



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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Community Organizations Join Together to Better Serve Military Members in Need *San Diego Veterans Coalition Leadership Forum Highlights Improved Services to Veterans*

The San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC) and its partners gathered today to discuss the future needs of veterans and their families at the “*San Diego Veterans Coalition Leadership Forum: Community Solutions.*”

The growing SDVC's Provider Network has helped improve the quality of life for those who have worn the uniform. Forum participants learned how community providers are working together to improve and integrate service delivery.

“As a combat veteran myself, I have firsthand knowledge of the need for coordinated services for our returning service members and their families,” said Bill Horn, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. “The Veterans’ Coalition is the perfect example of how collaboration can better serve our community.”

The leadership forum included a session on collaboration focusing on how the SDVC has grown from six to 49 partners. There was also a call-to-action session for veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan on how to take leadership roles and encouraging them to reach out and represent all veterans.

Speakers at the event included Colonel David Sutherland, assistant to Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Nick Macchione, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency of San Diego County; Ted Puntillo, Director of Veterans Services for the California Department of Veterans Affairs; and Lincoln Smith, CEO of the Altarum Institute.

“The most important part of the teamwork seen by the Veterans’ Coalition is that we get the right services at the right time to our veterans and their families. Whether it be prevention, treatment or social services the goal is to improve their health and strengthen their families,” said Nick Macchione, Director of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

The sold-out forum attracted 200 people from 70 federal, state, county, and city governments and individuals who have the common goal to work together to create a safety net for our warriors and their families.

For more information on the forum please contact Gary Rossio, Co-Chair of the SDVC at (858) 386-2294.

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