

Jan Dils Veterans Disability Benefits Newsletter

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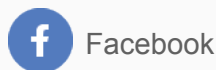
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If you're a basketball fan, we hope you'll take five from "College Basketball's Best Month" to discover what's new – and in the news – for our Veterans.

In February, the VA launched two significant initiatives. The first one increases access to mental health resources. Nearly one in every five suicides is a Veteran. This is an alarming statistic that requires serious attention and funds. It is imperative that we reach these Veterans and support their families, giving them the hope and help they need.

Also, in this newsletter, we share details regarding the launch of an initiative that helps identify Veteran healthcare needs before there is ever a problem. A preventive measure,

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“Concierge for Care,” is designed to connect with Veterans shortly after they return to civilian life. The program is intended to identify health issues, help enroll eligible Veterans in health care, and, if needed, assist in scheduling a medical appointment. All of us on the Jan Dils team care about our Veterans and their families. We interact with them each and every day. We hear so many personal stories. In fact, sometimes our work is heartbreaking. However, every time we are able to change an outcome, it makes it worth it. The VA benefits application process can be so difficult to navigate. Our experience helps make the process go much more smoothly and can give you a better chance of success. If you have questions, we have answers. Don’t hesitate to give us a toll-free call at 877.526.3457, or [send us an email](#). We’re here for you.

And if you are a basketball fan, good luck with your brackets! We hope that’s the only “madness” you endure this March.

Sincerely,



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**Contact a Jan Dils
Case Manager**

Email Address by Last Name

A-C

MeganS@jandils.com
CarrieR@jandils.com

D-J

MHutchinson@jandils.com
BethP@jandils.com

K-Q

BobbieS@jandils.com
KWentz@jandils.com

R-Z

Devon@jandils.com
BethanyW@jandils.com



**VA PARTNERS WITH
COHEN VETERANS NETWORK**



VA Partners with Cohen Veterans Network to Increase Access to Mental Health Resources

This past February may not have been a Leap Year, but the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) did take a giant step for our Vets. The VA announced a new partnership with Cohen Veterans Network, Inc., (CVN) to increase Veterans' access to mental health resources to reduce Veteran suicides.

The partnership will allow VA and CVN to work together to advance and improve Veterans' mental health and well-being and expand and promote community collaboration to increase Veterans' access to mental health resources.

“VA and CVN have a shared goal to improve Veterans' health and access to mental health services to reduce Veteran suicide,” said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin. “With 14 out of the 20 Veterans who take their own lives per day not engaging VA care, partnerships such as this help those Veterans, as well as their families, receive care where they live.”

As part of the collaboration, VA and CVN will:

- Work together on potential mental health education initiatives, consumer marketing and public health messaging
- Discuss potential locations for Cohen Clinics in regions believed to have underserved Veterans in need of mental health care services
- Collaborate to share publicly available, VA-developed educational resources for health care providers, such as military culture training and suicide prevention training with CVN staff and clinic employees.



“This partnership will help us save lives by getting care to Veterans faster and, therefore, preventing suicides,” said Dr. Anthony Hassan, president and CEO of CVN. “We are excited about partnering with VA and advancing the field through innovative clinician training initiatives and public messaging. This partnership adds another layer of depth and quality to our robust network of Cohen Military Family Clinics.”

For more information about VA mental health services, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov. Information about the Cohen Veterans Network may be found at: www.cohenveteransnetwork.org.



Veterans in crisis or having thoughts of suicide – and those who know a Veteran in crisis – should call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online

at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat), or text to 838255.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4017>



VA LAUNCHES CONCIERGE FOR CARE PROGRAM



The VA Gets Serious About Identifying Veterans' Problems Before They Get Serious

“We want to connect with Veterans before they know they need us,” states VA Secretary David J. Shulkin.

That was the impetus for the newest program coming out of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This post-Valentine’s Day present to our Veterans and the family and friends who love them, is called “Concierge for Care,” a health-care enrollment initiative that connects with former service members shortly after they separate from the service.

“Our goal is to give transitioning service members one less thing to worry about,” said Shulkin. “We know that more than a third of Veterans who haven’t yet visited our facilities

indicated they are not aware of VA health care benefits, while a quarter reported they do not know how to apply.”

This need was identified in the National Survey of Veterans (NSV) that was created in 2010 to help the VA plan its future programs and services for Veterans. The information gathered through these surveys helps the VA to identify the needs of Veterans and then allocate resources in ways that will ensure these needs can be met.

As part of Concierge for Care, VA staff members are personally contacting recently separated service members to answer questions, process their health-care enrollment applications over the phone and help schedule eligible Veterans’ first VA medical appointment, if needed.



Each week, the VA receives a list of separating service members from the Department of Defense. The goal is to make contact with them within a month of discharge.

Certain Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations are eligible to enroll and receive cost-free health care for medical conditions related to their military service during the five-year period after discharge.

Information about VA health care and the application process can be found at www.vets.gov/health-care/apply/.

All of us at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, applaud these advancements within the VA. All too often, we advocate for Veterans with benefit needs that could have been prevented in the first place – or get caught up in red tape. Our

government should not fail the men and women who have sacrificed for our country.

If you ever have questions about your specific circumstances and qualifying for Veterans' disability benefits, contact our office as soon as possible. We can schedule a consultation over the telephone or in any of our five West Virginia offices – in Parkersburg, Charleston, Logan, Huntington or Beckley – and Charlotte, NC. To make an appointment, call toll free, 877.526.3457, or [send us an email](#). Programs like this will help, but unfortunately, they are not the 100% they should be.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4015>

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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963 Market St. | Parkersburg, WV 26101

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