



Veteran Access To Mental Health

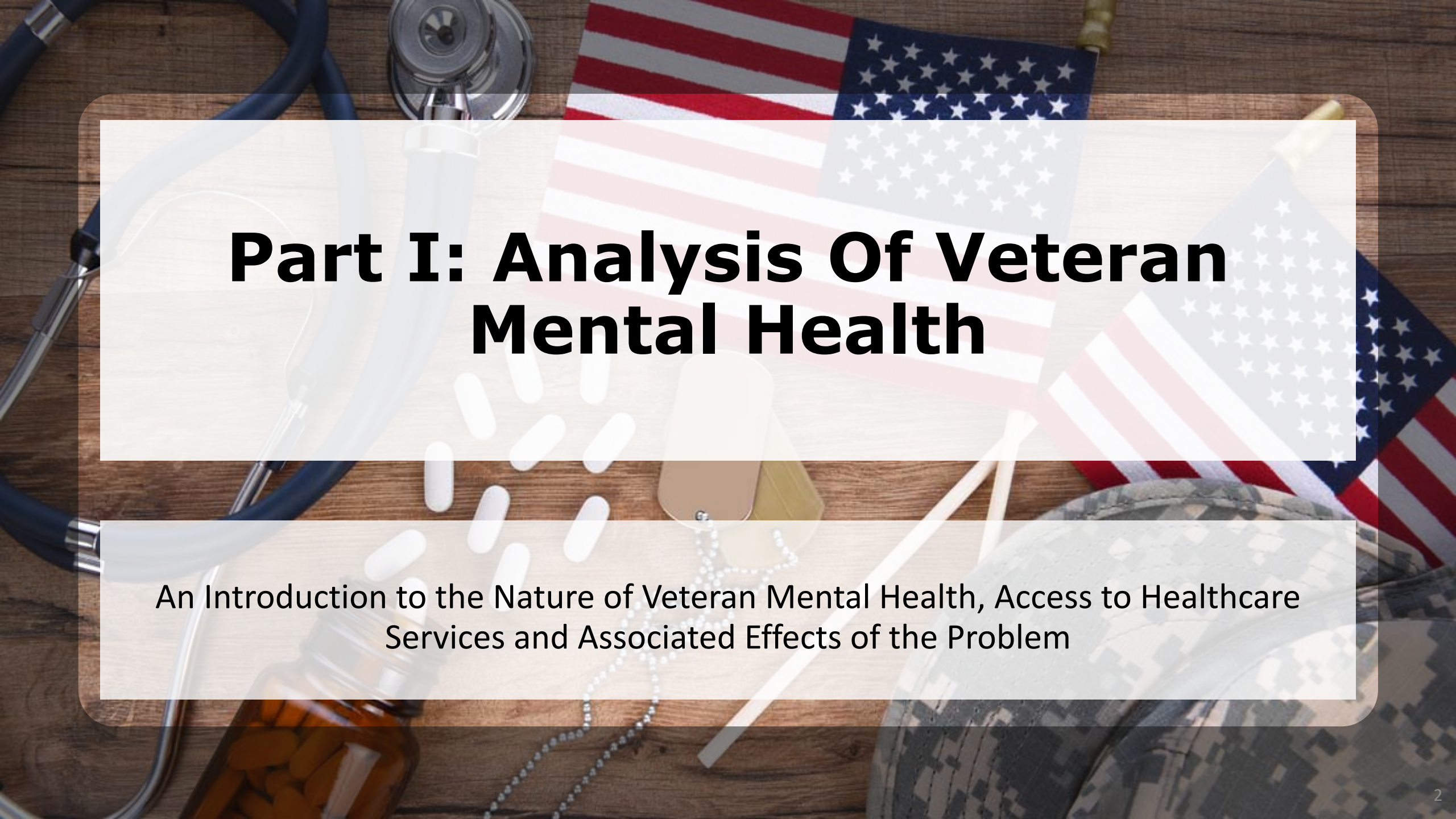
Dayana Labib

Southern New Hampshire University

Healthcare Economics

Elizabeth Baker

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Part I: Analysis Of Veteran Mental Health

An Introduction to the Nature of Veteran Mental Health, Access to Healthcare Services and Associated Effects of the Problem

Economic Principles and Indicators

- Mental health is an important health challenge to veterans yet access to healthcare services remain limited.
- Supply and demand exasperates the problem.
 - High number of veterans requiring mental health services while the supply resources available is limited.
- Scarcity of resources further impacts access to mental health services
 - Limited resources especially financial
- Principles enhance understanding of reasons behind challenges to accessing mental health services

Economic Impacts

- High number of veterans honorably discharged
- Low access to mental health services
- Increase in the health burden
 - About \$232.2 billion as of 2018
- High healthcare burden affects the healthcare industry
- With more veterans being discharged and the prevailing challenges, the health burden keeps increasing



Socioeconomic Factors



- Veterans have served their country diligently
- Socioeconomic challenges influence military enlisting
- Most military personnel have low occupational prospects
- Veterans rely on benefits upon being honorably discharged
- Benefits have reduced over recent years
- Socioeconomic challenges serve as a precursor to mental health issues among this group

Healthcare Organizations

- Healthcare organizations under the Veteran Health Administration
- Organization affected by high demand of mental health services and low supply
 - Resource limitation
 - High personnel turnover
- Currently, provision of fully integrated medical services is available





Part II: Evaluation of The Policy

An Evaluation of Key Components of the Policy

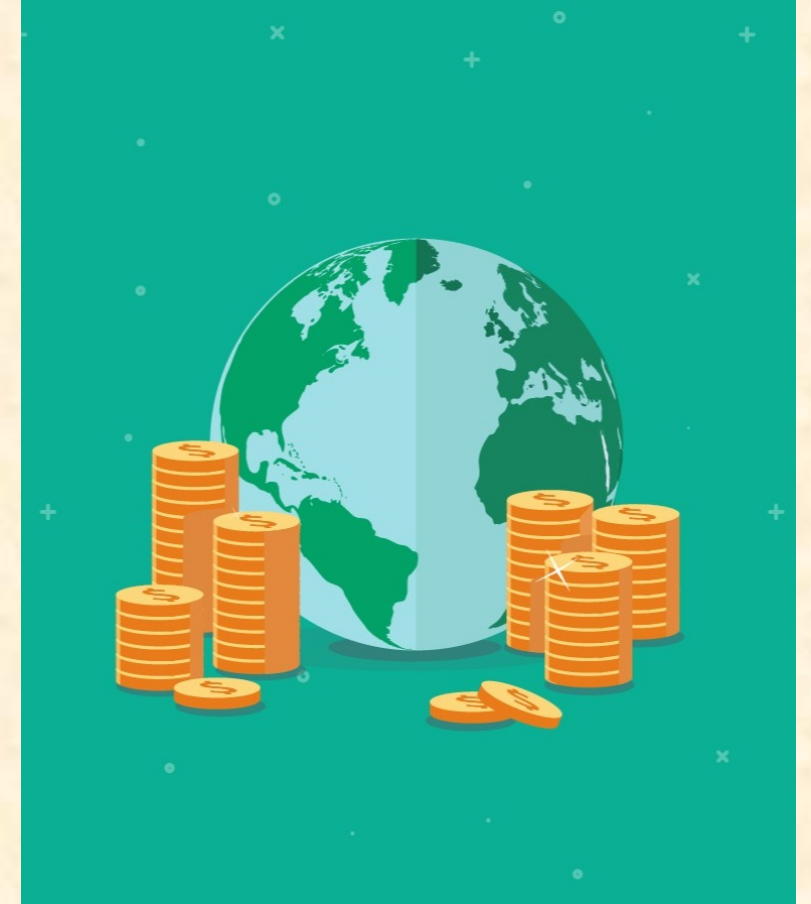
Current Landscape: Legal



- No current policies adopted or proposed by the APHA to address veteran access to mental healthcare services
- Significant benefits only available to veterans with 50 percent disability
- Veteran access to mental healthcare is a significant challenge
- Persistent mental health challenges will affect performance of the American healthcare system

Current Landscape: Economic

- High economic burden from veteran mental health challenges
- No policies addressing limited resources
- High healthcare burden will lead to financial liabilities in the healthcare industry
- Policies need to address this issue to limit economic implications



Operational Strategies

- The proposed policy involves reshaping the APHA's resource access and management initiative.
 - Current issues involve resources and personnel turnover
- Operational strategies include core competencies and flexibility
- Core competencies include availability of human resource through healthcare providers
- Flexibility involves the provision of services tailored to the needs of veterans seeking mental health services

Healthcare Organizations: Roles



- Organizations under the VHA offer in and out-patient services to veterans
- VHA is the most influential healthcare system in the US when it comes to veteran healthcare
- Organizations under this system can effectively deliver mental healthcare services
- These organizations will be central in delivering these services thus accomplishing the desired objective
- Organizations can effectively minimize challenges of access to mental health services

Healthcare Organizations: Harnessing Position

- The position of these organizations in the healthcare industry is primarily focused on veteran healthcare needs
- The organizations will use their position to enhance anticipated outcomes
- VHA has significant influence on veteran healthcare outcomes
- Organizations under the VHA will use this influence to support this policy



Policy Defense: Improve

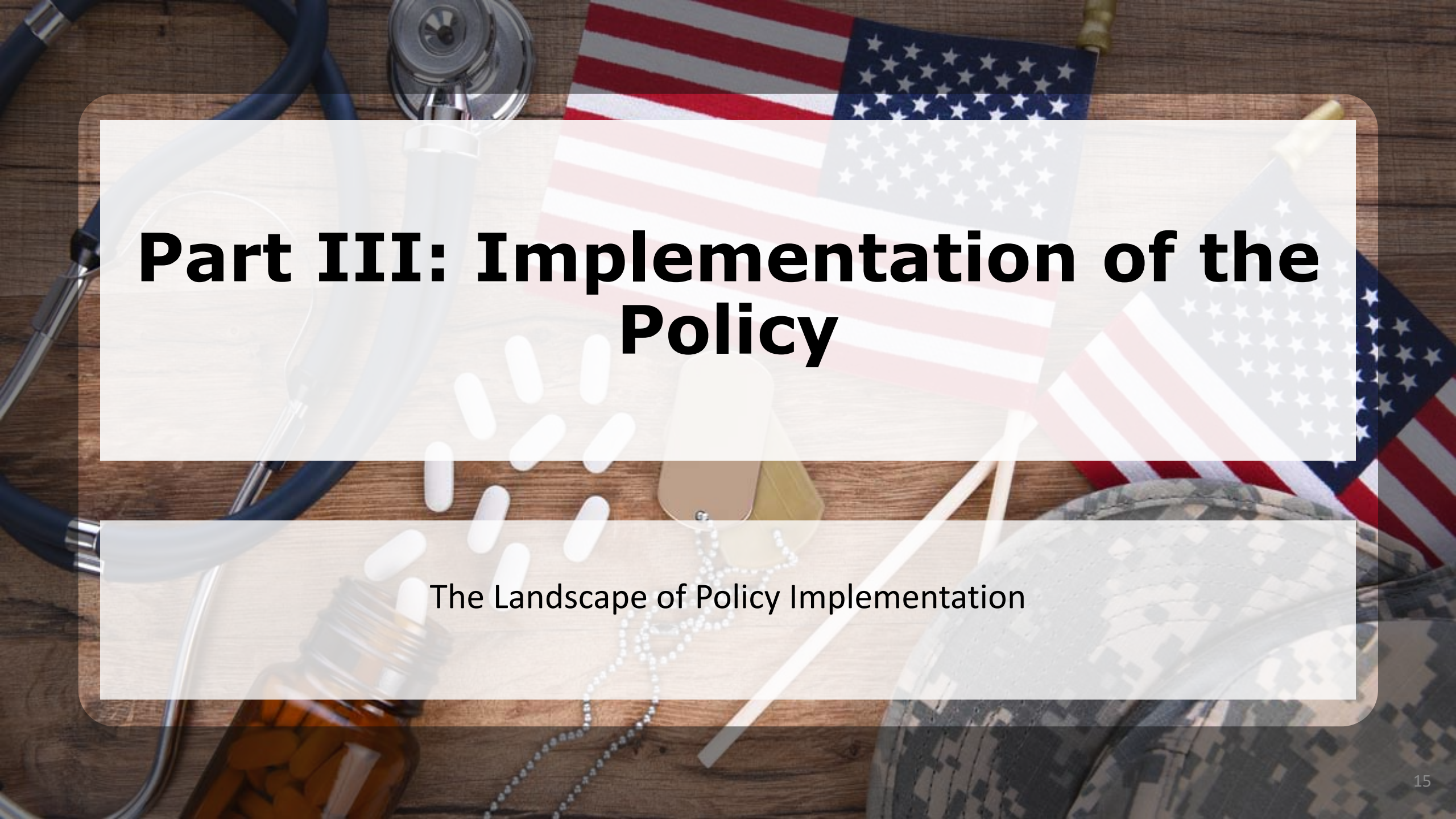
- Policy will improve American healthcare system
 - Improve quality of healthcare
 - Improve access to mental health services
 - Reduce economic burden
- Policy will therefore benefit the healthcare organizations, system and veterans



Policy Defense: Informed



- Veterans are significantly affected by various socioeconomic issues which impact their mental health
- Enlisting is influenced by socioeconomic challenges
- Most honorably discharged veterans have low socioeconomic status
- Low SES increases prevalence of mental health challenges among veterans



Part III: Implementation of the Policy

The Landscape of Policy Implementation

Barriers to Change

- Lack of adequate resources
- High demand of veteran mental health, low availability of resources to address this challenge
- Limited resources hinder effective implementation of healthcare services
- High number of veterans honorably discharged increases the need for services



Support for Policy Change



- Anticipated positive effects in reducing veteran challenges in accessing mental health services
- Reduced healthcare burden from mental health
- Veterans have high predisposition to mental health issues
- Limited access will keep being a problem in the US
- As policy addresses this issue, it will garner sufficient support

Value Proposition

- The current issue addressed by this change in policy is veteran access to mental health services which increases the healthcare burden in the US.
- With the proposed change in policy, the VHA healthcare organizations benefit from having sufficient resources to fulfill their missions to deliver effective healthcare services to veterans.
- As these organizations are tasked with veteran health service delivery, I would mobilize them to support this change by detailing this policy's values in improving veteran healthcare services.

Call To Action

- If veterans served this country passionately, ensuring our security interests are achieved, would it not be fair to serve them as they retire similarly?
- Veterans have a high predisposition to mental health illnesses due to their time spent in combat
- Veterans have significant challenges in accessing mental health services
- Despite available initiatives to reduce this outcome, there is room for improvement regarding access

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