



2nd Annual Trauma Spectrum Disorders Conference

VA's Changing Mission: Focusing on Families and Caregivers of Veterans with Trauma

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December 10, 2009



VA Caregiver Support Services

- Respite/Volunteer Home Respite
- Home Based Primary Care
- Homemaker/Home Health Aide
- Adult Day Health Care
- Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Care
- Spiritual/Pastoral Care
- Specialized Mental Health Care
- Specialized Support/Training at Polytrauma, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders (SCI/D) and Blind Rehab Centers
- Beneficiary Travel
- SCI/D Bowel & Bladder Care
- Specialized SCI/D Services – Home Care, Respite, Long Term Care Centers
- Caregiver Education/Training
- Temporary Lodging/Fisher Houses
- Family Wellness and Recreation
- Home Improvement and Structural Alterations Grants and Other Home Modification Assistance
- Veteran Service Organization Support
- House and Auto Adaptation Grants



Caregiver Assistance Pilot Programs

- Public Laws 109-461 and 110-387
- 52 proposals submitted
- Eight Caregiver Assistance Pilot Programs selected
- 39 VA Medical Centers
- Over 1,400 Veteran/caregiver dyads participated



Lessons Learned

- Multi-modality approach
- Effective communication
- Caregiver education and support
- Transition assistance from hospital to home
- Unique challenges of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom caregivers
- Technologically based interventions effective
- Services along the trajectory of care with menu of short and long-term options
- Employee education

Status of Caregiver Legislation



- **S.1963** – Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009
 - Passed the Senate
- **H.R. 3155** - Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act
 - Passed the House of Representatives
- **Next Steps** – the Senate and House of Representatives will go to conference



Caregiver Collaborations

- Within VA
- Other Federal Agencies
- Veterans Service Organizations
- Advocacy Groups
- Private Organizations



December 2009
Happy Holidays!

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Caregiver Assistance

- [Back to Healthy Living Centers](#)

Welcome to the Caregiver Assistance Center. This site is designed to help you take better care of yourself. You will also find valuable information on VA and community resources to help you take better care of our Veteran. For example:

- Listen to a talk by Dr. Harriet Zeiner on ["Neurologically based Impairments with focus on Traumatic Brain Injury"](#)
- Listen to the talk from the ["VA California Offices on Caregiving Program"](#). Sarah Wade is the wife and family caregiver of retired army Sergeant Ted Wade. Ted is a polytrauma patient. Sarah shares her story. She talks about being an advocate for her husband.
- There is also a newsletter called [RESCUE](#). This newsletter offers tips to help stroke caregivers with problems and concerns. It also speaks to concerns of the Veteran stroke survivor.



A caregiver is someone that takes responsibility for the care and well-being of another person while playing a role in certain parts of the care required. You may be a relative, significant other, neighbor, or friend. Whatever your role may be, it is important that you learn about the condition(s) which may be affecting the person for whom you are caring and help them to make healthy choices so that you will be better able to help them.

Remember...when caring for another person it is important to take care of yourself too! Seek out assistance from others when needed and be aware of your own limitations. [Getting Started](#)

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