
Communiqués

Promoting Collaboration Across the Human Service System

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MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD ROAD TO REINTEGRATION: SYSTEMS OF CARE

Service Members from the Michigan National Guard (MI NG) have deployed to combat zones over the last seven years. Up to 75% of MI NG have been activated during this time and many have undergone multiple deployments. Deployments last up to 15 months and can be very stressful for both service members and their families. MI NG forces are unique in that they do not return to large military bases. Rather, post-deployment, these service members return to their home communities and rely on these communities for support and services. The goal of the Road to Reintegration: Systems of Care is to coordinate and evaluate services in each local community for these veterans as well as to train service providers in the most effective standards of care for military families.

What is the Road to Reintegration?

Road to Reintegration for Soldiers and their Supporters is a comprehensive effort by MI National Guard, the state of Michigan, and local communities to provide an integrated system of care throughout all stages of deployment for both soldiers and their supporters.

What are Systems of Care for NG Veterans?

Systems of care is a coordinated network of military and civilian resource providers organized for the purpose of minimizing, to the extent possible, the stressors associated with deployment, family separation, and reintegration for service members, their families, and their communities. Systems of Care target regions of the state/local communities ensuring that soldiers and their supporters have access to effective services close to where they reside.

Guiding Principles

- **COORDINATION** of military and community resources for veterans and their supporters.
- **ACCESS** to affordable and effective services regardless of the family's location or ability to pay for services.
- **RESPECT** for each family's culture, strengths, values, and needs as defined by the family as well as local awareness of challenges associated with deployment.
- **EVALUATION** of service utilization, effectiveness of services, and identification of unmet needs.

What is Involved in Road to Reintegration Systems of Care?

The Road to Reintegration Systems of Care is a three-phase process. The initial phase includes engaging local communities in care for Soldiers and their Supporters. The subsequent phases include collaboration between military and civilian resource providers, and involvement of communities in meeting the needs of the veterans residing in their region of the state.

Road to Reintegration Community Event involves bringing key stakeholders together that represent various military and civilian agencies in the local community. The Road to Reintegration Community event involves bringing key stakeholders together that represent various military and civilian agencies in the local community. In addition to an overview of MI NG military families in your community and study outcomes, there will be an opportunity to network with other resource providers. During the initial event, we hope to facilitate further discussion around how your community would like to participate in Road to Reintegration.

Systems of Care represent an easily-accessible and full continuum of evidence-based care for Soldiers and their Supporters in the local communities. It is based on the idea that military and civilian agencies will work together to address the needs not only of Soldiers but their parents, spouses, children, and employers. Road to Reintegration Systems of Care aims to coordinate military relevant resources in each community, raise awareness among providers about the military culture, facilitate ongoing discussion and collaboration with a grassroots network of families and program partners, and develop an agreed upon strategy and timeline to address mental health and other concerns in order to promote family well-being. Systems of care will include training in military cultural competency and evidence based interventions within each local community.

Evaluation is a necessary component of Road to Reintegration Systems of Care to ensure that soldiers and their supporter have access to services that meet their identified needs, measure program efficacy, measure utilization of funded services, and serve as a measure of continuous improvement for programming in local communities.

The Road Ahead

YOU can support Road to Reintegration by initiating Systems of Care in your community. You can become a TRICARE certified provider (www.tricare.mil/tma/Provider-Cert.aspx), a Military OneSource provider (<https://www.ceridianprovidersolutions.com>), learn more about best practices for military families through Uniformed Services University (www.usuhs.mil), or join the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee, which meets quarterly in Lansing (contact Lavetta Bennett, State Family Program Director at Lavetta.bennett@us.army.mil).

YOUR AGENCY / ORGANIZATION can support Road to Reintegration by linking with the MI NG Family Assistance Center Specialist or Wing Coordinator in your region, the County Veterans Counselor (www.MACVC.net), Operation Military Kids (www.operationmilitarykids.org), Operation Homefront (www.operationhomefront.net/michigan), and Veterans Affairs in your community (Vet Centers, VA Hospital, Veterans Service Organizations). Further, your agency may evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of services in your community, organize continuing education opportunities for regional and statewide meetings, or request information for targeted audiences (youth, law enforcement, religious community).

YOUR COMMUNITY can support Road to Reintegration by raising community awareness regarding the unique stressors associated with deployment and reintegration for military families. If your community is interested in hosting a Road to Reintegration Community Event contact Joyce Sloan at 517-667-9795.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION on Road to Reintegration: Systems of Care, please contact Lisa Gorman at Lisa.Gorman1@us.army.mil or 517-803-3674.

IF YOU NEED GENERAL INFORMATION on Community Collaboratives, go to the web site: www.michigan.gov/mdch, click on Community Collaboratives on the right hand side of the page.