



This Resolution was properly presented to the Department Resolutions Committee prior to the 2021 Department of California Convention held virtually in Sanger, CA on 26-27. This is the result of the Resolution:

Resolution Number: 2021-011

Title of Resolution: Support Suicide Prevention using DHHS and VA Services

Subject Matter: This resolution is to support the Federal Government through the Department of Health and Human Services and expanding VA Services in the prevention of Veteran suicides.

Convention Standing Committee Assignment: Legislative Committee

Committee Recommendations: Recommend it be passed on the floor of the convention.

Action on the Floor: The Resolution was presented on the floor by a member of the Legislative Committee and was adopted and is being forwarded to National for consideration.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
1601 7th St, Sanger, California 93657

THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT IN TRIPLICATE

Resolution No. 2021-011

Subject: VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION THROUGH EXPANDED SERVICES

(DO NOT FILL IN ABOVE THIS LINE)

RESOLUTION

**SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION BY UTILIZING DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) AND
EXPANDING VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) SERVICES**

WHEREAS, There are approximately 20.6 deaths by suicide per day among our Service members (SM) and Veterans (Vets) and worse, only six — or 29 percent — had recently used federal resources; and

WHEREAS, the National Research Strategy for the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) is identifying numerous integrated/collaborative strategies with federal, state, county, city, and non-government organizations (NGOs) to tackle this national tragedy; and

WHEREAS, We can mitigate deaths by suicide by fully utilizing safety net services from Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)-funded community health and human/social services because our “at-risk-of-suicide” SM are discouraged to go to military treatment facilities as mental health issues are stigmatized, and their federal poverty level incomes — especially those with families — also strains their quality of life; therefore, the SM/family could be enrolled in Medicaid so they can access community behavioral health services in a civilian setting and also utilize other temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) services; and

WHEREAS, Many of our SM leaving the military do not have concrete plans on the 3-Hs: Housing, Health, and Honey or steady income, and uncertainty increases the chance for suicide and/or harm to others; therefore, before their discharge, SM/families — who would qualify at their post-discharge zero income — should be pre-enrolled in Medicaid (via DHHS) with their home-of-record community health and human/social services offices; and

WHEREAS, We can also streamline access to VA services by giving every discharging SM: a) medical card to ensure continuity of health care during their critical transition period; b) certificate of eligibility for housing vouchers, education, and/or home loan; and c) zero percent disability rating because this “presumptive policy” would simplify the Veteran’s process for applying for other benefits.; therefore

RESOLVED, by the Department of California during their Virtual Convention that The American Legion urges the entire federal government to fully utilize existing safety net services from the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and expanding Veterans Affairs (VA) services and benefits as outlined above.

Below space is for use when resolution originates with a
Dept Committee/Commission or Convention Committee.

This is to certify that the above resolution was adopted

Chairman

Post Adjutant

Manuel L. Quezon Post 603

Dept Committee/Commission or Convention Committee

Name of Post and No.

Date

District Adjutant

District No.

Date