

2.28.2020

Good Afternoon REDC Members,

Just a couple of updates for this week!

- **SERVE Act:**
 - **NDAAs Action:**
 - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Action Alerts and NDAAs Submissions for the inclusion of the SERVE Act!
 - I'm told we had a very high response rate from folks making calls/emails and Centers submitting their own forms. We will compile after this week is through and provide you with an update on these efforts soon.
 - **HASC Committee Staff:**
 - I had a good meeting on Wednesday with the House Armed Services Committee staff, who showed an eagerness to find ways to offset the cost of the SERVE Act and/or conduct some "procedural" moves so that it wouldn't need to be offset. Nothing is set, and these are all in process conversations, but I felt hopeful from the meeting.
 - Additionally, they noted that they had a large number of Members of Congress' staff reaching out to them about the SERVE Act since Fall (aka your advocacy day) and now. This pressure I believe is what makes them open to finding solutions.
 - Also, thank you to Eating Recovery Center's availability of their Informationist Millie Plotkin, who helped to provide updated research for the Committee Staff this week.
 - **Congressional Staff Briefing:**
 - We have confirmed a briefing date of April 2nd at 4PM EST on the House side, and now have all speakers confirmed.
 - EDC has also agreed to co-sponsor the event, so this will be a co-branded activity and allow the briefing to be streamed via EDC's Facebook page for all REDC members to watch.
 - Final Speakers are as follows:
 - **Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS, President, Eating Disorders Coalition in Durham, NC**– Providing introductory remarks and each Member of Congress.
 - **Jillian Lampert, Ph.D., MPH, RD, LD, FAED, President, Residential Eating Disorders Consortium; Board Member, Eating Disorders Coalition; Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Food Science and Nutrition in Saint Paul, MN** – Providing introductions of each panelist and moderation of the Q&A.
 - **Katy Higgins Neyland, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, MD**– Discussing her and other's research on eating disorders/disordered eating amongst military members and their families, including prevalence, causes (i.e. environmental, personal and behavioral determinants) and prevention.
 - **Deandra Christensen, MA, LCPC, CCMHC, Eating Disorder Division President at Discovery Behavioral Health/Center for Discovery in Los**

Alamitos, CA—Explaining the types of eating disorders (i.e. anorexia, binge-eating disorder), discussing the complexity of treating an eating disorder, and detailing the experiences in treatment of servicemembers and their families affected by eating disorders.

- **Carolyn Wafford/Daughter Hannah Wafford, U.S. Army Military Family in San Antonio, TX**—Discussing her personal story of having an eating disorder (how it began, how it affected her life, and her journey to recovery) with a father in the service, and issues related to receiving treatment under TRICARE.
- **Katrina Meehan, Servicemember, Active Duty U.S. Army Servicemember in Fort Jackson, SC**—Discussing her personal story of having an eating disorder (how it began, how it her affected life, and her journey to recovery) in the service, and issues related to receiving treatment under TRICARE.
- **Reminder: Sign-up for May 13th Advocacy Day on the SERVE Act & Nutrition CARE Act:**
 - **Deadline is April 8th:**
 - As a reminder, REDC will be joining the EDC to advocate for the SERVE Act and Nutrition CARE Act at the May 13th Capitol Hill Advocacy Day.
 - Registration is now up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eating-disorders-coalition-capitol-hill-spring-2020-advocacy-day-tickets-95243725547>
 - **Registration closes April 8th, so sign-up today!** And if you are interested in being a team leader for an advocacy team, please email Luke on our team!: Luke Kopetsky luke.kopetsky@centerroadsolutions.com
- **Timely Billing:**
 - As mentioned last week, Leadership asked for REDC's input on final Timely Billing language, which was due this past Tuesday.
 - Thank you to REDC's Board for providing feedback- which we submitted to Leadership Staff.
- **Mental Health Parity- MA Breaking News (see attachments):**
 - There was some great news out of Massachusetts yesterday. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey announced she had reached settlements with five health insurance companies and two companies that manage behavioral health coverage for insurers after her investigations showed numerous violations of parity and other laws.
 - In these Assurances of Discontinuance, the companies agreed to follow the law and specific corrective steps. These settlements resulted in a total of \$1 million in payments to a special fund to support MHSUD services.
 - The violations included inaccurate provider directories, inequitable reimbursement rates, and improper utilization management for behavioral health.

- Wells Wilkerson and Monica Luke in Massachusetts attended the press conference. They and their partners in Massachusetts have been on a roll!

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