

## Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for April 2016

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**Job Fair(Albany, NY):** Upcoming job fair being held at the Albany Stratton VAMC on April 7, 2016, 10am – 2pm. Veterans interested in a career at the VA call 626-JOBS. If you are a Veteran who would like to enroll in VA Healthcare call 626-MyVA today.

**VA Expands Hepatitis C Drug Treatment:** *Expanded funding now allows VA to provide increased drug therapy at VA facilities nationwide;* WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is now able to fund care for all Veterans with hepatitis C for Fiscal Year 2016 regardless of the stage of the patient's liver disease. The move follows increased funding from Congress along with reduced drug prices. "We're honored to be able to expand treatment for Veterans who are afflicted with hepatitis C," says VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin. "To manage limited resources previously, we established treatment priority for the sickest patients. Additionally, if Veterans are currently waiting on an appointment for community care through the Choice Program, they can now turn to their local VA facility for this treatment or can elect to continue to receive treatment through the Choice Program." The entire presser can be found at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2762>

**VA Announces Community Care Call Center to Help Veterans with Choice Program Billing Issues:** WASHINGTON – Veterans can now work directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to resolve debt collection issues resulting from inappropriate or delayed Choice Program billing. In step with MyVA's efforts to modernize VA's customer-focused, Veteran-centered services capabilities, a Community Care Call Center has been set up for Veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program claims. Veterans experiencing these problems can call 1-877-881-7618 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time) for assistance. "As a result of the Veterans Choice Program, community providers have seen thousands of Veterans. We continue to work to make the program more Veteran-friendly," said Dr. David Shulkin, Under Secretary for Health. "There should be no bureaucratic burden that stands in the way of Veterans getting care." The entire presser can be found at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2764>

**VA Announces Additional Steps to Reduce Veteran Suicide:** *Because even one suicide is one too many;* WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced new steps it is taking to reduce Veteran suicide. The steps follow a February 2 Summit, "[Preventing Veteran Suicide – A Call to Action](#)," that brought together stakeholders and thought leaders to discuss current research, approaches and best practices to address this important subject. "We know that every day, approximately 22 Veterans take their lives and that is too many," said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David Shulkin. "We take this issue seriously. While no one knows the subject of Veteran suicide better than VA, we also realize that caring for our Veterans is a shared responsibility. We all have an obligation to help Veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of military service that lead them to think suicide is their only option. We *must* and *will* do more, and this Summit, coupled with recent announcements about improvements to enhance and accelerate progress at the Veterans Crisis Line, shows that our work and commitment must continue." The entire presser can be found at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2761>