



# ***Veterans Response Team***

***of Northeast Georgia presents:***

**A WEBINAR**

***Part 1.***

**SAVE: Signs, Asking, Validating, Expediting Treatment**

***Part 2.***

**Risk and Protective Factors; Signs of Suicide.**

***Friday, November 14, 2024***

***5pm***

The Veterans Response Team, a collaborative effort between the VSOs across three counties, provides streamlined support to veterans and their families through a single phone and email contact. The team is launching an initiative focused on veterans' mental and physical health, responding to a critical need for accessible resources and support. This new program will feature regular in-person presentations and monthly webinars to address key issues, including suicide prevention, PTSD, and wellness resources. The first webinar will take place on November 15, with the VA presenting the SAVE program, and the Georgia Department of Veterans Services diving deeper into Risk and Protective Factors; Signs of Suicide. Future sessions will offer a range of topics to ensure comprehensive support for veterans' health.

***The Veterans Response Team Presents:***

SAVE Webinar

By

Georgia Gerard, LCSW

Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program (SRM)

Aurora, CO 80045

12/15/2024 5pm

This presentation will provide information on how act with care and compassion if you identify a Veteran who may be in crisis or having thoughts of suicide. The presentation will include a discussion important steps involved in suicide prevention (S.A.V.E.) which includes recognizing the signs a Veteran may be in crisis, asking the important question if the Veteran is thinking of suicide, validating their experience, and encouraging treatment and expediting getting help. Information regarding suicide loss and its impact on suicide loss survivors will also be provided. SAVE: Signs, Asking, Validating, Expediting Treatment

**Notes:**

Georgia Gerard is a licensed clinical social worker with the Mental Illness, Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Colorado. She has been with the VA since 2012 providing clinical services to Veterans and serving as a clinician on research studies focused on Veterans at risk for suicide. She also provides and implementation support for national VA suicide prevention programs and serves as a consultant on the VA's Suicide Risk Management Consultation Program.

**Calandra Ferguson**  
**Coordinator, Suicide Prevention & Outreach**  
**Georgia Department of Veteran Services**

*Risk and Protective Factors; Signs of Suicide.*

11/14/24. 6pm

Notes:



**Calandra "Fergie" Fergerson serves as the Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS), and the State Lead for the Governor's Challenge to prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF). GDVS Suicide Prevention Teams is the only recipient in the state that was awarded the SSG Gordon Parker Fox, Suicide Prevention Grant for the 3rd year.. The SSG Fox grant allows Calandra and her team to provide Suicide Prevention Training and Awareness, gather data to identify "Hot Spots" in the state and connect SMVF with the resources they need, utilizing the Veterans Administration and community resources.**

**Additionally, Calandra is a Combat Military Veteran with 24 years of service. She is a graduate of the University of Phoenix with an Associate degree in Health Care Administration, with emphasis of Medical Records, and Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology . Calandra is dedicated to improving the lives of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, and removing the stigma surrounding Mental Health.**