

# Additional Committee Members

The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma is constantly evolving. The group is open to members representing any federal department, agency, division or office with an interest in trauma and trauma-informed care. In addition to those represented in the "Update" section of this report, the following agencies are members of the committee.

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## **US Department of Defense – Office of the Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs (ASD-HA)**

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The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs is chartered under United States Department of Defense Directive 5136.1, which states that the ASD(HA) is the principal advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Defense on all "DoD health policies, programs and activities." In addition to exercising oversight of all DoD health resources, ASD(HA) serves as director of the Tricare Management Activity, an extensive network of private physicians and hospitals providing health maintenance to service members. While the ASD(HA) does not have any specific policies on trauma-informed care, women are screened for previous trauma during healthcare visits. The ASD(HA) also oversees the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, which educates uniform physicians and other health professionals for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service. The ASD(HA) is an active participant in the

Federal Partners Committee, and has worked collaboratively with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Family Advocacy Program (OSD, FAP) on the medical components of their trauma-informed initiatives, and with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) in the development of a Special Victim's Capacity (see DOD updates).

[http://www.health.mil/About\\_MHS/Organizations/Index.aspx](http://www.health.mil/About_MHS/Organizations/Index.aspx)

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## **US Department of Health and Human Services – Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships**

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The White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships works to build bridges between the federal government and nonprofit organizations, both secular and faith-based, to better serve Americans in need. The Office advances this work through Centers in various Federal agencies.

The HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships (the Partnership Center) leads the Department's efforts to build and support partnerships with faith-based and community organizations in order to better serve individuals, families and communities in need. The Partnership Center is a mechanism for the department to engage and communicate with the grassroots, ensuring that local institutions that hold community trust have up-to-date information regarding health and human service activities and resources in their area.

The Partnership Center is focused on four major objectives: 1) improving access to health care through enrollment in health insurance, understanding the system, and increasing access points and accessibility; 2) facilitating the faith portion of the National Dialogue on Mental Health; 3) promoting responsible fatherhood and healthy families; and 4) leading the faith communities “Let’s Move” campaign. The President’s Advisory Council on Faith has created an advisory on human trafficking:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/04/10/receiving-advisory-council-recommendations-end-human-trafficking>

<http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships>

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## **US Department of Justice – National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**

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The National Institute of Justice is the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to reduce crime and promote justice, particularly at the state and local levels. NIJ has five strategic goals: 1) Fostering science-based criminal justice practice; 2) Translating knowledge to practice; 3) Advancing technology; 4) Working across disciplines; and 5) Adopting a global perspective. NIJ performs research in and evaluations of many specific types of crime — from more traditional crime, such as gun crime and child abuse, to emerging crime, such as identity theft and human trafficking. NIJ addresses many topics of concern to the Federal Partners Committee, including violence against women, intimate

partner violence, rape and sexual violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and dating violence. NIJ has an established violence against women research portfolio that has been funding studies since the 1970’s. They house a research compendium of completed and ongoing funded projects:

<http://nij.gov/nij/pubs-sum/vaw-compendium.htm>

Other NIJ-funded projects of particular interest include a multi-site examination of sexual assault case attrition; testing and evaluation of a lethality assessment program to identify lethal/high risk cases of intimate partner violence; examination of help-seeking patterns and outcomes for sexual assault survivors with disabilities; testing the Social Reactions Questionnaire and Secondary Victimization Scale among a diverse group of sexual assault survivors; an evaluation of community strategies to address childhood exposure to violence; and a report on how law enforcement and community partnerships can assist children exposed to domestic violence.

<http://www.nij.gov>

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## **US Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

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Congress created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to assure safe and healthful working conditions for U.S. workers by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance. OSHA education and assistance focuses primarily on ways employers can prevent occupational

injuries and illnesses from occurring. The application of trauma-informed care, while not at the core of OSHA's mission, is relevant to some of the work OSHA does. For example, OSHA provides guidance to employers concerning the prevention of workplace violence. This guidance, which focuses on the development of workplace violence prevention programs, includes information on how employers can assist workers after an incident of workplace violence, which can include trauma-informed care. <http://www.osha.gov/>

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## **US Department of Labor – Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)**

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VETS serves America's veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training (OASVET) was established by Secretary's Order No. 5-81 in 1981. The Assistant Secretary position was created by P.L. 96-466 in 1980 to replace the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment position created by P.L. 94-502 in 1976. The bipartisan Congressional intent was to establish leadership of the Department's programs for services to veterans at the policy-making level, and help to ensure that Congressional mandates for effective job training and placement services for eligible veterans are carried out by DOL. The application of trauma-informed practice is essential to the work of VETS due to the high

rates of trauma exposure experienced by military personnel, documented in the DOD sections of this monograph. VETS is collaborating with the DOL Women's Bureau to increase women's participation in VETS-funded programs; to increase women's reintegration into the workforce; and to promote programs for women veteran and service providers, including a joint effort of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and VETS to provide unemployed post-9/11 era veterans with the intensive follow-up services they need to succeed in today's job market.

VETS has made a formal commitment to improve employment outcomes for Women Veterans with the August 2013 creation of the first-ever full time Women Veterans Program Manager. The Women Veterans Program has three main objectives:

1. Identify distinct challenges that exist for Women Veteran employment.
2. Identify DOL services required to close the gap in employment.
3. Elevate the Women Veteran issue among diverse stakeholders to maximize impact.

While current research shows a strong correlation between high rates of trauma exposure experienced by Women Veterans and employment/housing challenges, more data is needed to better understand and address issues specific to Women Veterans. The Women Veterans Program will work toward an evidence-based approach to improve employment outcomes for Women Veterans. <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>