



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Easterseals Fairfield County/Oak Hill Launches New Initiative: Veterans Count**

Hartford, CT – Easterseals Coastal Fairfield County, an affiliate of Oak Hill, announces the launch of a new initiative in Connecticut, **Veterans Count**, to provide critical and timely, assistance and services to Veterans, caregivers, National Guard, Reservists, Gold Star and Blue Star families, to ensure their dignity, health and overall well-being.

Veterans Count is a model of support created by Easterseals New Hampshire. It is a care management program that helps people connect to what they need. Veterans Count creates awareness of not only the existence of the supports and services for Veterans, their families, and Veterans organizations, but, it is the expectation that various locations throughout the state will become ‘Rally Points’ for the constituencies needing services.

To accomplish this, Veterans Count will leverage Oak Hill’s programs and services to support Veterans and their families in the areas of: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Addiction, Physical Rehabilitation and more. Additionally, through its existing and growing partnerships, Veterans Count is actively addressing the issues associated with Veterans homelessness, unemployment and underemployment. “It is the vision of Veterans Count to provide facilities and services through existing and future programs that will positively impact and assist in negating the 20 Veteran suicides that are taking place nationally on a daily basis,” said Steve Dunkle, Senior Director of Veterans Count.

“This is an important and vital addition to Easterseals /Oak Hill and our programs. Another opportunity for the organization to continue to expand its continuum of care to another underserved population in Connecticut,” said Barry Simon, Oak Hill’s President and Chief Executive Officer. Some of the affiliated programs include: Chapter 126 Sports & Fitness, An Oak Hill Center (Bristol), Easterseals Camp Hemlocks (Hebron), New England Assistive Technology (NEAT), An Oak Hill Center (Hartford), and Gilead Community Services, Inc. (Middletown).

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**About Oak Hill:**

Oak Hill's mission is to set the standard, partnering with people with disabilities, to provide services and solutions promoting independence, education, health and dignity. The circle of care we deliver involves a continuum of services that helps guide our participants to increased independence and better health, over time. Our network supports people of all ages – from birth to seniors. Programs are in place for all levels of need. For up-to-date information about Oak Hill, please visit [www.OakHillCT.org](http://www.OakHillCT.org), [www.facebook.com/CIBOakHill](https://www.facebook.com/CIBOakHill), and on Twitter at @OakHillCT. Oak Hill is a IRS recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

**About Veterans Count:**

Veterans Count is a program of Easterseals Coastal Fairfield County, an Oak Hill affiliate. Our mission is to provide critical and timely assistance and services to Veterans, service members and their families, to ensure their dignity, health and overall well-being. For more information [contact](#) Steve Dunkle at [steve.dunkle@oakhillct.org](mailto:steve.dunkle@oakhillct.org). [www.VetsCountCT.org](http://www.VetsCountCT.org). Easterseals is a IRS recognized 501(c)(3).