

Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers of New York State's
8th Annual Veterans Summit

November 2, 2022



8:45 AM - 9:15 AM

Welcome

Presenting of Colors – Samaritan Daytop Village

Summit Chair: Zach Randolph

Pledge of Allegiance

John Coppola, Executive Director, ASAP

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Opening Keynote

Senator Pete Harckham, Chair of the NYS Senate Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Committee and Member on the NYS Senate Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee

Helping Veterans and their families thrive includes making sure they have all the supports they need. Senator Harckham will discuss challenges such as post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction, and homelessness and New York State's responsibility to ensure that Veterans and their families receive the strong services, support, and gratitude that they deserve and have earned.

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Suicide Prevention Panel Presentation

Mark Lombardo, VA Hudson Valley Health Care System; Jenna Heise, MA, BC-NC, Director, Division of Implementation, Suicide Prevention Center of New York, Office of Mental Health; Garra Lloyd Lester, Coordinator, Community and Coalition Initiatives, Suicide Prevention Center of New York, Office of Mental Health and Karen DeBell, LCSW-R, Mental Health Program Specialist 3, Division of Adult Services Office of Mental Health

Participants will gain an understanding of innovative resources and supports for NYS Veterans such as the Expiration of Terms of Service (ETS) program, Joseph P Dwyer program, VA Healthcare system resources, and a unique online resource for family members and loved ones of a veteran on discussing lethal means safety.

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM **BREAK**

11:35 AM - 12:35 PM **Harm Reduction Panel Presentation**

Katie Burbee, Director of Clinical Program Development, Horizon Health Services; Danielle Lang, St. Joseph's Treatment and Malik Hutchinson, CASAC 2, Director Residential Services, Elmcors Youth and Adult Activities, Inc.

As communities across New York State grapple with alarming rates of death due to overdose and suicide, harm reduction is increasingly seen as a much-needed life-saving tool. This panel will address how harm reduction services can help to engage veterans who are struggling with mental health and addiction challenges, while also dealing with discrimination on multiple levels (racism, stigma related to drug use, insensitivity to Veterans' needs).

12:40 PM - 12:50 PM **Missing Person Table Presentation**

Zach Randolph

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM **Commissioners Panel Plenary Luncheon**

NYS OASAS Commissioner Chinazo Cunningham; NYC Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner James Hendon and NYS Division of Veterans' Services Executive Deputy Director Joel Evans

The Commissioners will discuss the New York State and New York City government commitment to ensure that policy and services respond to the needs of Veterans and their families. The Commissioners will highlight current service and policy priorities and how we can support them.

1:50 PM - 2:50 PM **Military Sexual Trauma Mini-Plenary**

Dawnmarie Martire, MA, CASAC, Program Director, Women Veteran's Program and Gavin T. Walters Sr., MSW-USAF Veteran, Vet2Vet of Ulster County Program Director, Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration (HVNCVR)

This presentation will bring an awareness and understanding of the term Military Sexual Trauma (MST), as "an experience and not a diagnosis" that became a national focus during the Tailhook Convention Scandal. The presentation will also focus on the terms sexual assault and sexual harassment and how MST affects health and wellbeing as well as including treatment modalities and MST programs.

Attendees will also watch a short interview video of a Veteran that shared their lived experience with MST. This story is one of many stories that have been shared by men and women that have put on the uniform. After the video, we will have a discussion on MST and how it has impacted the survivors as well as their families. We know trauma never leaves any individual but when you have to relive it, knowing you are not alone will make all the difference. During the presentation, you will understand and learn how peer support as well as groups has helped to uplift many individuals as well as encouraged others to fight for their service connection from the VA. In addition, you will receive information about organizations and programs that provide one on one support that connects our military community to valuable resources.

2:50 PM - 3:10 PM **BREAK**

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Trauma/Racism Plenary Presentation

Kiran Miner, LCSWR, CFRC, Regional Supervisor, Calm Seas Psychotherapy and Sharon Elise Prager, LCSWR, BCD, Founder & CEO, Calm Seas Psychotherapy

Mind, emotion, and conduct are intricately interconnected. How we think determines how we feel, which in turn affects what we do. Working with someone whose values and actions differ from our own is more difficult than we realize. Research demonstrates that racial, gender, and other biases have a negative impact on the promotion rate and distribution of benefits among military members. Can exposure to diversity and a willingness to alter perceptions foster equality and inclusion? Genuine receptivity to the "other" is essential. Influencing impressions requires engaging individuals at the proper time, place, and under the proper conditions. This could be accomplished by recognizing and valuing the "norms" in a specific context. We believe that the practice of awareness and reflection facilitates the integration of divergent experiences and expectations in our community.

4:20 PM – 4:30 PM

Closing Remarks