



Connecticut Veterans Jail Diversion Program

*Serving Connecticut's
Veterans, Citizen Soldiers and Their Families*



Target Population

- Our newest generation of Veterans returning from service in the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars
- All veterans experiencing trauma-related problems

Connecticut's Approach

- Emphasizes Pre-Booking to assure that veterans are identified, engaged and referred at the earliest opportunity along the criminal justice continuum
- Integrates Multiple Systems to strengthen access to appropriate and timely services
- Strives to deliver Strong Services Coordination

Building Upon Existing Strengths

- Statewide Mental Health Jail Diversion Program since 2000
- Trained Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) located in communities throughout the State

Planning Process

Multiple stakeholders representing several systems:

- Law Enforcement
- Judicial System
- Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA)
- VA Benefits Administration (VBA)
- Vet Centers
- Connecticut Military Dept (CT National Guard)
- DoD, Groton Sub Base
- Multiple State Agencies (DMHAS, Social Services, Correction, Labor, State DVA)
- Community-based treatment and recovery support services

Veteran Peers Leading the Way

- 22 Veterans (8 OEF/OIF) / 2 family members served on the State Veterans Jail Diversion Advisory Board; 15 on the Pilot-area Board
- 2 Vietnam Veterans co-chaired the planning process at the state level
- A Desert Storm Veteran co-chaired the local planning process

State Network of Peer Advocates

- Engage veterans at every point along the criminal justice continuum
- Assist in outreach/educational activities, particularly among law enforcement
- Explore opportunities to develop peer-to-peer support
- Explore opportunities for co-learning among combat veterans and civilians

Responsibilities of a Grateful Nation

- Assure the good health and well-being of every returning soldier
- Support the military family throughout the deployment cycle
- Develop social structures that may harness and support the involvement of the community in assisting veterans and their families to excellence in their lives following their experience in war.

LTCOL (Chaplain) John Morris



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