



Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

CONNECTICUT VETERANS' JAIL DIVERSION AND TRAUMA RECOVERY INITIATIVE

The 3rd Annual Trauma Spectrum Conference

Bethesda, MD

Jim Tackett

Director, Veterans Services

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



Veterans Jail Diversion Program

- \$2 million, 5 year grant from SAMHSA
Center for Mental Health Services
- Divert veterans from incarceration to
treatment and supportive services
- Target Population: Our newest generation
of returning Veterans

Symptoms/Behaviors That Contribute to Arrest

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Irritability
- Anger
- Increased Substance Use
- Difficulty Sleeping
- Hypervigilance
- Excessive speeding - erratic driving
- Bar fights, disorderlies, BOP
- Firearms violations
- DUI
- Possession of illegal substances
- Domestic violence

Building Upon Existing Strengths

- Statewide Mental Health Jail Diversion Program since 2000; JD Clinicians in every GA Court
- Trained Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) located in communities throughout the State

Key Stakeholders

- Federal VA Regional Office (VBA)
- VA Connecticut Healthcare System (VHA)
- Vet Centers (VR&C)
- Connecticut Military Department/National Guard
- Chief State's Attorneys Office
- Public Defenders Office
- Judicial Division, Court Support Services
- CIT Teams and Local/State Law Enforcement
- CT Alliance Benefiting Law Enforcement (CABLE)
- Federal and State Departments of Labor
- Depts of Social Services, Correction, Veterans' Affairs
- Others (Hospital for Special Care, VSO's, BIAC, CTCADV, NAMI; housing, voc, education programs, etc)

CT's Approach: Systems Integration

- Emphasizes Pre-Booking – focus on identifying, engaging and referring veterans at the earliest opportunity
- Integrates Services of Multiple Systems to strengthen access to appropriate and timely treatment/recovery support services
- Strong Services Coordination

Major Objectives

Establish a formal statewide jail diversion structure that will, at the earliest opportunity along the criminal justice continuum, divert veterans with trauma-related symptoms to a seamless system of treatment and recovery support services

Major Objectives (2)

Build a new services delivery model that combines the strengths of each participating federal, state and community stakeholder, thereby offering diverted veterans an array and wealth of treatment and recovery support options as they develop their Individual Service Plans.

Major Objectives (3)

Establish a service planning process that values personal choice, contemplates and addresses the biopsychosocial needs of each veteran, and assures that identified needs, including psychosocial needs, are addressed together and at once.

Major Objectives (4)

Within 5 years, secure sustainability of the work in the pilot region and successfully accomplish statewide implementation of jail diversion services for Veterans.

Responsibilities of a Grateful Nation

- To assure the good health and well-being of every returning soldier
- To support the military family throughout the deployment cycle
- To 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

DMHAS Veterans Services



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Jim Tackett, Director
DMHAS/Office of the Commissioner
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134
860-418-6979