

NH Legislative Commission on PTSD and TBI

Chapter 115-D, Law of 2014

The New Hampshire Legislative Study Commission on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), a strong advocate of military and civilian collaboration, released a Study Report in January of 2014. The Study Report included: survey results from 1,200 New Hampshire veterans on barriers in accessing health care; health care discussions from 50 different military events, conferences, and meetings; and a veteran mapping series that highlighted areas of health care concerns.

As a result of this significant work conducted by the Study Commission on PTSD and TBI, a Permanent Commission on PTSD and TBI was legislatively established in the Fall of 2014. The mission of this newly established Commission is to improve access to care and quality of care for veterans and service members who experience post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Per legislation, this new Permanent Commission is tasked with using the Legislative Study Report as a guide in addressing these issues.

In the Fall of 2014, the Department approved \$2.8M of federal funds to help improve access to care and quality of care for veterans, service members, and their families. These new initiatives all share a strong focus on education, outreach, training, access, and sustainability, while strengthening New Hampshire's military–civilian support network. The Permanent Commission on PTSD and TBI helped to advise, support, and promote much of this work. The initiatives include: "Ask the Question" Campaign, Statewide Military Culture Trainings, Community Mental Health Center Military Liaison Initiative, Military and Veteran Family Initiative, Care Coordination, Military Resource Guide, Justice Involved Veterans Conference and Interagency Planning Development. To read more about the NH Military Access Projects, please see following link: <http://www.daremightythings.com/accessbrochure.html>

The “Ask the Question” Campaign is at the core of this work and has been recognized across the State and across the Country as a significant model in helping to identify our military while connecting them to appropriate services and care. Please check out this amazing website at:

<http://askthequestionnh.com/>

For more information on the NH Legislative Commission on PTSD and TBI, please contact the Commission Chair COL Richard F. Oberman, New Hampshire Army National Guard, richard.f.oberman.mil@mail.mil