



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Breakthrough AIRs Behavioral Health Program Now Available to Veterans Through Althing Clinic and The Veteran's Health Services Partnership**

**Blaine, MN – May 30, 2025** – The Veteran's Health Services (VHS) has partnered with Althing Clinic to provide its members and their families access to the groundbreaking AIRs (Assess - Intervene - Refer/service) behavioral health program. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in ensuring veterans receive the high-quality, proactive and personalized behavioral healthcare they deserve.

The Minnesota Warriors Ice Hockey Team, a veteran's group, were the first to experience the benefits of this new partnership on May 30th, 2025. The inaugural AIRs event was met with tremendous success.

Travis Bennett, Minnesota Warriors Board Member and Fundraising Director, shared powerful feedback from the veterans: "The only feedback I want you to put down from Veterans: 'We never answer these things honestly. But everyone answered honestly for AIRs. AIRs actually saved at least one person's life today.'"

During the weekend event, participating Warriors members fully engaged with Althing's AIRs for Veterans and 100% completed the medical encounter, demonstrating the program's effectiveness and the veterans' willingness to seek help when provided in a proactive and private environment.

"The Warriors program is always seeking innovative ways to bring relevant value to their members," said AIRs Account Executive Jacob Mars. "The Veterans participating in AIRs were incredible people with complex experiences who not only appreciate having agency and privacy for their own needs but to also support this program for their colleagues around the world."

Althing's AIRs for Veterans includes a comprehensive, personalized behavioral health evaluation, along with specific assessments and general health needs. Kristina Bechtel, AIRs LICSW, noted, "AIRs again was provided with excellence for exceptionally caring people who appreciate the reality of the behavioral health crisis and benefit of having AIRs available as medicine to tackle it."

"We are pleased to have the endorsement of the VA and Warriors and are committed to being available to our veterans and communities," stated Althing General Manager Katja Kressmann, underscoring Althing's dedication to expanding the reach of AIRs to those in need.

#### **About The Minnesota Warriors:**

"Distinguishing itself from other veteran programs, Minnesota Warrior Hockey prioritizes using ice time as a catalyst for fostering camaraderie and community spirit. Many veterans grapple with

identity and self-confidence issues following their service, and our hockey program plays a pivotal role in helping them rediscover their sense of self. These challenges find their most effective solutions through peer-to-peer support, and this journey of empowerment begins on the ice, eventually radiating out to positively impact the participant's family, community, and workplace

**About Althing LLC.**

Althing creates innovative solutions that lead to equity, access, and modernization of healthcare in districts and communities. Althing's commitment to access is highlighted in its clinic, school district, corporate and home health solutions. Whether serving diverse populations or proactively bringing health services to the community, Althing holds to its principles: equity, quality, access, and value. To learn more about Althing AIRs visit [airs.myalthingclinic.com](https://www.myalthingclinic.com) and subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/@althing7525/videos>

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