Show Taping 5/30/12 at 9 a.m.

Supporting National Recovery Month

Show Topic:
Coming Home: Supporting Military Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families

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

Invited Panelists: Jennifer Crane, Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran, Outreach Assistant, Give An hour; Barbara Cohoon, Ph.D., MSN, RN, Deputy Director of Government Relations, National Military Family Association; Mike Haynie, Ph.D., Executive Director and Founder, Institute for Veterans and Military Families; A. Kathryn Power, M.Ed, SAMHSA Regional Administrator, Region 1

Program Abstract:

Our nation has pledged unequivocal support for active duty military service members and veterans. Meeting our obligation to our service members and veterans also means supporting their families. All have made remarkable sacrifices in serving their country, and have both clear and compelling needs as they reintegrate and face the future. Along with peer support and peer counseling, strategies centered on the family are the most urgent and effective approach to supporting the difficult transition to everyday life. Many service members deal with mental health problems attributable to their military experience, and many turn to substance use in response to their pain. Help for service members, veterans, and their families must encompass not only treatment for mental and substance use disorders but also the support elements that sustain recovery—employment, health and well-being, housing, and education. This show will describe the challenges facing those who have served and their families, the support available from both the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and civilian behavioral health systems, and the need to expand family-centered services.

Key Questions:

- How many service members returning from deployment experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression? How many are returning with a traumatic brain injury (TBI)?
- What is the rate of substance use among service members (active duty, National Guard, Reservists, and veterans)?
- What is the "deployment cycle" and why is it important for military families to receive support throughout the cycle?
- What are the priority goals of the President's Strengthening Our Military Families initiative?
- What is the focus of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) initiative on military families?
- Are there treatment programs in place for veterans with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders?
- What resources are available to help organizations and individuals address the behavioral health needs of military families?

Taping Location:
ICF Studio
530 Gaither Road, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850
Contact: Jessica Fonoroff, 301-407-6559
Panelists should be at the studio by 9 a.m. for pretaping instructions, sound checks, and staging.

Show Air Date: August 1, 2012
Event will be archived online at http://www.recoverymonth.gov.