**Moderator:** Aimee Johnson, L.C.S.W. | Program Analyst, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration

Ms. Johnson is a Program Analyst working for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention focusing on innovations and partnerships. Her clinical background includes juvenile justice, emergency department psychiatric social work, medical social work, Suicide Assessment and Follow-Up Engagement Veteran Emergency Treatment (SAFE-VET Project), a clinical demonstration project, private practice and Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Portland VA Health Care System. She is a proud alumnus of Whittier College and the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Ms. Johnson is a 2019 Scholar of the Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program, George W. Bush Presidential Center.

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Stay tuned for additional announcements on upcoming topics!
**Introduction:** Matthew A. Miller, Ph.D., M.P.H. | Director, Suicide Prevention Program, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Dr. Matthew Miller is the Director, Suicide Prevention Program for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In March 2020, Dr. Miller was sworn in as a Senior Executive and appointed officially as the Director, Suicide Prevention Program for VHAs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) after serving as the Acting Director since June of 2019. Dr. Miller leads a team dedicated to the implementation and reinforcement of evidence-based community and clinical interventions addressing suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for 19 million Veterans, nationwide and 140+ VA healthcare systems. Dr. Miller previously served as the Director of the Veterans and Military Crisis Line (VMCL). Under his leadership, the VCL became the world’s largest and most efficient suicide crisis call center. Prior to joining the VMCL, as Director, Dr. Miller served at the local VA facility level as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Saginaw (MI) VA Medical Center, as well as the Chief of Mental Health. Dr. Miller served as an Officer and Clinical Psychologist with the United States Air Force.

**Presenter:** Joe Bartozzi, J.D. | President and CEO, National Shooting Sports Foundation

Joe Bartozzi is the President and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearms industry, and the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute (SAAMI), the standards-setting organization for industry. Until his move to NSSF, Joe spent nearly 40 years in a variety of technical and executive management roles in the manufacturing sector. Joe was a longtime member of NSSF’s Board of Governors, including serving as the Foundation’s Treasurer, and he served two terms as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of SAAMI. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports and is a member of the Board of Directors of the World Forum on Shooting Activities. He currently serves on the Board of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross and as the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of Goodwill Industries of Southern New England. Joe is an attorney and 2014 recipient of the Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award, presented by the Connecticut Bar Association, and is a member of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court.

**Presenter:** Megan McCarthy, Ph.D. | Vice President, Project 2025, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Megan McCarthy serves as AFSP’s Vice President for Project 2025, a nationwide initiative to reduce the annual rate of suicide in the U.S. 20% by 2025. Project 2025 relies on research to determine which interventions will have the biggest impact and focuses on suicide prevention practices in four critical areas: health care systems, emergency departments, correctional settings, and firearms communities. In this new role, Dr. McCarthy will lead the implementation and evaluation of Project 2025’s suicide prevention plans in each of the four areas.

Before coming to AFSP, McCarthy learned the importance of data-driven approaches to preventing suicide while serving as the National Deputy Director for Suicide Prevention at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She led the development of VA’s comprehensive public health approach to preventing Veteran suicide and oversaw the VA’s suicide prevention data surveillance, research, and program evaluation teams.

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Karras-Pilato, Ph.D. | Co-Research Director, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

Liz Karras-Pilato is an investigator and co-director for research at the VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention (Canandaigua, NY). She holds appointments in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester (NY) and the Injury Control Research Center at West Virginia University (WV). Dr. Karras-Pilato’s research is largely focused on the use of communication strategies in public health approaches to suicide prevention with domains of inquiry designed to inform the development of evidence-based messaging for military and veteran populations. She currently maintains multiple research lines that examine the (a) formative process of message design and (b) summative evaluation of messaging strategies to examine the persuasive effects on attitude and behavior change. Dr. Karras-Pilato has received funding from the VA and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to study suicide prevention messaging (e.g., crisis line promotion; firearm safety) among veterans at high risk for suicide and their broad social networks and has recently published on strategies that enhance effective risk communication using community-based approaches.

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