Veterans Treatment Courts

NAAG 2016 Winter Meeting
Feb. 22, 2016 Wash. D.C.
Judge Robert Russell
“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

President George Washington
Buffalo’s Experience: Veterans Provide Inspiration

- Treatment Court Background - Drug & Mental Health Courts

- A day in Mental Health Court by a Veteran.

- Facilitation by fellow Veterans makes a difference
Why Veterans Treatment Courts?

Affording the best opportunity for success
What Makes them Different

♦ The Participants prior experiences are different,

♦ The array of services are expanded, specific and catered to Veterans,

♦ The addition of Volunteer Veteran Mentors to Treatment Court Operations.
Our Mission

To successfully habilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need in order to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle.

Our Goal

Our program’s goal is to reduce the veterans’ inappropriate behavior while helping them turn their lives around. We will find them, offer them assistance, assess their needs, manage their care and help them solve their problems.
Our Objective

To provide Veterans with substance abuse, alcoholism and mental health treatment coupled with academic/vocational skills improvement, while actively assisting with residential, outpatient and/or transitional services leading to job placement and job retention.
Veterans Court

- A specialized criminal court docket
- Established to address the needs of veteran-defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness issues
- Substitution of treatment problem solving model for traditional court processing
Unique Components

- Court entirely of Veterans
- In Court: Veterans Health Care Worker(s)
- Veteran Mentors
- Therapeutic Environment
- Hybrid Drug & Mental Health Court
Non-Traditional Resources
- Veterans Treatment Courts -

♦ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

♦ U.S. Department of Labor

♦ State Departments of Veterans Affairs

♦ Veterans Service Organizations
V.A. Health Care Worker

- Barry Chapman, (SATS) Veterans Justice Outreach, Tel # 716-862-3100
- Liaison
- Obtaining VA Releases of Information
- Facilitating VA linkages for services
- Coordinating and providing VA status report regarding Tx, toxs, appointments, etc.
- Case management & crisis management
FEDERAL OFFICE OF VETERANS BENEFIT AFFAIRS

♦ Carly Klein and Timothy Philo, Veteran Service Representatives - 716-857-3188 & 716-857-3315

♦ Liaison
♦ Obtaining VA Releases of Information
♦ Facilitate processing or review of Pension Disability Benefits
♦ Process review of potential errors or corrections on veterans DD214
Challenge

Overcoming “Warrior mentality”
Veteran Mentors
Veteran Mentors
Motto

“Leave no one behind”
Veteran Mentors’ Role

♦ Coach
♦ Facilitator
♦ Advisor
♦ Sponsor
♦ Support
Clearing House for Veterans Treatment Courts

http://www.justiceforvets.org/
CONTACT INFORMATION

Resources:
WWW.NADCP.ORG
www.justiceforvets.org
WWW.BUFFALOVETERANSCOURT.ORG

JUDGE ROBERT RUSSELL
716-845-2623
Veterans Stood Up for Us
Now let us stand up for Veterans
Thank you for your support