



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First-Ever Cohen Veterans Network Clinic in Washington State Opens its Doors for Post-9/11 Veterans and Their Families

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Valley Cities is set to fill gaps for Washington state’s veteran population with in-person therapy and face-to-face therapy delivered online

LAKEWOOD, WA – March 22, 2019 – Today the [Cohen Veterans Network](#) (CVN) announced the grand opening of the [Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Valley Cities](#) in Lakewood, WA. The new clinic will offer comprehensive mental health services to Washington state’s many veterans and their family members, regardless of veteran discharge status or ability to pay.

CVN, a not-for-profit philanthropic organization, is a nationwide network of clinics supporting post-9/11 veterans and military families with mental health services. The Cohen Clinic at Valley Cities in Lakewood is the first of its kind in Washington state. With this opening, the network now has 11 clinics in operation.

“We are thrilled to be in this area of high need with a very credible local partner in Valley Cities,” said CVN CEO Dr. Anthony Hassan. “Since opening to the public in 2016, Cohen Clinics have treated more than 10,000 clients across the country. We expect to make a big impact on the local veteran and military family community in this location.”

“Our team at the new Cohen Clinic at Valley Cities is uniquely positioned to serve the veteran community here in Lakewood, the Tacoma-area and throughout Washington,” said Cohen Clinic Director Nichole Ayres. “Many of my colleagues are veterans or members of military families who have had personal experiences with friends and family members in desperate need of mental health support. As a member of a military family myself, I have seen these issues firsthand, and I am thrilled to be part of a movement to expand availability to essential services, particularly given the alarming rate of suicides among veterans.”

Honorable attendees at the grand opening ceremony included Washington state First Lady Trudi Inslee, veteran and Washington state native Scotty Smiley, Dr. Hassan, Congressman Denny Heck and State Senator Steve O’Ban. These leaders delivered remarks at the ceremony, which was also attended by regional government, military and business community leaders.

“We are thrilled that CVN has selected Valley Cities as its regional partner in Washington state and are hopeful that the clinic’s physical and virtual presence will help to reduce barriers to



care,” said Shekh Ali, CEO of Valley Cities. “The clinic’s unique model, including its telehealth services -- face-to-face therapy delivered online, will reduce barriers to treatment, allowing clients throughout the entire state to receive support via phone or computer from the comfort of their home or workplace.”

The new Cohen Clinic at Valley Cities will be able to serve 500 veterans in the first year. For anyone in crisis, the Cohen Clinic will schedule same day appointments. In-person and telehealth treatments are available for a variety of mental health issues including depression, anxiety, PTSD, adjustment issues, anger, grief & loss, family issues, transitional challenges, relationship problems, and child behavioral problems.

ABOUT THE COHEN VETERANS NETWORK

The Cohen Veterans Network is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit, clinically integrated mental health system for post-9/11 veterans and their families. CVN focuses on improving mental health outcomes, with a goal to build a network of outpatient mental health clinics for veterans and their families in high-need communities, in which trained clinicians deliver holistic evidence-based care to treat mental health conditions. Learn more about the Cohen Veterans Network at cohenveteransnetwork.org

ABOUT VALLEY CITIES

Valley Cities is a nonprofit community behavioral health organization that has been helping individuals and strengthening communities for over 50 years. Services include licensed mental health counseling and chemical dependency treatment for people of all ages, homeless outreach services, housing and family support programs, employment services, and specialized services for veterans and their families. In 2018, we helped over 18,800 people. Learn more at www.valleycities.org

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Visit the Cohen Veterans Network Website: cohenveteransnetwork.org

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Visit the Cohen Clinic at Valley Cities Website: www.valleycities.org/cohenclinic

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