

**VA**



U.S. Department  
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# News Release

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## **President Trump selects Jake Leinenkugel to lead VA commission focused on Veterans' mental health treatment**

**WASHINGTON** — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that President Donald J. Trump has selected former VA White House Senior Advisor Thomas “Jake” Leinenkugel to lead a key commission focused on the department’s mental health care programs.

The Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery (COVER) commission will examine VA’s evidence-based therapy model for treating mental health conditions, as well as the department’s complementary and integrated mental health approaches.

“Jake has been an ambassador for change at VA, working to implement President Trump’s policies throughout the department over the past year and a half,” said Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “As leader of this important new commission, Jake will continue to advocate for better care and services for his fellow Veterans.”

A former captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, Leinenkugel joined VA in January 2017 after retiring in 2014 from his family-operated business, Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Co., where he had served as president for 26 years.

At VA, Leinenkugel has been instrumental in the creation of the department’s “[ChooseVA](#)” branding campaign and the implementation of November’s [National Veterans and Military Families Month](#). He has also worked to promote VA’s efforts to reduce Veteran suicides.

The COVER commission is scheduled to hold its first meeting July 24 and 25 in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the COVER commission, email [COVERCommission@va.gov](mailto:COVERCommission@va.gov).