



Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket

Presentation for
VVA Chapter 227
Nov 17 2022



Purpose of Today's Presentation

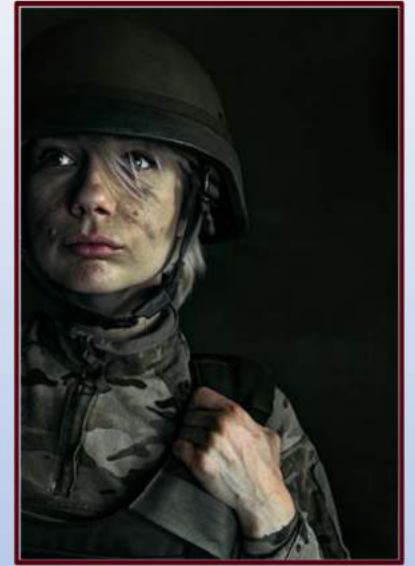
What problems do some veterans face after their service?

Describe the Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket (VTD)

Discuss the VTD Mentor organization and Mentor Role

Offer VVA members an opportunity to directly support veterans in need





The Veteran Experience

Multiple deployments

PTSD

Reengaging in Community

Military Sexual Trauma

The Problem

- A growing number of veterans suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions (such as PTSD), and trauma (such as traumatic brain injury) after serving our nation. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military, and research continues to link substance use disorders with service-related mental illness.

1 in 5

Veterans with symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment

1 in 6

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffering with a substance use disorder

50%

Percentage of veterans with PTSD that do not receive treatment

181,000

Veterans incarcerated in United States jails or prisons

What is a Veterans Treatment Docket (VTD)

- First VTD established in Buffalo, NY in 2008 by a judge who was a veteran and started seeing more veterans in his Drug Court and Mental Illness Court.
- The VTD is a “Diversion” program that allows veterans to receive individual VA funded treatment rather than incarceration for criminal offenses.
- Fairfax County established its VTD in 2015 under the guidance of Judge Penny Azcarate (a Post 8469 member)
- There are approximately 600 VTDs in the nation with six in Virginia: Fairfax County (2), Prince William County, Norfolk, Hampton Roads, and Rappahannock County. Two are in progress: Loudoun County and Chesterfield County.
- **Note there are 99 counties and 38 major cities in Virginia – so a long way to go.**



Purpose of a Veterans Treatment Docket

Engage Veterans who are involved with the criminal justice system in a special Court established for them

Build upon their strengths and address unique experiences from military service.

Offer Veterans a second chance that they have earned.

- Customized medical and psychological treatment program over 11-24 months
- Upon completion of program, original criminal charges are reduced or dismissed
- Veteran gains new life skills to help them to achieve a better life

The following video was recently produced by Justice For Vets, a national organization established to support the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in the US.





Two Veterans Dockets in Fairfax

- High Risk High Need Docket:
18-24 months
- Low Risk High Need Docket:
11-14 months

Veteran Treatment Docket Team

Judge

Prosecutor

Public Defender

Probation

Treatment Providers:

- Psychologists
- Doctors,
- Clinical Therapists

Court Docket Coordinator

VA Justice Outreach Specialist

Virginia Dept of Veterans Services

Fairfax County Sheriff's Dept

Mentors

Definition of a Mentor in VTD

In a VTD, a mentor is a person who served in the military and serves as an advisor and person of trust to an assigned veteran participant.



The Fairfax County VTD Mentor Team

As of October 3, 2022 28 Mentors on board

Services represented:

USMC: 3 USAF: 5 USN: 8 USA: 12

Personal stats

- 22 Men 6 Women
- Retired: 18
- Employed: 10 (3 are AD or reserve)

Veterans in the Treatment Docket Today

18 (16 Men, 2 Women)

Low Risk High Need Court: 7

High Risk High Need Court: 11



Photo taken July 2021

Mentor Commitments

Primary responsibility: Attend Court session with the assigned veteran – expected commitment

High Risk High Need Docket:

- Twice a month for first year (Weds 0900-1000)
- Once per month until graduation

Low Risk High Need Docket:

- Once per month for six months (Weds 0830-0930)
- Every other month until graduation

Other Communications: Mentor/Veteran options

Text / Email/ Phone / Zoom

In-person meetings: coffee, lunch, before and after court conversations, etc.

Attend Mentor Zoom Team Meetings (twice per month)





Mentor Handbook

We Continue to Serve



Fairfax Veterans Treatment Docket
General District and Circuit Court



Mentor Training Program

1. Attend actual Veterans Treatment Docket session
2. Watch 10 short Mentor training online videos
3. Read Mentor Handbook
4. Attend 2nd Veterans Court Session
5. Attend Mentor Online Team Meeting
6. Attend Court ceremony to be awarded Mentor Shirts by the Judge.

Training Program tailored to match applicant's schedule and availability.

Why consider a VTD Mentor position?

- As a Mentor you get to directly influence and support a fellow veteran in need.
- You get to observe an incredible transformation of a veteran receiving comprehensive and personalized care into a confident and determined citizen as they build a new life.
- You enjoy the fellowship of a group of volunteer mentors who share common goals.
- Other the attendance at Court once or twice a month, your schedule is highly flexible.

The following video describes one veteran's experience with a VTD.

Questions?



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