

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisors Buster & Tavaglione **SUBMITTAL DATE:** November 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2011-271 Supporting the Military Families Initiative to Strengthen and Heal Families of the Men and Women Who Serve our Country.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution 2011-271, supporting the Military Families Initiative.

BACKGROUND: Alternatives to Domestic Violence, with the support of a grant from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, developed a comprehensive counseling and support services program to address the unique issues faced by military personnel, their spouses and children.

Supervisor Bob Buster
First District

Supervisor John Tavaglione
Second District

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AGENDA NO.

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3 **Resolution No. 2011-271**

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
5 SUPPORTING THE MILITARY FAMILIES INITIATIVE
6 TO STRENGTHEN AND HEAL FAMILIES OF
7 THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

8 **WHEREAS**, Alternatives to Domestic Violence, working with the support of a grant from
9 the Blue Shield of California Foundation, will be providing counseling and support services to
10 military families in and around Riverside County; and

11 **WHEREAS**, ongoing combat operations, and multiple deployments to Iraq and
12 Afghanistan place enormous stress on military personnel and their families; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and
14 marital problems are prevalent in families of military personnel; and

15 **WHEREAS**, seventy-five percent of veterans with partners report at least one family
16 adjustment issue and nearly half of all active duty service members have children, and many of
17 these youngsters experience emotional and behavioral difficulties when a family member is
18 deployed or is returning from a deployment; and

19 **WHEREAS**, developing a comprehensive program to address the unique issues faced by
20 military personnel, their spouses and children is the goal of the Military Families Initiative; and

21 **WHEREAS**, as an added benefit, the Military Families Initiative will use its experience to
22 develop a blueprint of "best practices" that can be adopted by other agencies that wish to
23 establish similar programs in their communities.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors
25 wishes to express its support to Alternatives to Domestic Violence as they embark on serving
26 military personnel, veterans and their families, with the Military Families Initiative.

27 **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

28 By: 
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

By: _____
Clerk of the Board



Military Families Initiative

P.O. Box 910
Riverside, CA 92502
Phone: (951) 320-1370
FAX: (951) 320-1381

A Service of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, Riverside County, Calif.

*Providing counseling and support to help
strengthen and heal the families of the men and women
who serve our country*

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Substance abuse and related problems
- Marital problems
- Sexual assault and related problems
- Special programs for children
- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- Group counseling
- Referral to other resources and services

Ongoing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan put enormous stress on military personnel and their families.

At all levels, service members are now facing their second, third and in some cases fourth deployment. Deployments are longer and breaks between them are less frequent. As a result, military families are under extreme stress both during and after deployments.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and marital problems are prevalent. Seventy-five percent of veterans with partners report at least one family adjustment issue. Nearly half of all active duty service members have children and many of these youngsters experience emotional and behavioral difficulties.

Developing a comprehensive program to address the unique issues faced by military personnel, their spouses and children is the goal of the Military Families Initiative.

As a special service of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, and working with the support of a grant from Blue Shield of California Foundation, the Military Families Initiative provides counseling and support services to military families in and around Riverside County.

In addition, the project will use its experience to develop a blueprint of "best practices" that can be adopted by other agencies that wish to establish similar programs in their communities.

How Our Program Works

- March Air Reserve Base refers military personnel and dependents to us for counseling services.
 - Military personnel and dependents from other service branches, veterans and those living off base may make use of our services without referral.
 - Our counseling services are approved for coverage under the TRICARE Military Health Plan.
 - Clients not covered by TRICARE are charged according to a sliding scale based on ability to pay.
 - Special programs are offered to address the unique problems experienced by children of military families.
 - Counseling services are available at centers in Riverside and Corona.
 - Future counseling centers are planned for Hemet and Temecula.
 - All services are confidential.
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Frequently Asked Questions

Where are your facilities?

We currently have therapists in two locations:

Riverside Office
4150 Latham St.
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 320-1370

Corona Office
515 So. Corona Mall
Corona, CA 92879
(951) 739-0208

How many counselors are available to help?

Our program provides four trained and licensed therapists

What services do you provide?

- Family counseling for individuals and family groups
- Support groups for individuals and families
- Referrals to other services and resources

What types of problems do your therapists treat?

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and related problems
- Family problems resulting from PTSD
- Sexual assault and related problems
- Substance abuse and related problems
- Marital problems
- Problems experienced by children of military families

Who is eligible to receive your services?

All military personnel and their immediate families, as well as veterans.

How does someone access services?

Military personnel may be referred through the normal health-care channels at March Air Reserve Base or other bases in the greater Riverside County area. In addition, military personnel from other service branches and those living off base may independently contact us for services without official referral. Veterans may contact us directly.

How is payment for services set up?

Our services are covered by TRICARE, the military health care insurance plan. Basic TRICARE coverage supports eight visits, with additional visits authorized on a case-by-case basis. Military personnel, dependents and veterans not covered under TRICARE are charged directly on a sliding scale, based on ability to pay.

Are your services confidential? Do you send any reports to military authorities?

All our services are completely confidential and covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). By law, no outside person or agency may request or obtain information regarding your care without your written permission.

What special services are available for children?

Children of military personnel may experience unique problems. We have programs that target these unique issues and include therapy, support groups, play therapy and other appropriate measures.

How does this differ from other services offered in the community?

Our services are designed specifically to be sensitive to the special challenges faced by military families and their individual members. We serve active duty personnel and their dependents, Vietnam veterans and members of the military living anywhere in the greater Riverside County area, regardless of service branch. In addition, we will continuously evaluate the effectiveness of our services and make adjustments to fit the changing needs of our clients. Ours is a comprehensive approach that addresses the full spectrum of family life and dynamics.

How is your program organized?

To launch our program, we received a grant from Blue Shield of California Foundation, which took effect Jan. 1, 2011. The grant is to provide services to Riverside County military families and to develop a blueprint of "best practices" that can be used by other agencies that may wish to establish similar programs in other communities. Assisting us in this project is the consulting firm, Social Solutions, which is designing software to gather the critical data, and consultants Harder & Company, which will analyze the data and help us draft the program "blueprint."
