positions in the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM) to include serving as President of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians (USAFP) and the STFM. She received her MD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and was elected to the Institute of Medicine (now National Academy of Medicine) in 2011.

Speakers



Brian K. Ahmedani, PhD, LMSW

Center for Health Policy & Health Services Research, Henry Ford Health

Brian Ahmedani received his PhD from Michigan State University (MSU). He is a fully licensed clinician in the State of Michigan. Dr. Ahmedani also completed a NIH / NIDA-funded fellowship program in Drug Dependence Epidemiology. He joined the Center for Health Policy and Health Services Research at Henry Ford Health in 2010, and was appointed director of the Center.

His research interests are in health services and interventions for individuals with mental health and substance use conditions, with particular expertise in suicide prevention. Currently, he serves as the principal investigator on several large NIH and other federal grants, including a NIMH P50 Suicide Prevention Center, a U01 award evaluating implementation of the Zero Suicide Model across health systems, and a SAMHSA grant implementing a suicide prevention care pathway in the emergency department. He is also PI for the Trans-America Consortium of the NIH All of Us Research Program, serves as Site-PI for the NIMH-funded Mental Health Research Network and is Co-I on several other projects. He has published nearly 175 manuscripts since 2010.

Dr. Ahmedani was appointed to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission, and currently serves as the elected chairperson of the Commission. He has also served on several federal and other expert panels for suicide prevention.



Lisa A. Brenner, PhD

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

Lisa A. Brenner, PhD, is a board-certified rehabilitation psychologist; a professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), psychiatry, and neurology at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus; and the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC). She is also vice chair of research for the Department of PM&R. Dr. Brenner is a past president of Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) of the American Psychological Association (APA) and an APA Fellow. She serves as an associate editor of the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*. Her primary area of [research](#) interest is traumatic brain injury, co-morbid psychiatric disorders, and negative psychiatric outcomes, including suicide. Dr. Brenner has numerous peer-reviewed publications, participates on national advisory boards, and has co-authored a book titled: *Suicide Prevention After Neurodisability: An Evidence-Informed Approach*.



Cicely Burrows-McElwain, MSW, LCSW-C

Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

Cicely Burrows-McElwain serves as the director of the Technical Assistance Resource Center for Community-Based Interventions in the Office of Suicide Prevention. Prior to this role, she served at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in the role of military and veteran affairs liaison in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs. Over the past several years, her efforts focused on strengthening cross-agency collaboration between U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Defense in meeting the behavioral health needs of service

members, veterans and their families and has over 26 years of experience working in rural behavioral health systems in local, state, and federal systems.

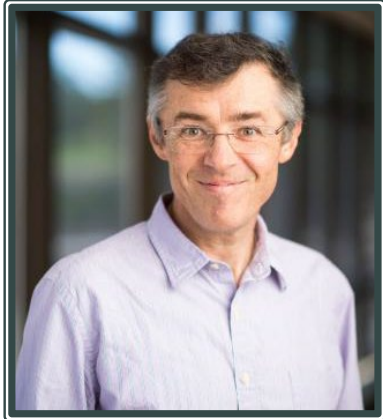


Bruce Crow, PsyD, MPH

Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

Bruce Crow holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, a master's degree in public health, and serves as associate director, program evaluation for the VA Suicide Prevention Program. Prior to this position he completed a research fellowship in Dissemination and Implementation Science at the University of Washington School of Medicine sponsored by the DoD Military Suicide Research Consortium. Dr. Crow served with the U.S. Army for 30 years until retiring from active duty in 2012 at the rank of Colonel. He continued with the Army as a civilian psychologist for five years during which time he led development

of the largest tele-behavioral health operation in the DoD. While on active duty he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology and held several senior leadership positions including eight years as the Army's chief psychologist. While serving with the Army, he actively promoted quality improvement initiatives for military suicide prevention and has served as a suicide prevention consultant to the defense ministries of Australia and Columbia. He was a member of the work group that developed the 2013 VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Patients at Risk for Suicide and currently leads suicide prevention initiatives within the American Public Health Association. He is a 2018 recipient of the John C. Flanagan Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association's Society for Military Psychology.



John McCarthy, PhD, MPH

Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

John F. McCarthy, PhD, MPH, is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. After working for four years in physician education and ambulatory administration at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, he earned an MPH from the School of Public Health and a PhD in Health Services Organization and Policy from the University of Michigan. For over 21 years, his work has focused on Veterans, mental health access, health systems, health behavior and population health. He has held national VA scientific leadership roles since 2007. Currently, he serves as Director of VA's Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center, Director of the National Primary Care-Mental Health Integration Evaluation, and Director of Data and Surveillance for Suicide Prevention. He also provides site leadership for SMITREC's post-doctoral training program. His experiences include VA leadership roles for Congressional and White House initiatives.

Dr. McCarthy has had ongoing funding for mental health services research, program evaluation, and operations work, including VA and NIH grants and dedicated Center funding. His scientific expertise includes health system access, suicide epidemiology, measurement-based management, medication adherence, serious mental illness, mental health services program evaluation, and suicide predictive modeling.



Fetima McCray, BS

Federal Employee and Member, Disabled Veterans of America

Fetima McCray is a Marine Corps veteran who served as the aviation logistics & supply accountant during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Throughout her service, she gained firsthand experience with military culture and the unique challenges faced by service members. These challenges included sexual assault and harassment, anxiety, alcohol and substance abuse, suicidal ideation, and identity crisis. Despite these obstacles, Ms. McCray emerged as a powerful advocate for women's causes, becoming an author, wife, mother, artist, and motivational speaker. She generously shares her mental and emotional health journey to inspire and uplift others. Her story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and an inspiring example of how to overcome life's most difficult challenges. Ms. McCray draws on her own experiences to offer valuable insights and guidance for others who may be struggling with similar issues. Her message of hope and perseverance is a beacon of light for all those who seek to overcome adversity and thrive in life.

“There is life after what feels like death.”

Every day may not be easy, but the journey to another day will always be worth it. Semper Fidelis!



Matthew A. Miller, PhD, MPH

Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs

Matthew A. Miller is the executive director for VA Suicide Prevention, where he leads a team dedicated to the implementation and reinforcement of evidence-based community and clinical interventions addressing suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. Under his leadership, according to the VA Annual Suicide Prevention Report, there has been a one-year decrease in Veteran suicide rate of 5% and a two-year decrease of 10%. Dr. Miller laid the foundation for the VA's Grand Challenge, which enticed the nation's and the world's best and brightest to create scalable data surveillance

and suicide prevention intervention options to improve suicide prevention predictive analytics.

Dr. Miller previously served as the director of the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL). Under his leadership, VCL became the world's largest and most efficient suicide crisis call center. He began his VA career as the Chief of Mental Health at Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, MI, where he later became the Deputy Chief of Staff.

Dr. Miller is an Air Force veteran. He completed his professional residency in clinical psychology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center and served as the chief of mental health at a Joint Services Pilot Training Wing. Dr. Miller was responsible for overseeing outpatient mental health operations for all active-duty service members and dependents within the installation community. In addition, he was head of the installation's suicide prevention, alcohol and drug demand reduction, critical incident response and family advocacy programs.

Dr. Miller received his PhD from Michigan State University and a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Michigan.



Bryan Moore, AA

Caregivers on the Homefront

Bryan Moore served 23 years in the United States Army as a CH\MH47 Chinook Repairer with his last eight years serving with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). Bryan founded the Night Stalker Heroes Memorial of Savannah Foundation a 501(c)(3) which now falls under The Night Stalker Association Savannah Chapter. Bryan has earned his associate degree in general studies from Columbia College of Missouri and also has a certification in Nonprofit Management from Duke University.



Shawn Moore, LMSW
Elizabeth Dole Foundation

Shawn Moore serves as the director for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's direct support programs. Shawn is an Alumna 2017 Dole Caregiver Fellow for Missouri.

Prior to becoming a caregiver to her husband who served for 23 years in the U.S. Army, Shawn served as a police officer for nearly 15 years with Kansas City, Missouri. She then obtained a Master of Social Work degree from Park University and is a Licensed Master Social Worker in Missouri. Prior to joining the Foundation, Shawn founded Caregivers on the Homefront where she stood up mental health programming for veteran and military caregivers and their children. She is the executive director.

Shawn is passionate about advocating for military and veteran caregivers and utilizes both her lived experience and education by presenting to national audiences on how communities can best support the family members of our veterans. She has served on panels with the Veterans Administration, presented with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Alliance of Caregiving, and has shared her story on PBS News Hours, TODAY Show, and MSNBC.



Stacey Owens, MSW, LCSW-C
Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Stacey Owens, MSW, LCSW-C is the military and veterans affairs liaison for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In this role she is honored to have the opportunity to support collaborative public health efforts to improve the behavioral health of our nation's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). Stacey has more than 20 years of experience in various healthcare and social service settings; prior to joining SAMHSA she served the SMVF population for 13 years as a clinical social worker at Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense. Her work focused on suicide risk assessment and crisis intervention. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Texas and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Prairie View A&M University. Stacey comes from a proud military family. Her father is an Army retiree, and both of her grandfathers were combat veterans. They are her inspiration for working towards improving wellbeing for future generations of SMVF.



Heather M. Salazar, ABD, MA

RAND Corporation's Office of Congressional Affairs and RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute

Heather M. Salazar is the legislative and government affairs analyst for veterans policy at the RAND Corporation and the RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute. Prior to joining RAND, she worked for the Congressional Research Service, within the Library of Congress, as a veterans policy analyst. Salazar is currently a PhD candidate at Ohio University focusing on post-World War II U.S. military history, modern Latin American, and Caribbean history. She is currently writing her dissertation to complete her degree. She also has an MA

from Norwich University and a BA in history and a BS in secondary education, both from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.



Allen Levi Simmons, BSET

Give an Hour Ambassador

Allen Levi Simmons is a multifaceted individual with an incredible life story. He is not only a Husband, Father, and Motivational Speaker but also an Author and United States Marine Corps Veteran with deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Allen is a true inspiration to us all as he has overcome Post Traumatic Stress, Hopelessness, Anger, Anxiety, Memory Loss, and Suicide. He found the strength to fight his demons with purpose and poetry, inspiring him to write his first book, a collection of poems, titled "Can I Speak?".

Allen's determination to succeed saw him graduate with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from UNC Charlotte, even after facing setbacks that led to his dropping out in 2012. He then went on to become a successful Software Support Professional for IBM. Allen is also the Host and Creator of The Purpose Pod podcast, where he inspires others to live a meaningful life.

Allen's life mantra, "Never Stop Never Quit Repeat!™," is a reflection of his perseverance and determination. His journey inspires us to overcome obstacles, face our fears, and never give up on our dreams. Allen is a true example of what is possible with hard work, determination, and a willingness to face our challenges head-on.



Megan E. Vanneman, PhD, MPH

Division of Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine;
Division of Health System Innovation and Research,
Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Utah
School of Medicine
Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences
Center, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

Megan Vanneman, PhD, MPH is an Assistant Professor in the University of Utah School of Medicine's Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Epidemiology and Department of Population Health Sciences, Division of Health System Innovation and Research. She is also a Core Investigator and Career Development Awardee at the VA Salt Lake City Health

Care System's Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center (IDEAS).

Dr. Vanneman is a health services researcher. She primarily studies the impact of policy change on access, quality, and cost in large healthcare systems, with a focus on health equity and mental health. Dr. Vanneman uses mixed methods in her work, leveraging both quantitative (econometrics, biostatistics, surveys) and qualitative (in-depth interviews, focus groups) techniques. Her teaching interests are in research methods and health policy.

Dr. Vanneman earned her PhD in Health Services and Policy Analysis from UC Berkeley, MPH in Health Policy and Management from Columbia University, and BA in Human Biology from Stanford University. Prior to becoming a faculty member at the University of Utah, Dr. Vanneman completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Health Services Research at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System's Center for Innovation to Implementation & Stanford University School of Medicine's Center for Health Policy/Primary Care and Outcomes Research.

Staff, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



Sharon Britt, BBA

Sharon Britt is the program coordinator for the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences. She graduated from Strayer University in Washington, D.C. with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She worked at Howard University Hospital for 15 years as a Program Coordinator with the Graduate Medical Education Department. In this position, she managed the Orthopedic and Podiatric Surgery Residency program that prepares residents to succeed in their practice locations and specialties and provides high-quality care. Prior to her position as the residency coordinator, she worked on several government contracts as a helpdesk manager and IT analyst.



Ashton Ray, BA

Ashton Ray is a senior program assistant for the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences. Ashton is currently supporting the consensus studies, “Future Directions for Applying Behavioral Economics to Policy” and “Focus on Myopia – Pathogenesis and Rising Incidence”. Prior to her position at The National Academies, she worked as the administrative assistant for both the Regulatory Affairs and Health Policy Departments at JDRF International. She began her professional career as an administrative assistant at Georgia Neuropsychology where she provided support to clinical neuropsychologists. Ashton received her BA in art history at Georgia State University in 2014.



Daniel J. Weiss, PhD

Daniel J. Weiss joined the National Academies as director of the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences in June 2022. He has conducted research on the cognitive mechanisms of language acquisition and motor planning using a comparative approach, investigating performance across human infants and adults as well as nonhuman primates. He has maintained a federally funded research program and has published more than 80 scientific articles. Dan graduated Summa Cum Laude from University of Maryland and completed his master’s degree and PhD in the Cognitive Brain and Behavior program at Harvard University.

He held a postdoctoral research position for three years at the University of Rochester. Dan served as the Editor-in-Chief for *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* from 2020 to 2023.



Tina M. Winters

Tina M. Winters is a Program Officer with the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She has worked on many consensus studies and other projects within BBCSS on topics including leveraging behavioral science to reduce the impact of dementia, factors that bear on the quality and success of scientific research, influences on aging, program evaluation, and learning across the lifespan. Prior to joining BBCSS in 2011, her work at the National Academies centered on studies and other activities related to K-16 science and mathematics education, educational assessment, and education

research. She co-edited the National Academies consensus report *Advancing Scientific Research in Education* as well as the publication *Measurement and Analysis of Public Opinion: An Analytic Framework*, and prepared *Understanding Pathways to Successful Aging: Behavioral and Social Factors Related to Alzheimer's Disease, Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief* and *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: Experience and Caregiving, Epidemiology, and Models of Care, Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief*.

**PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING:
POLICY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN NASEM ACTIVITIES**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) are committed to the principles of diversity, inclusion, integrity, civility, and respect in all of our activities. We look to you to be a partner in this commitment by helping us to maintain a professional and cordial environment. **All forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying are prohibited in any NASEM activity.** This policy applies to all participants in all settings and locations in which NASEM work and activities are conducted, including committee meetings, workshops, conferences, and other work and social functions where employees, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, or guests are present.

Discrimination is prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Other types of harassment include any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment.

REPORTING AND RESOLUTION

Any violation of this policy should be reported. If you experience or witness discrimination, harassment, or bullying, you are encouraged to make your unease or disapproval known to the individual at the time the incident occurs, if you are comfortable doing so. You are also urged to report any incident by:

- Filing a complaint with the Office of Human Resources at 202-334-3400 or hrrservicecenter@nas.edu, or
- Reporting the incident to an employee involved in the activity in which the member or volunteer is participating, who will then file a complaint with the Office of Human Resources.

Complaints should be filed as soon as possible after an incident. To ensure the prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint, the complainant should provide as much information as is possible, such as names, dates, locations, and steps taken. The Office of Human Resources will investigate the alleged violation in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel.

If an investigation results in a finding that an individual has committed a violation, NASEM will take the actions necessary to protect those involved in its activities from any future discrimination, harassment, or bullying, including in appropriate circumstances **the removal of an individual from current NASEM activities and a ban on participation in future activities.**

CONFIDENTIALITY

Information contained in a complaint is kept confidential, and information is revealed only on a need-to-know basis. NASEM will not retaliate or tolerate retaliation against anyone who makes a good faith report of discrimination, harassment, or bullying.