

Studies show PTSD and substance use problems are strongly related in people who served in the military and in civilians. Some people try to cope with PTSD by drinking heavily, using drugs, or smoking too much. People who have problems with drugs are also more likely to develop PTSD. The good news is that treatment works, and therapy can target both problems at the same time. ~National Center for PTSD

Veterans, families, and communities struggle with the aftereffects of serving in the military. Too often suffered in silence, the psychological trauma experienced by our men and women in uniform brings the hardship home. By embracing honest discussion and strong networks of support, winning the battle against these harrowing struggles is possible.

Continuing the vision of the Michigan Combat PTSD Task Force, The Hidden Wounds of War Conference enters its tenth consecutive year, building awareness and educating the community about treatments and resources.

The purpose of this conference is to:

- Promote understanding of substance misuse, methods of treatment, and prevention;
- Promote understanding of post-traumatic stress injury/disorder and moral injury;
- Identify community resources;
- Establish a solid community referral network specifically to treat combat-related substance misuse, PTSD, and moral injury;
- Begin a dialogue to identify practical and effective strategies for treating our wounded veterans.

The Tenth Annual Hidden Wounds of War Conference is hosted by the Hauenstein Center in partnership with Grand Valley State University, the West Michigan Veterans Coalition, the Veterans Community Action Teams, myVA, and the Soul Repair Center.

Program

Timeline:

8:00am – 9:00am – Registration & Continental Breakfast, sponsored by the Hauenstein Center

9:00am – 9:10am – Welcome/Introductions – Brent Holmes, Dr. Michael Ryan

9:10am – 10:30am – General Session: Dr. Jeremy Schumm, *Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders: Building Recovery Together*

10:30am – 10:45am – BREAK

10:45am – 12:00pm – Breakout Sessions

- Veteran Recovery Testimonies
- Community Resources

12:00pm – 1:10pm – LUNCH, Provided by the Hauenstein Center

1:10pm– 2:30pm – General Session: Dr. Jeremy Schumm, *Cognitive-Behavioral Conjoint Therapy for PTSD: Harnessing the Power of Relationships*

2:30pm – 2:45pm - BREAK

2:45pm – 4:00pm Breakout Sessions

- Women Veteran Perspectives
- Veterans Treatment Court / Legal Concerns

4:00pm – 4:15pm – General Session: Closing Remarks

Mission:

Inspired by Ralph Hauenstein's life of leadership and service, the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies is dedicated to raising a community of ethical, effective leaders for the twenty-first century.