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*Patient Advocacy Leaders
United for Veterans' Health*

PALs United for Veterans' Health: Collaborating on Issues of Pain & Pain Management

March 28, 2025



**CENTER FOR PATIENT
ADVOCACY LEADERS**

Welcoming Remarks



Edward V. Hickey III – Moderator

President, former Vice President and Secretary, American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)

Chair, AAKP Veterans Health Initiative, U.S.M.C.

Objectives:

- ④ ***Inform participants of recent innovations relating to the treatment and management of pain.***
- ④ ***Identify barriers accessing effective treatment for pain and pain management created by stigma and discrimination, VHA institutional barriers and/or lack of resources faced by Veterans with pain.***
- ④ ***Identify potential education and advocacy activities to address stigma and discrimination impacting key stakeholders. The focus is to inform providers, payors, and the public to better understand and address the critical issues facing Veterans and their caregivers affected by pain.***



Overview of the Current Pain/Pain Management Landscape

Amanda Zimmerman, PA-C

Physician Associate/Owner West Forsyth Pain Management

Vice President, Pain Medicine Academy of Advanced Practice Practitioners

Board Member, Pain Society of the Carolinas



Addressing the Barriers & Opportunities to More Effectively Treat and Manage Pain: *Perspectives from the Veterans' Community*



Naomi Mathis

*Assistant National Legislative Director,
Disabled American Veterans (DAV), USAF,
Ret.*



Jon Retzer

*Deputy National Legislative Director for
Health, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)*



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Addressing the Barriers & Opportunities to More Effectively Treat and Manage Pain: *Perspectives from the Advocacy Community*



Caregiver Advocate

Marvell Adams Jr.

Chief Executive Officer, Caregiver Action Network (CAN)



Provider Advocate

Carl V. Barnes, MD, FACP

VA Physician, Denver, CO (2001-2020)



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Thank You Attendees & Partners!



CAREGIVER
ACTION
NETWORK

CAN



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By Advocates, For Advocates



THE AIDS INSTITUTE