

UMDNJ's University Behavioral HealthCare NJ Vet 2 Program Press Event
August 31, 2010
Talking Points

Acknowledgements

Thank you to UMDNJ, University Behavioral HealthCare and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for providing critical support services for our veterans. I also want to thank Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Holt for your advocacy on behalf of those who served our county

Today, we honor our veterans by ensuring they get support and services they need.

VA hospital

For many years, I worked closely with veterans at the VA hospital at Lyons.

During my time there, I met so many special veterans, who shared with me many stories of their years of combat.

They told me stories that were truly unimaginable. The courage and strength of character these soldiers had is remarkable.

Although without talking to many of them, you would think they are like every other patients, but when you think of what they have been through and the sacrifices they made, you see they are absolutely extraordinary.

These men and women deserve our gratitude and respect for their service to our country.

Vet 2 Program

That is why I am so pleased to be standing here with our distinguished guests to talk about a program that gives back to our veterans. This program provides immediate, direct contact to counselor who is also a fellow veteran.

And thank to the enhancements announced today, veterans and their families will have even greater access to help with stress, depression and other behavioral health problems.

Users will be able to communicate Live Chat, Video Chat and Chat Rooms.

Live chat will provide callers with an opportunity for a one-to-one online discussion, in much the same manner as instant messaging. The use of video chat will provide callers an opportunity to participate with a peer counselor in an online "face-to-face" interaction. Chat rooms will allow veterans and / or their family members to participate in scheduled online discussion groups hosted by a peer counselor.

These additions will make it even easier for those who need support and assistance to receive it, improving the quality of life for so many of our veterans.

