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September 8, 2015

Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy to Lead National Action Alliance Suicide Prevention Public Sector Effort

Washington, DC – The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance), the national public-private partnership advancing suicide prevention, has named Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., Chief Medical Officer for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as its new public sector co-chair.

In her role as public-sector co-chair, Dr. Clancy will provide overall strategic leadership to Action Alliance and specifically to all public sector partners engaged in national efforts to advance suicide prevention. This includes the U.S. Departments of Defense, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

“The Action Alliance is honored to welcome Dr. Clancy as our new public sector leader. Dr. Clancy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, especially in her roles with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. We look forward to her leadership to further advance national suicide prevention efforts,” said Doryn Chervin, Dr. P.H., Executive Secretary of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and Vice President and Senior Scientist at Education Development Center, Inc.

VA is the largest integrated health care system in the U.S., with more than 1700 sites, including hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and Readjustment Counseling Centers. In addition, VA is the nation’s largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical research.

Prior to assuming the duties of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Clancy served as VA Interim Under Secretary for Health, and Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health, for Quality, Safety and Value. As the leader of quality management, Dr. Clancy was responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and evaluating VA’s national quality, safety, and value-producing programs and approaches.

“We have a responsibility to make every effort possible to reduce suicides in our military, among our Veterans and our society. Suicide prevention is essential to the overall health of our entire nation,” said Dr. Clancy. “It is a privilege to serve in such a key position and to advance our nation’s focus on saving the lives of so many.”

In this leadership role, Dr. Clancy joins Mr. Robert Turner, Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations, Union Pacific Corporation, and private sector co-chair of the Action Alliance.

“I am delighted to welcome Dr. Clancy as public sector co-chair. She not only brings an impressive breadth of knowledge to the executive committee, but also a well-known passion for improving people’s lives,” said Turner. “The Action Alliance is fortunate that she has agreed to accept this position and I am personally looking forward to working with her.”

Dr. Clancy succeeds Jessica L. Garfola Wright, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the United States Department of Defense.

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

(www.ActionAllianceforSuicidePrevention.org) is the public-private partnership working to advance the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and make suicide prevention a national priority. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, through the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) operates the Secretariat for the Action Alliance, which was launched in 2010 by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the goal of saving 20,000 lives in five years.

To learn more about VA health care, visit www.va.gov.

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