



May 1, 2020

## **NEW SUPPORT LINE FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES NOW OPEN**

*Mental Health America of Wisconsin now providing Warmline support with Veteran Peer Support Specialists*

**MILWAUKEE, WI** – In 2019, Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) was awarded a contract from Wisconsin Department of Health Services to establish the nation’s first peer-run respite, the R&R House, which would exclusively serve veterans. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening of the R&R House has been postponed until the public health emergency subsides. Nonetheless, MHA recognizes the need for culturally relevant support for active duty Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) during this time of increased stress and uncertainty. To address this need and maintain appropriate social distancing and safer-at-home guidelines, MHA is now providing Warmline support 24/7 to military families with the skills of our Veteran Peer Support Specialists.

Any Wisconsin resident who served, or is currently serving, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces and their family members are welcome to call the Warmline for non-crisis support provided by trained Veteran Peer Support Specialists. Callers will call the Warmline at **262-336-9540** and leave a message with their name, county, military connection, and a call back number. Calls will be promptly returned by Veteran Peer Support Specialists to provide person-centered, strengths-based support and advise callers on appropriate referrals.

Please share this resource through your professional networks and personal connections. We all have a connection to the sacrifice made by veterans, active duty military personnel, and the families who share their challenges. The SMVF Warmline from Mental Health America of Wisconsin is there to provide support at any time of day.

*This Warmline service is **not** a crisis line. For veterans and military families in crisis, please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) and Press “1”.*

[www.mhawisconsin.org](http://www.mhawisconsin.org)