

## **Advancing Arthritis Public Health Priorities through National Organizations TA/Peer Sharing Webinar Series**

November 07, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. ET

### **Developing Partnerships to Engage Veterans and Active Duty in Arthritis Efforts**

This webinar provides tangible information and strategies to help public health professionals engage with and serve veterans and active duty service members. Attendees are presented with a step-by-step guide, tools, resources, and tips to help navigate this partnership to establish meaningful relationships to improve quality of life for veterans and active-duty military with arthritis and other chronic conditions.

#### **Webinar Notes and Resources**

- Materials available on the Action on Arthritis [website](#)
- Meeting [recording](#)

#### **Participants**

- 33 total participants
  - 11 states (IA, MI, MN, MT, NC, NH, NY, OK, OR, VT, WV)
  - 5 national organizations (CDC, NACDD, NRPA, OAAA, SOPHE)

#### **Developing Partnerships with the Military**

[Catherine McCann](#) - Public Health Consultant, Center for Advancing Healthy Communities

- Today, there are over 2.6 million total military personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces and approximately 18.3 million veterans who live and work in communities across our nation. There are an additional 2.5 million family members who serve alongside their Service member. There are many opportunities for public health chronic disease and health promotion professionals to engage with and serve this population.
- Latest version of the [Developing Partnerships with the Military Guide](#)
  - This guide provides information and strategies to help public health professionals build capacity to better serve military-connected individuals.
- Search for [Community Veterans Engagement Boards](#)
- CDC has a [fact sheet](#) highlighting arthritis and veterans and recently released an MMWR [Arthritis Prevalence Among Veterans – United States, 2017–2021 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)
  - CDC has a [podcast](#) on arthritis and veterans.
  - Chronic diseases can impact military readiness. CDC created a [fact sheet](#) on this topic.
- The Arthritis Foundation has a Military and [Veterans Connect Group](#).

- This online group serves active and retired military and veterans across the country. There are currently 252 members, and the next meeting will be scheduled soon.
- The Arthritis Foundation has a [webpage](#) dedicated to supporting veterans.
- The Osteoarthritis Action Alliance created an [Action Brief for Veterans](#).
  - [Remain in the Game](#) is an injury prevention training program that can be helpful for veterans and active military.
  - National Parks Conservation Association [engages veterans](#) to protect national parks.
- Montana has been partnering with the VA to offer Walk With Ease for employees and in the community. NACDD created a [success story](#) highlighting this partnership.
- The Utah Department of Health and Human Services has been partnering with the Veterans Affairs of Salt Lake City Health Care System (VA) since 2011 to implement AAEBIs.
  - The AAEBIs offered include SMRC programs, Walk With Ease, and EnhanceFitness. The recruitment efforts were initiated from the VA MOVE! [Weight Management Program](#) and this has continued to be one of their best sources of patient referrals for many years.
  - Recruitment has expanded to include the VA's Primary Care Pain and Opioid Education and Monitoring program, which requires participation in self-management programs including SMRC workshops and refers to community locations when one is not available at the VA, especially in rural areas.
  - The VA also added an order for the AAEBIs within the electronic medical system, allowing for individual counseling and referrals to AAEBIs.
- Minnesota is working with their state cooperative extension and veterans

### **NACDD TA Offerings:**

- **Workgroup Calls** - The Arthritis Council oversees the formation of topic specific workgroups to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and sharing.
  - Partnerships and Strategies to Sustain and Disseminate AAEBIs (Strategy 1) Workgroup – [Register](#) or visit the Arthritis Council [webpage](#) for additional information.
  - Healthcare Providers Counseling About Physical Activity and Referrals to AAEBIs (Strategy 2) Workgroup – [Register](#) or visit the Arthritis Council [webpage](#) for additional information.
- **Monthly Arthritis Program Sharing and Networking Webinars** – The Arthritis Council provides input on the monthly arthritis program sharing and networking calls. These calls provide an opportunity for recipients and partners to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, all while networking and leveraging partnerships. [Register](#)

### **Other Information:**

- December 2023 TA/Peer Sharing webinar will focus on Making the Business Case for AAEBIs
- The **2023 Arthritis Recipient Meeting** tools and resources are posted online and are available by [visiting Action on Arthritis](#).

**Evaluation:**

- **Poll Question:** I gained skills related to my organization's ability to partner with veterans and active-duty military to advance arthritis efforts.
  - 100% Strongly Agree or Agree
- **Poll Question:** Please provide additional information on the specific skills that you gained because of attending today's webinar. (Select multiple options)
  - 71% - Knowledge about tools that can be used to advance our work
  - 59% - New partners to engage with to address arthritis
  - 53% - New Ideas/ways of thinking about my programs current approach to increase arthritis public health strategies
  - 24% - Strategies to sustain arthritis efforts