



**PennState**  
**Harrisburg**

**Douglas W. Pollock Center for  
Addiction Outreach and Research**

# Center Background

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- Established in August 2019 through a \$2.5 million leadership endowment from the Douglas W. Pollock Foundation
- The Pollock Center applies interdisciplinary, collaborative, and community-engaged approaches, to address substance use disorder (SUD) throughout the region and state by providing **resources and assistance to veterans and community-based organizations**
- **\*\*Effectively addressing SUD is not easy and it is not the responsibility of government officials, physicians, researchers, or individuals alone...Rather, it is a shared value and responsibility that includes an entire community\*\***



***“The Center is going to be hands on. We’re not worried and not interested in an academic exercise. It’s going to assist community groups, veterans groups, the courts, and any other organizations that are on the front lines of attacking and taking on this war of addiction.”***

– Mike Bangs, Esq.  
Douglas W. Pollock Foundation

# Leverage Our Resources to Support Others

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# What Does This Mean?

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## **Community Based Organizations**

- Connect and strengthen stakeholders (organizations and individuals) already responding to the crisis
- Assess specific community and stakeholder needs
- Assist organizations in locating funding
- Foster collaboration among similar community groups
- Reduce duplication of efforts
- Provide up-to-date, evidenced based strategies for addressing SUD
- Serve as and provide expert-level resources
- Assist with developing, implementing, and evaluating programs to address SUD within the community

## **Veterans**

- Provide veteran-specific resources, information, and guidance to better understand and access the VA medical system and options available
- Serve as an expert-level resource center for veterans and families to better understand the potential dangers, signs, and implications of SUD
- Give veterans and their families the skills necessary to recognize and act in the case of an overdose

# Building our Veteran Focused Activities and Initiatives

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- Currently, our veteran graduate and undergraduate students at the Center:
  - Assist with various center projects, initiatives, and activities
  - Attend monthly Veteran Coalition meetings to uncover and share resources
  - Host Veteran Coalition meetings at PSH
  - Attended and provided resources at the Veteran Stand Down event at the Farm Show Complex
  - Work with admissions to revise campus assessment to identify veteran needs
  - Locate and categorize veteran specific campus resources, as well as department champions across campus
  - Meet with various veterans groups across the state to understand their programming and how they set up their programs (Kutztown, PSU Clearinghouse, JFT, etc.)
  - Rebuild and re-engage XGI (veterans fraternity)

## RVI's Generous Funding and Support Will Enable Us To:

- Expand reach and support for veterans across the region, starting with those on campus, then expanding outward:
  - Further develop and lead SERV (Support, Education, and Resources for Veterans) Team initiative to enhance PSU Harrisburg faculty/staff/student engagement, followed by greater university
  - Develop tailored programming, resources, outreach, and support for veterans on campus and in local area
  - Compose relevant data briefs focused on veteran SUD issues Pennsylvania
  - Increase research focused on veteran needs (first campus, then across the state)

## RVI's Generous Funding and Support Enables Us To:

- Assemble publicly available list of veterans resources for campus and region
- Host regular veterans 'Office Hours' for veterans to assist veterans
- Identify and apply for funding opportunities specifically related to veterans health and SUD issues
- Facilitate a shared space agreement with Northeast Counterdrug Task Force
- Increase public/private relationships and partnerships with other veteran serving organizations
- Increase collaboration efforts veterans centers across the university

We All Have a Part To Play in the Story of Change

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**Thank You!**