



Cohen Veterans
Network

Statement for the Record for House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee Hearing - "Right Time, Right Place, Right Treatment with VA Community Care"

*Statement for the Record from Dr. Anthony Hassan, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Cohen Veterans Network, Inc.*

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As the committee examines the best ways to ensure our nation's veterans have access to the highest quality care, particularly as it relates to mental health, I wanted to provide some background for you on how Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide mental health services to Veterans and their families. Our clinics strive to be the "right time, right place, right treatment" model for community care that the committee seeks to strengthen for veterans and their families.

CVN is a not-for-profit philanthropic organization founded in 2016 that serves veterans, service members, and military families through a nationwide system of mental health clinics. CVN operates 22 clinics that provide care across 20 states, including telehealth services. Our clinics provide treatment for depression, anxiety, adjustment issues, substance misuse, anger, PTSD, grief and loss, family issues, transition challenges, sleep problems, relationship problems, and children's behavioral problems. We also provide comprehensive case management services to address social drivers of health issues, including unemployment, food insecurity, finances, housing, and more.

While the VA has invested heavily in expanding mental health services, significant challenges remain in the Community Care program and the suicide epidemic persists. Veterans often face long delays, limited local access, and administrative hurdles that discourage them from pursuing care when they need it most. CVN helps relieve this pressure by serving the whole family (as defined by the veteran or service member) and providing barrier-free, high-quality outpatient treatment in trusted community settings. CVN does not turn veterans away based on discharge status or insurance.

Since its inception in 2016, CVN has served nearly 90,000 clients in almost 800,000 clinical sessions and provided more than 440,000 telehealth sessions. More than 56 percent of the clients served have been veterans and service members. Approximately 29 percent have been non-veteran adult family members and 15 percent of family members were children. 31% of our veteran clients to date are female veterans.

Over the past decade, the demand for high-quality, accessible mental health care for veteran and military families has only grown. Through public-private partnerships, CVN has worked to fill gaps where and when they exist. Our care model is focused on being military culturally competent and is based on both data analytics and operational research.



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Our clinicians are trained in evidence-based practices and deliver measurable outcomes. As part of our mission to continually improve and enhance care, we track satisfaction and clinical improvement across all clinics. According to our metrics, over 90% of our clients would recommend CVN services to others.

CVN is proud to complement the VA's mission and extend its reach in the community. To strengthen and scale this kind of work, we support pending legislation like the **RECOVER Act (H.R. 2283)**, which would establish a pilot grant program to support non-profit clinics delivering culturally competent, evidence-based mental health care at no cost to the veteran. By encouraging public-private partnerships, the RECOVER Act can help close access gaps, especially in underserved areas, and provide a lifeline to family members who are too often left out of the traditional VA system.

A recent study entitled [*Experiences With VA-Purchased Community Care for US Veterans With Mental Health Conditions*](#) (JAMA Network Open, 21 May 25) observed, "These findings underscore the challenges vulnerable veterans experience when navigating and receiving community care and highlight an opportunity for targeted quality and care coordination strategies. (p.9). CVN strongly agrees.

Community care for veterans is a critical resource and mechanism for filling gaps in care and improving access. To fully address the need, the VA and Community Care must continue to function as complementary elements with each providing vital resources which jointly offer improved access and options for veterans while maintaining an appropriate standard of care.

CVN stands ready to continue supporting these efforts and pledges to work with the committee and administration to help veteran and military families. Thank you for your leadership and for advancing solutions that meet the full scope of veterans' mental health needs, including their families.