



# CU-SVMS Model as a Higher Education Strategy in Suicide Prevention for Student Veterans

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References

## Background

- Veterans are using their **GI Bill benefits** to enhance employment and change careers as part of reintegration (DVA, 2019; SVA, 2022)
- Reintegration and transition periods from the military to civilian life **increase the risk of suicide**.
- Suicide rate is **22 veterans per day**. Student veterans are twice as likely as their non-veteran counterparts to experience suicidal ideation (DVA, 2022).
- National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide** (DVA, 2019) **Higher Education** is called out as part of servicemember education benefits and reintegration and transition features for veterans from military to civilian life.
- A ‘Sense of Belonging’ is identified in national strategy as a **protective factor** limiting suicidal ideation/completion in those with military experience.

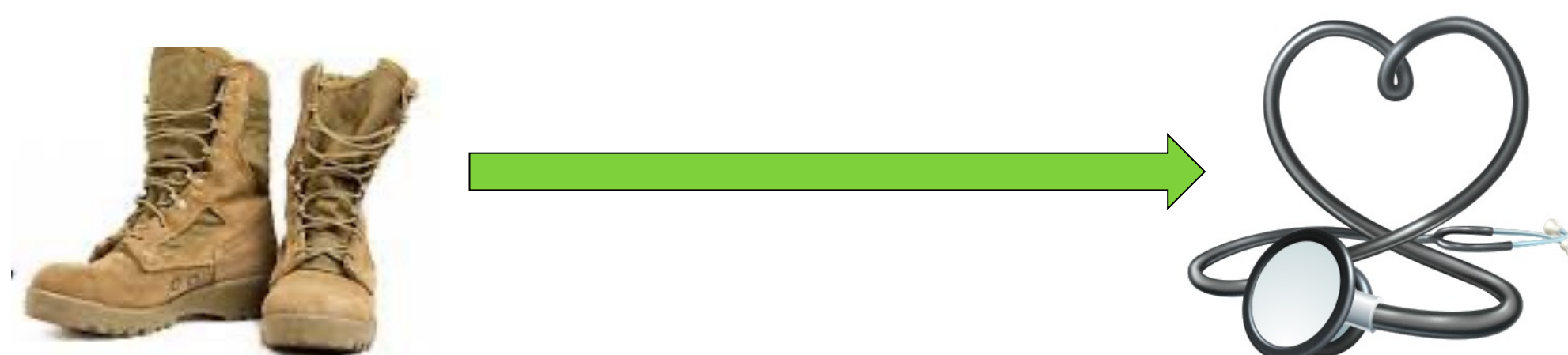
## Problem

Current services provided to Student Veterans on AMC lack a cohesive suicide prevention approach to a Sense of Belonging for health professions.

- Students Veterans feel dislocated from AMC.
- An undergraduate model of Student Belonging, and engagement is not effective at AMC.
- Current services not relevant to AMC needs.
- Mental health, insomnia, TBI and PTSD get in the way of academic performance

## Alignment with Organization Mission

- Mission: to collaborate with the schools, college and programs to create an inclusive, resilient, and thriving CU Anschutz community.
- Vision: to create a sense of belonging, where holistic health and wellbeing are nurtured, and we empower students to achieve their full potential.



## SOAR Analysis of Existing Services

Strengths What can we build on? (Doing Right)	Aspirations What do we care deeply about? (Where should we go in future)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Equity Serving Institution</li><li>Veteran Service Focused</li><li>History as Military Hospital Base</li><li>Boots to Suits Program (Denver)</li><li>Suicide Awareness Footprint on AMC</li><li>Food Pantry and other SDOH groups</li><li>Mental Health App/wellbeing initiatives</li><li>Dental Heroes Clinic</li><li>College of Nursing VMHC programs</li><li>Combat Research Centre</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Safe, welcoming, accessible, empowering and inclusive environment for military connected students</li><li>Educational effectiveness and degree completion</li><li>Improve rankings of Military Serving Institution</li><li>Strengthen lives of all military students</li><li>Alumni Veterans should be engaged in AMC</li><li>Desire a Career building focus for Student Veterans</li></ul>
Opportunities What are our stakeholders asking for? (Skills / recognition)	Results How do we know we are succeeding? (Meaningful measures)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand funding for AMC VMSS and transparent funding ROI</li><li>Health Promotion work can be expanded for Student Veterans on AMC (Mental Health, Sleep, Depression, PTS)</li><li>Boots to SCRUBS professional program</li><li>Increase marketing of VMSS WITH Student Veterans</li><li>Plug Student Veterans into Research Opportunities on AMC</li><li>Increase awareness AMC Student Veteran issues are different, experiences are different, military strengths</li><li>Food insecurity is an issue for AMC Student Veterans</li><li>Lethal Means Access Reduction Program (VA)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alumni involved in Career Mentoring of Student Veterans</li><li>Needs Assessment Survey</li><li>Student Veteran Wellness Data (National Survey)</li><li>Sense of Belonging Measure in Health Survey</li><li>Increased number of Student Veterans or Veterans employed on AMC</li><li>Student Veteran Community Panel</li><li>Strategic Plan AMC VMSS</li></ul>

## Goals and Objectives

- To ensure the AMC Student Veteran Sense of Belonging, health and well-being are adequately supported by University of Colorado Student Veteran and Military Services (CU-SVMS)
- Student Veterans are connected to resources that enable them to thrive as health professionals

## Proposed Innovation CU-SVMS

Develop a tailored services model for AMC health professions Student Veterans CU-SVMS

- Provide AMC CU-SVMS Coordinator to focus on specific needs of health professions Student Veterans
- Develop a CU-SVMS strategic plan using social determinants of health and health equity principles
- Create three new program streams: 1) *Lethal Means Access Restraint*; 2) *Boots to Scrubs* career mentoring and research engagement; 3) *Student Veteran Engagement Panel*.

## Outcome Metrics

	Metric and Definition	Methodology	Frequency	Goal(s)
Quality	95% SVs seen by the CU-SVMS program will have a Thrive Action Plan within 48hrs	Audit 10% of SVs seen by CU-SVMS (random selection)	Monthly	95% or greater
				94-92%
				<92%
Safety	99% SVs seen by with a Thrive Action Plan will have #988 and Safety Protocols	Audit 10% of SVs seen by CU-SVMS (random selection)	Monthly	99% or greater
				98-97%
				<97%
Service	80% SVs seen by the CU-SVMS program will rate overall satisfaction 5 “excellent”	Mailed survey submitted within 30 days of visit/access	Quarterly	80% or greater
				79-75%
				<75%

## Timeline



Task	Month									
	Dec 23	Jan-Feb 24	Mar	Apr	May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Nov	Dec	April 25	
Project Start-Up	JJ, JG									
Coordinator Starts (Visiblity, SOPs, TAPs, Program Planning)										
Outcomes Analysis (Quality, Safety)			Service			Service		Service		
Student Survey (n=200)		JJ			JJ		JJ			
Student Veteran Panel										
Stakeholder Forum				JJ, JG						
Program Implementation (n=3)										
Campus Town Hall								JJ, JG		
Revisions Strategic Plan, Objectives, programs									JJ, JG, PC Project Team	
College Health Survey (Sense of Belonging)									All AMC Students	

Notes: JJ Jacqueline Jones (Project Lead); JG Jan Gascoigne (Mentor); PC Project Coordinator. CU-SVMS Office will collect Outcomes for Quality, Safety and Service. Project Team will include Office Staff, College of Nursing Faculty, and an AMC veteran.

## Budget and Metrics

Line	Item Description	12-Month Projection
1	Salaries Wages Benefits	\$ 35,750
2	Direct Costs	\$ 15,000
3	Indirect Costs	\$ 2000
4	Total Cost	\$ 52,750

	Metric and Definition	Methodology	Frequency	Goal(s)
Cost	The average cost for the CU-SVMS coordinator monthly will be \$4396 Salaries, wages, benefits with direct/indirect costs	Computation from Accounting	Monthly	<\$4396
				\$4397-\$5395
	The average cost per CU-SVMS visit/access will be \$366/Student Veteran (12 SVs/month)	Computation of monthly cost for CU-SVMS divided by number of Student Veterans seen	Monthly	>\$5395
				<\$366
				\$367-\$466
				>\$466

## CU-SVMS Model Implementation

Project Team : Prof. Jacqueline Jones; Dr Jan Gascoigne, Prof. Mona Pearl-Treyball; CU-SVMS Coordinator, staff; Student Veteran

Develop CU-Thrive Action Plan (TAP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) - a roadmap for enhancing Sense of Belonging, safety protocols and mental health access (#988, CARE Team functions, Student Health options, food pantry, police liaisons).

AMC Student Needs Analysis survey guided by health equity for suicide prevention framework and Sense of Belonging data from Spring 2023.

Stakeholder Forum for strengths based Strategic Planning and refinement of 3 program streams.

American College Health Association National College Health Assessment III Survey for nexus Sense of Belonging and Health

