Partnership Summary – February 2020

**Informal Partners (no MOA/MOU)**

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<th>Federal Sector:</th>
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<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
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<td>Department of Labor</td>
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<td>National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td>Mil/Vet Task Force</td>
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<td>National Institute of Mental Health</td>
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<td>Secretary’s Center for Strategic Partnerships</td>
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<th>Higher Education Sector:</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Colorado, Marcus Institute for Brain Health</td>
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<th>Nonprofit Sector:</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Association of Suicidology</td>
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<td>Entertainment Industries Council</td>
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<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)</td>
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<td>The Jed Foundation</td>
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<td>The Mission Continues</td>
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<td>The Trevor Project</td>
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<th>Veteran/Military Service Organizations:</th>
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<td>Blind Veterans of America</td>
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<td>Disabled American Veterans (DAV)</td>
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<td>HomeBase</td>
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<td>Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)</td>
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<td>Paralyzed Veterans of America (SVA)</td>
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<td>Team Red, White, and Blue (GWB Alliance)</td>
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<td>Team Rubicon</td>
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<td>The American Legion</td>
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<td>Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)</td>
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<td>Vietnam Veterans of America</td>
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**Partnership Overview**
The Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention’s Suicide Prevention Program (OMHSP SPP) currently partners with nearly 60 organizations, formally and informally, working in suicide prevention, intervention, and/or postvention.

**Informal Partners**
Informal partners (23) do not have a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Suicide Prevention Program. These partnerships focus primarily on resource sharing and community outreach.

**Resources**
Partnerships are a critical piece of VA’s approach, as partners enable VA to expand its reach and deliver care and support to Veterans where they live, work, and thrive. OMHSP offers partners all types of support, including:

- Expert technical assistance and education
- Data and research reports
- Communications and outreach materials
- Tools and resources

SPP shares these resources with partners in various ways, such as quarterly newsletters, monthly bulletins, and webinars.

**Highlighted Informal Partnership:**
*Entertainment Industries Council*
VA has provided feedback and support for the Entertainment Industries Council’s upcoming guide for industry professionals on responsible depiction of suicide, addiction, and trauma in entertainment. VA provides their subject matter expertise on how these issues impact Veterans.

**Leveraging VA**
Program offices across the VA enterprise is critical to ensuring a comprehensive approach to partnerships and public health. VA offices collaborate on holistic, inclusive, and flexible suicide prevention initiatives for our Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors.

For example, SPP connects with the *VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention* and *VA Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention* to learn about evidence-based research and best-practice interventions, which informs our resource creation, messaging, and partner outreach.
**Formal Partners (MoA/MoU written agreement)**

**Federal Sector:**
- Corporation for National Community Service
- Department of Defense
- Department of Homeland Security
- Law Enforcement Training Center
- SAMHSA
- US DHHS Indian Health Service

**Healthcare Sector:**
- Post Acute Recovery LLC/VFR

**Higher Education Sector:**
- University of Michigan Regents

**Nonprofit Sector:**
- American Cancer Society
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Red Cross
- America’s Warrior Partnership
- Boulder Crest Retreat
- Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation
- CaringBridge.org
- Code of Support Foundation
- Cohen Veterans Network
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Caregiver Office
- George W Bush Institute/Warrior Wellness Alliance
- Independence Fund
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
- Objective Zero Foundation
- Project Hero
- Psych Armor Institute
- Semper Fi Fund
- TAPS
- VetTix

**Private Sector:**
- Johnson & Johnson
- Public Service Announcement Advertising
- RallyPoint
- USAAEF
- Walgreens

**Veteran/Military Service Organizations:**
- American Legion Auxiliary
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Enlisted Association of the National Guard
- Wounded Warrior Project/Warrior Care Network

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**Formal Partners**

Formal partners (36) have a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Some of these partnerships are managed through OMHSP, while others are leveraged through other VA program offices.

**Highlighted Formal Partnership: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

VA and SAMHSA launched the Mayor’s Challenge to prevent Veteran suicide by establishing local strategic action plans. To start, teams in eight cities established diverse local coalitions, using a public health approach. One year after launch, the program expanded to 24 sites.

In 2019, the Governor’s Challenge started, bringing the community-level model of the Mayor’s Challenge to the state-level. Both programs are still expanding with the goal to start Challenges in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

**Partnership Gap Analysis**

Within the 14 partnership sectors, SPP is working to expand partnerships with faith-based organizations, institutions of higher learning, workplaces, chambers of commerce, and legal support service providers.

**Strategy**

OMHSP is establishing and expanding partner relationships based on their connectivity with at-risk or increased-risk Veteran populations.

- **Access to Lethal Means:** Partnerships with NSSF & AFSP to reach firearm owners with safe storage education.
- **Technology:** Partnerships with CaringBridge, Objective Zero and RallyPoint to promote social connectedness among Veterans and their families and provide them with lifesaving resources through online platforms and mobile applications.

**Partnerships: Moving Forward**

SPP plans to strengthen current partnerships and explore new ones within sectors outlined in the National Strategy. Most current partners fall within the VSO, nonprofit, and federal sectors. SPP will pursue new groups that expand outreach to vulnerable populations, including women Veterans, service members transitioning out of active duty, rural Veterans, and Veterans with access to lethal means, like firearms.