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**Contact:** Dana Brandorff, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
303-724-1698 Dana.Brandorff@cuanschutz.edu

### **Suicide Prevention Collaborative Wins National Award for Building Suicide Prevention Programs to Assist Veterans and their Families**

*The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs will Present Award to Partnership*

**AURORA, Colo.** (Aug. 18 2021) – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is recognizing the VA Patient Safety Center for Inquiry Suicide Prevention Collaborative (PSCI-SPC) and their community partners, including the University of Colorado College of Nursing, for implementing programs to prevent suicide among thousands of Colorado military veterans, their families and survivors. The collaborative has formed partnerships with public and private agencies to ensure veterans are able to access mental health treatment, housing, legal services, and other needs.

In 2018, nearly [18 veterans took their own lives each day](#). That year, veteran suicides accounted for 14% of all suicides in the U.S. A [report](#) by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs found when veterans get some type of VA care, the rate drops 2.4%. Likewise, when veterans don't get help, their suicide rate increases 2.5%,

“I have truly been blown away by the meaningful impact the partnership has had on the lives of veterans and their families. Thank you for your commitment and hard work to prevent suicide in veterans... I am so proud of everything that we have been able to accomplish together during an unprecedented year. I look forward to our continued collaboration,” says Bryann DeBeer, PhD, Director of the PSCI-SPC.

The collaborative was developed by DeBeer and her colleagues in order to improve coordination of veteran suicide prevention between the VA and the community. Numerous community partnerships, from the Denver University Sturm Center to the Denver Department of Public Safety, have been formed as a result.

“It highlights successful partnerships between the Veterans Health Administration and non-government organizations,” said [Mona Pearl Treyball, PhD, RN, CU Nursing Professor, Specialty Director of Veteran and Military Health Care academic programs and retired USAF Colonel.](#)

[“We have new clinical sites because of the relationships formed during the collaborative. It's a matrix-type of resourcing where we can call on each other any time.”](#)

A high-ranking official at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will present the award to the PSCI-SPC members during the virtual 2021 National Community Partnership Challenge Award Ceremony on August 19, 2021. The group is being recognized for its “extraordinary work accomplished through the partnerships.”

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