



## Show Taping 3/16/11 at 9 a.m. *Supporting National Recovery Month*

### Show Topic:

*Military Families: Access to Care for Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, Veterans, Their Families, and Those Close to Them*

**Host:** Ivette A. Torres, Associate Director for Consumer Affairs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

**Invited Panelists:** Kathryn Power, Director, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, HHS; Capt. Joan Hunter, RN, M.S.W., U.S. Public Health Service, National Guard; Hector Zayas, 12-Step recovery coach and consultant; Bradley E. Karlin, Ph.D., National Mental Health Director, Psychotherapy and Psychogeriatrics, Office of Mental Health Services

### Program Abstract:

In the 9 years since September 11, more than 2 million U.S. troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Although most returning service men and women do not return with serious behavioral health issues, a significant proportion do return with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, traumatic brain injury, and substance use problems. Serious behavioral health issues can also be seen among some of the service men and women who have never deployed: The rate of suicide within the Army National Guard and Reserves doubled between 2009 and 2010, and half of those men and women had never deployed to a combat zone. Too many service members die from suicide, and too many are homeless. Military deployment and trauma-related stress can have a major impact on returning service men and women and their families, making the need for behavioral health care an urgent national priority. Yet, many—be they active duty, National Guard, Reserve, or veterans—either are not interested in or are unable to access the care they need, and the same can be said of their spouses and children. This show will examine the serious issue of behavioral health care needs by exploring the nature and scope of these behavioral health problems, the strengths and weaknesses of the system to address these problems, and the efforts underway to improve our Nation's ability to meet its obligations to service members and their families. Specific improvement strategies are highlighted, including collaboration and coordination that increases access to care; community-based solutions that foster access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services; and development of the behavioral health workforce to better serve the military and their families.

### Key Questions:

- How does military deployment affect the spouses and children of service members as well as the service members themselves?
- What is the quality of the health care provided to service members?
- What are the barriers or constraints associated with access?
- What are the costs to society resulting from behavioral health problems among service members returning from war?
- Are there treatment programs in place for veterans?
- What resources are available to help meet the behavioral health needs of military families?

#### Taping Location:

##### ICF Macro Studio

11420 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

Contact: Jessica Fonoroff, 240-747-4936

*Panelists should be at the studio at noon for pretaping instructions, sound checks, and staging.*

Show Air Date: May 4, 2011

Event to be archived online at <http://www.recoverymonth.gov>.