

# Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers of New York State's 7th Annual Virtual Veterans Summit

November 3, 2021

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



## Summit Description

***“Combat to Crisis” The Strength of the Veteran Community*** is a summit of substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services and other behavioral health providers and Veteran services agencies, organizations and coalitions from across New York State. Ensuring access and quality care specific to the needs of Veterans are at the forefront of this intensive day of training and networking. ***“Combat to Crisis” The Strength of the Veteran Community*** offers attendees an opportunity join in on the conversation and be a part of the solution to help ensure our Veterans have access to vital substance use disorders and related services as they reintegrate into their communities.

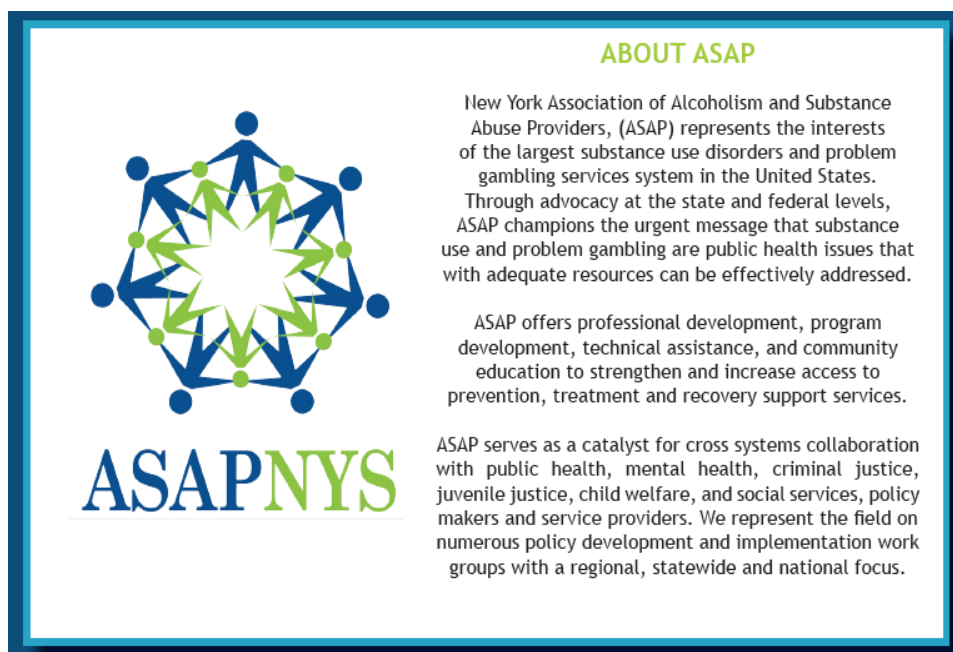
Whether through strengthening and promoting existing efforts or developing new strategies on how best to collectively address these issues, this working summit will tackle the hard questions involving the effects of living with substance use disorders on our Veterans and their families, celebrate and support those living recovery and further unite and offer attending stakeholders a wide-scale round table discussion on the best approaches and solutions for Veterans in their communities.

## Target Audience

The 200+ member audience expected at the **Summit** consists of professionals from the substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services field and other behavioral health providers, program administrators and directors, medical, education and justice professionals, counselors, direct care staff and other community-based volunteers.

## Summit Organizers

***“Combat to Crisis” The Strength of the Veteran Community*** is a project of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State’s (ASAP) Veteran Committee. The committee consists of professionals from over ten substance use disorders services and/or medical providers servicing Veterans throughout New York State. The Veterans Affairs Committee seeks to help promote and educate service providers on best practices to ensure that the special needs for veterans are met. We also help coordinate and promote networking and collaboration opportunities between providers that offer veteran services.



**Substitution Policy:** Substitutions of attendees are permitted for paid registrations.

**Cancellation Policy:** Registrations must be made and paid for by October 18, 2021. Registration cancellations received prior to the deadline may be eligible to receive a refund less \$50 service fee. Cancellations received after the stated deadline will not be eligible for a refund. Refunds will not be available for registrants who choose not to attend an event (no-shows). Cancellations will be accepted in writing only and must be received by the stated cancellation deadline. All refund requests must be made by the attendee or credit card holder. Refunds will be credited back to the original credit card used for payment. If you are unable to attend, you may send an alternate to the event without additional charge.



# AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

8:40 am - 9:40 am	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS</b>
9:40 am - 10:20 am	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> <i>Commissioner James Hendon, NYC Department of Veterans' Services</i>
10:20 pm - 10:35 am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:35 am—10:45 am	<b>MISSING MAN TABLE PRESENTATION</b>
10:45 am - 11:45 am	<p><b>PLENARY - Leading In A VUCA World</b>  <i>Matinah Drew, MHRM, MA, PHR, SHRM-SCP, Owner/CEO of NobleHearts HR Consulting</i></p> <p>VUCA is all about change in an interconnected world, where every action influences a reaction that occurs more rapidly and sometimes spontaneously across a wide span of groups and services. COVID-19 is an extreme example of this. In this pandemic environment our awareness and understanding of our emotional state is critical for the many that are influenced by our decisions. Acknowledgement of our emotional state and applying strategies to support ourselves and others to move forward in a productive and stable way is what we are here today to connect on.</p>
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	<p><b>LUNCHEON PLENARY</b>  <i>Tina Atherall, DSW, LMSW, Chief Executive Officer, Psych/Armor and Carie Rodgers, Ph.D., ABPP, Chief Program Officer, Psych/Armor and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the UCSD School of Medicine</i></p> <p>Significant stressors and challenges that require strength, stamina and flexibility are not new to the military-connected community. In fact, frequent moves, long deployments and major transitions are common demands of the military-connected life. As a result, the military service members, Veterans and their families have developed a number of strategies to build resilience — the ability to recover in the face of stress — that the civilian community can learn from and that can be harnessed in treatment and service settings that serve the military-connected community. In this presentation we will discuss the emotional phases of disaster/crisis as well as principles of resilience that the military community has been trained to utilize. We will discuss the military-connected communities' reactions and responses to recent events ((e.g., COVID-19, withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan) that are examples of these resilience strategies in action.</p>

**12:45 pm – 1:45 pm**

**EDUCATIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**SESSION 101 “Presenting Veteran Supported Recovery: From Advocacy to Certification”**

*Ruth Riddick, CARC-RCP, ASAP Community Outreach, Moderator, Malik Hutchinson, MBA, Jason Page, PhD, and Doug Rosenberry, ASAP-NYCB Certifications Development*

At the 2019 ASAP Veterans Summit, Malik Hutchinson presented an eloquent case for development of a specialty certification for Veteran Supported Recovery. One year later, he reported to the 2020 ASAP Veterans Summit that ASAP-New York Certification Board had commissioned and published a formal Role Delineation Study for VSR. Further, the New York Certification Board had approved standards for candidates seeking this new credential.

In 2021, Malik Hutchinson is here to announce the launch of the VSR Specialty Training, a 20-hour curriculum designed to deliver the knowledge, skills and abilities of this new non-clinical service role. He’s joined by colleagues who will describe the process of developing this training and outline opportunities for incorporating this specialization as an added value in Veteran services.

Attendees will understand the value of adding VSR professionals to specialized services for Veterans and the efficacy of advocating for identified service gaps.

**SESSION 102 “Quality Clinical Services in the Age of Constant Trauma”**

*James McFarlane, LMSW, Program Director, Samaritan Daytop Village Ed Thompson Veterans Program and Beverly Houston, LMSW, Program Director Samaritan Daytop Village 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Veterans Program*

As we all involved in this evolving/revolving world of life with COVID 19 (not going away), we continue to look at ways that our clients, in this case veterans, are capable of resilience in the face of adversity and trauma. At Samaritan Daytop Village (SDV) our Veteran services programs have been able to continue services in both residential and out patient with little to no interruption and minimal COVID consequences.

This presentation will share data on the effects of COVID 19 on Veterans overall and within the service system. We will talk about the use of the Sanctuary Model of care to assure clients that are living at a time of constant trauma are not harmed in our service system and are in fact empowered.

We will talk about leadership and the ability to pivot from the norm and expand services to a virtual format, some of the challenges and successes. Demonstrating the clear and consistent communication needed and the policies that were crafted and implemented to support safe, consistent, operations for the people we serve.

**SESSION 103 “Good Advocacy With Bad Paper: Assisting Veterans With “Bad Paper” Discharges”**

*Benjamin Pomerance, Esq., Deputy Director for Program Development  
New York State Division of Veterans’ Services*

This presentation will discuss services to a population of Veterans who too often are overlooked by service providers but who often are in greatest need of services: Veterans who have received a less-than-honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces.

Veterans with a less-than-honorable discharge are more likely than their honorably discharged counterparts to face a range of adverse outcomes, including homelessness, criminal justice involvement, and suicide or self-harm. Conventional wisdom suggests that any Veteran with a so-called “bad paper discharge” received this discharge due to their egregious conduct in military service and deservedly faces a legal bar to all federal and state programs and services to Veterans. This rampant belief, however, is a myth, one that persists to the detriment of Veterans throughout our state and nation.

Too often, Veterans receive a less-than-honorable discharge due to circumstances entirely beyond their control, such as a military officer’s failure to recognize allegedly “bad acts” as a manifestation of a Service Member’s mental health condition or discriminatory military policies toward a Service Member’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. In such situations, Veterans wrongly issued a less-than-honorable discharge can

petition the Department of Defense for an upgrade of their discharge character. Yet federal laws also provide pathways to financial benefits and medical services through the VA even for certain Veterans who have a less-than-honorable discharge, particularly if the actions surrounding that discharge were related to that Veteran's mental health condition(s). In addition, New York State's new Restoration of Honor Act provides a pathway to many state benefits and services for certain Veterans' who received a less-than-honorable discharge.

This presentation will cover all of these topics, dispelling old myths and equipping service providers with a toolbox of federal, state, and local resources that they can use to advocate for Veterans who were unjustly issued less-than-honorable discharges. For this often-overlooked population of Veterans, this advocacy — and the access to benefits and services that can come from it — can prove to be life-changing and life-saving.

#### **SESSION 104 "Re-Assessing Veterans' Needs in the Wake of COVID-19"**

*Aynisa Leonardo, LCAT, ATR-BC, Wellbridge Addiction Treatment & Research*

Veterans are a specialty population, with a unique set of needs, ranging from posttraumatic stress to reintegration challenges to transitional barriers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we all experienced unique challenges based on our circumstances and respective responses to the public health crisis. Trends among the veteran community include a calling to help, a need to isolate, family pressures, a re-emergence of posttraumatic symptoms, an increase in self medication habits, among other reactions. Through lecture and interactive activity, workshop will explore areas of need that pertain to veterans currently, and how to most effectively meet and address them with regards to services and resources.

#### **SESSION 105 "The Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories Protocol (RTM) for PTSD: A Brief Treatment in the Neural Context of Reconsolidation Blockade"**

*Richard Gray, Ph.D., Research Director for The Research and Recognition Project*

Millions of U.S. service members deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan; 13-20% return with PTSD. Despite billions spent by DoD and VA on PTSD treatment, many still suffer continuing physical and psychiatric problems. This has led for calls for innovative treatments. Here, we review four published and one unpublished waitlist RCT of the Reconsolidation of Traumatic Memories Protocol (RTM) for PTSD, a brief, non-traumatizing intervention that has resolved intrusive symptoms in >65% of all PTSD cases treated. Each study has reported  $p < 0.001$  and  $g > 1.2$ . These experimental results have now been duplicated by trainees. Conclusion: RTM is a brief, cost effective and robust treatment for PTSD worthy of further investigation.

#### **SESSION 106 "A Covert Threat: Problem Gambling Among Veterans"**

*Jonathan Crandall, BSW, CASAC-T, Veteran Outreach, NY Problem Gambling*

Problem gambling affects veterans at twice the rate when compared to their civilian counterparts. With increased accessibility to gambling opportunities through the legalization of sports betting, mobile lottery platforms, and casino expansion, veterans must be aware of their increased risk and the services available to help them.

Gambling disorder is a hidden addiction due to its lack of clear, tell-tale signs like those that would show up on a drug screen. Veterans often gamble to cope with trauma-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. Other addictions, like alcohol-use and opioid-use disorder, are often co-occurring when veterans are at risk for problem gambling behavior.

This training will offer an overview of the necessary steps to ensure that problem gambling is at the forefront of new legislation and advocacy measures for veterans. To ensure participants have the tools required to address problem gambling behavior among the veteran population, Mr. Crandall will provide education and statistics to help participants draft their own solutions for addressing problem gambling in their capacity.

**1:45 pm - 2:00pm**

#### **Closing Remarks**

- Zachary Randolph, ASAP Veterans Committee Chair, St Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Jessica Shuren, ASAP Veterans Committee Co-Chair, Outreach

# MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

## Veterans Platinum Summit Partner \$10,000

Logo sponsorship as a Platinum Summit Partner on all Summit materials and correspondence. Sponsorship of the Summit Keynote Plenary Session and an opportunity to provide a welcome introduction; Logo sponsorship on ASAP's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts); Ten (10) Summit registrations; product information distribution to all attendees; and right to use the Summit name in promotion of your

Summit partnership.

## Veterans Summit Partner \$ 7,500

Logo sponsorship as a Summit Partner on all Summit materials and correspondence. Sponsorship of the Luncheon Summit Keynote Session and an opportunity to provide a welcome introduction; Seven (7) Summit registrations; product information distribution to all attendees; and right to use the

Summit name in promotion of your Summit partnership.

## Veterans Summit Program Partner \$ 5,000

Logo sponsorship of a Summit Program Session and an opportunity to provide a welcome and introduction of the session speaker(s); Five (5) Summit registrations; and right to use the Summit name in promotion of your Summit Program Partnership.

## Veterans Summit Gold Partner \$ 2,750

Logo sponsorship as a Gold Partner on all Summit materials and correspondence. Gold partners also receive three (3) registrations and the right to use the Summit name in promotion of your partnership.

## Veterans Summit Luncheon Partner \$ 1,500

Logo sponsorship as a Luncheon Partner on all Summit materials and correspondence. Luncheon Sponsors will sponsor a GrubHub lunch credit for all conference attendees.

## Veterans Summit Supporter \$ 1,100

Logo sponsorship as a Supporter on all Summit materials and correspondence. Summit Supporters also receive two (2) registrations and the right to use the Summit name in promotion of your partnership.

## Literature Distribution

You can have your literature prepackaged with every conference attendee's registration materials. This is an effective and inexpensive way to capture the attention of the conference attendees. Placing your literature in the registration packet is also a great option for those of you who are unable to attend the conference.

***Distribution Costs:*** One brochure \$350; Two brochures \$450 Three brochures \$550; Additional per piece over three \$100. Please note:

# SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM

*7th Annual Veterans Summit*

*"Combat to Crisis" The Strength of the Veteran Community*

## We have decided to sponsor the ASAP Veterans Summit

- ☐ Platinum Summit Partner    ☐ Summit Partner    ☐ Summit Program Partner    ☐ Summit Gold Partner  
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**\*\* A description of your company will be printed in the conference program. Please limit your company description to 100 words or less. Submit your description via e-mail to [slafountain@asapnys.org](mailto:slafountain@asapnys.org) no later than September 30, 2021. \*\***  
All advertisement materials must be received no later than September 30, 2021.

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:** Check made payable to ASAP is enclosed. Sponsors are responsible for any and all bank charges. A \$50 processing fee will be charged for returned checks.

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All checks should be mailed to: ASAP, 194 Washington Avenue, Suite 300, Albany, New York 12210  
**Email Completed Application to: [slafountain@asapnys.org](mailto:slafountain@asapnys.org).**

## ASAP VETERANS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Please [click](#) here to register!

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