

The 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Court

Key Component #1: Veterans Treatment Court integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing.

Key Component #2: Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program.

Key Component #4: Veterans Treatment Court provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veterans treatment Court effectiveness.

Contact the VTC

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VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



Leave No Veteran Behind

The mission of the Veterans Treatment Court is to help veterans in the judicial system build positive, constructive lives while still holding them accountable for their conduct. The VTC will do this through partnerships that provide holistic assistance and treatment resulting in reduction of criminality. This mission is on recognition of our veterans' service to our Nation, and for the sacrifices they have made for the freedom we enjoy as American citizens.

What is Veterans Treatment Court?

- ❖ Veterans Court is a collaborative process that includes the prosecutor, defense counsel, Judge, the Department of Veteran Affairs and other community based support organizations. The goal of Veterans Treatment Court is to rehabilitate and restore veterans as active, contributing members of their community.
- ❖ The Veterans Court program focuses on veterans who are currently in, or entering, the Criminal Justice System. The Court creates and supervises treatment plans to address the underlying causes of the veterans behavior and substance abuse issues. Issues commonly addressed by the treatment programs include:
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Anger issues
 - Domestic Violence
 - Alcohol abuse
 - Drug Abuse
- ❖ By focusing on the root problems that contribute to involvement with the criminal justice system and providing specific rehabilitation programs, the Veterans Treatment Court provides an opportunity for the veteran to return to the community in a more advantageous and beneficial manner.

Goals of the VTC Program

Improve public safety related to veteran offenders, through:

- ❖ Increased court supervision and hearings
- ❖ Immediate incentives and sanctions
- ❖ Increased frequency of drug/alcohol testing
- ❖ Increased emphasis on treatment or underlying problems

Improve veteran offender justice outcomes and future life prospects, through:

- ❖ Appropriate screening and assessment
- ❖ Creation of individualized treatment plans that include client participation and address life skill needs
- ❖ Input from a diverse VTC team
- ❖ Scheduled treatment plan review and adjustments



Why Veterans Treatment Court?

The VTC aims to connect those with mental health and/or chemical dependency issues with the treatment they need to regain control of their lives.

Through the support of the VTC Team, the VTC mentors, and the court, veterans will be able to work towards successful reintegration into our community.

We have an obligation to those that have served our country to ensure that our communities are prepared to address the unique needs of our veteran population.

By developing a VTC the state will ensure that those who are suffering the effects of their military service will have the support and access to help they deserve.

Alternative Approach

Since October 2001, the United States has deployed approximately 1.64 million troops in Afghanistan and Iraq for both Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) with an estimate that roughly 26% of these returning troops have a mental health condition related to their service. The silent trauma of war is presenting itself in our veterans with scars that are unseen. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are two of the leading causes of concern for our veteran population. These issues are being seen in record numbers with our returning vets, many of whom will not access treatment.