

Bruce Shahbaz, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: Public Policy Council

Bruce Shahbaz serves on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Public Policy Council since May 2017. He represents the state of Virginia, federal and congressional policy, and advocates for military-connected suicide prevention policy.

Bruce worked in healthcare for over thirty years, starting in 1984 when he enlisted in the Army. Bruce was trained as a medical assistant on inpatient psychiatric units in the Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital in San Antonio and then served at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He subsequently served 20 years as an Army Medical Service Corps officer responsible for the delivery of healthcare; including primary care, mental health, physical therapy, and dental care - to Soldiers and their families at several Army bases in the United States, Egypt, Germany, and at the Pentagon.

Since retiring from the Army in 2006, he worked on the Army staff for four years and spent almost five years working as a federal inspector general in both the Department of Defense and the Peace Corps.

While on the Army staff, he worked closely with two Secretaries of the Army, two Vice Chiefs of Staff of the Army (VCSA), two Army Surgeons General, and many other senior leaders while a member of the Army's Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention Task Force. This task force helped to expand tele-counseling programs, embedded mental health care, and medication take-back programs. During this time he supported the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention as a special assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

While working for the DoD Inspector General, Bruce was the team leader for assessments on Wounded Warrior Medication Management, DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSER), and Ebola outbreak response. While working for the Peace Corps Inspector General, he reviewed the care provided to 138 Volunteers who reported a sexual assault to their overseas post.

Bruce joined The College Board in April 2017 as the Senior Director of Strategic Military Initiatives, responsible for helping Service Members, Families, and Veterans clear a path to own their future.

Bruce earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Missouri State University and a Master of Arts degree in healthcare management from Webster University. He has been married to Donna Murphy (née) for 29 years, she is a former DUSTOFF (medical evacuation helicopter) pilot and hospital administrator.