Washington County

## Veterans Treatment Court (VTC)

Program Overview



# VTC MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Washington County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program is to *enhance public safety* and *reduce* recidivism by offering eligible justice-involved veterans a sentencing alternative through a comprehensive, judiciallysupervised treatment program to address underlying substance use and/or mental health disorders. Our goal is to return *healthy, law-abiding veterans* to the community using best practices and evidence-based approaches."

# EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Washington County VTC program is dedicated to providing equitable and culturally specific services to individuals who have historically experienced sustained discrimination or reduced social opportunities because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion, or socioeconomic status.

VTC receives funding from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and complies with applicable federal and state civil rights laws.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES



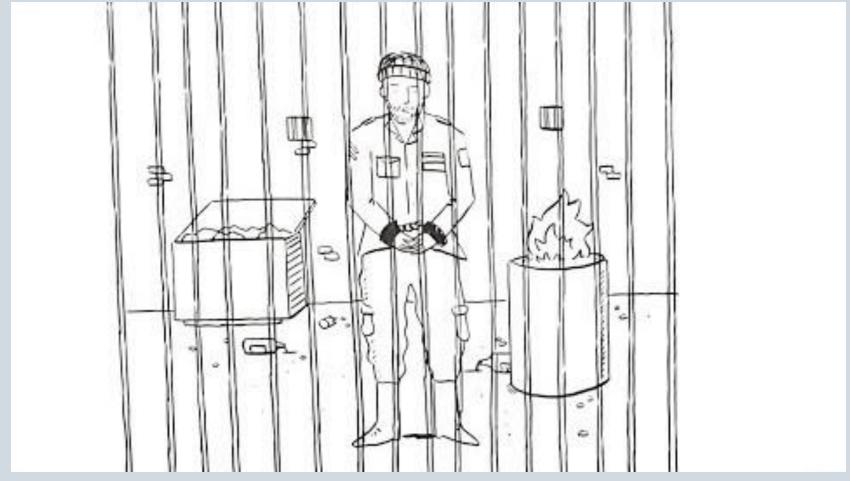
National Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards

- Volume I
- <u>Volume II</u>



Veterans Treatment Court Ten Key Components

Veterans Treatment Courts



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrpytvX3YSE

### WHY VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS?

(Video- "Veterans Treatment Courts Explained," TakePart)

VTC TEAM

Washington
County Circuit
Court Judge

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Washington County District Attorney's Office

Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA)



VTC Coordinator

Washington
County Disability,
Aging and Veteran
Services
Washington

Washington County Community Corrections Oregon Defense Attorney Consortium

### TARGET POPULATION



- Washington County Residents
- VA Healthcare-Eligible Veterans
- Medium-High to High Treatment Need
  - Substance Use Disorder
  - Mental Health Disorder
  - Domestic Violence Intervention
- Eligible charges
  - Most misdemeanor, Class C felony, felony drug possession, and felony property crimes\*

### DISQUALIFIERS

#### **Automatic Disqualifiers**

- Active duty military personnel.
- Veterans ineligible for VA healthcare.
- Level two and three registered sex offenders.
- Pending sex crimes.
- Graduation from the Washington County VTC or Drug Court program(s) within the last three years.

### **Possible** Disqualifiers

Case-by-case to ensure public safety

- Crimes involving the use or threatened use of a firearm.
- Crimes involving child physical abuse.
- Commercial Drug Offenses.
- Prior arrest(s) for sex crimes.
- Graduation from the Washington County VTC or Drug Court program(s) three or more years ago.

### REFERRAL PROCESS

## **Identify Justice Involved Veteran**

You do not need to verify VA Healthcare eligibility prior to referring.

# **Email VTC Coordinator**

- 1. Veteran's Full Name
- 2. Court Case #(s)
- 3. Date of Birth

# VTC team screens applicant

Coordinator will request additional documentation from the veteran's defense attorney as needed.

# Candidate enters VTC program

State and Defense will agree to legal terms of program entry and completion.

**Encourage veterans to talk to their attorneys about Veterans Treatment Court.** 

Send referrals and inquiries to the VTC Coordinator.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE



**Two Tracks:** 

Alpha 18-month minimum

**Bravo** 12-month minimum



**Phases:** 

Participants advance through phases as they complete program requirements.



**Treatment:** 

VTC team oversees compliance in clinically recommended treatment programs.



**Legal Incentive:** 

#### **Examples**:

- Felony reduced to misdemeanor
- Charge(s) dismissed
- Avoid incarceration

**Mission:** To ensure that every veteran participating in the VTC program has access to a fellow veteran who acts as a mentor, advocate, and ally.

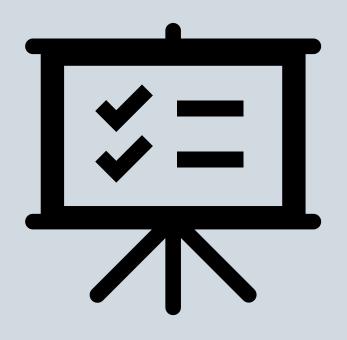
#### Mentors are veterans who volunteer to support VTC participants as a:

- Coach
- Guide
- Peer
- Role Model
- Support system



VETERAN MENTOR PROGRAM

### PROGRAM OUTCOMES



- Veterans are engaged in treatment and recovery for mental health and substance use disorders.
- Veterans are diverted from future involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Veterans strengthen their pro-social support systems and involvement in the community.
- Cost-savings for the community by avoiding long-term incarceration and/or community supervision.

Veterans Crisis Line(800): Free, 24/7, confidential support for Veterans.	273-8255, Press 1
VA Veterans Justice Outreach Program VJOs connect Veterans with mental health and substance use disorder services at the VA.	(503) 721-1025
Disability, Aging and Veterans Services	<b>(503) 846-3060</b> s.
Portland Vet Center	(503) 688-5364
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs  ODVA assists Veterans in accessing state-wide and federal Veterans benefits.	(503) 412-4777



### HOW TO SUPPORT VTC

**Donate** to financially support program incentives, graduation celebrations, and pro-social activities.

Volunteer as a Veteran Mentor.

Refer Veterans to the program for screening.

**Connect** Veterans in the program with community resources.

**Advertise** VTC in your office with a flyer or poster.





### DID YOU SERVE IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY?



### IF SO, ASK YOUR ATTORNEY ABOUT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT (VTC) PROGRAM.

Your attorney (or you, if not yet represented) may contact the VTC Defense Attorney Advice Counsel, Robert Harris, for more information.

Phone: (503) 648-4777 • E-mail: RHarris@harrislawsite.com

#### 

Rev. 6/39/3020