

Veterans Treatment Court

Peer Mentor Program

Mission

- Collaborate with VJO and criminal justice system.
- Help Court habilitate veterans by diverting them from tradition criminal justice system.
- Help veteran participants gain the tools needed to achieve and maintain a productive and law-abiding life.

Peer Mentor Group

- Experience has shown that veterans respond more favorably with another veteran.
- Peer Mentors provide a supportive relationship.
- Display less stress when dealing with the judicial process.

Peer Mentor Role

Encourages, guides and provides social support for the veteran participants.

Duties

1. Attend court sessions with participants when scheduled.
2. Participate in and lead mentoring sessions with veteran participants when assigned by the judge.
3. Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties returning veterans are facing.
4. Aid the participants as much as possible to ameliorate their concerns around court procedures.

5. Coach veteran participants toward access and navigation of the Veterans Affairs Systems.
6. Be supportive and helpful with other Peer Mentors.
7. Work respectfully and professionally with the veteran participants and other Peer Mentors.

Requirements

- Be a veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military; Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or their corresponding Reserve branches.
- Adhere to all Veterans Treatment Court diversion project policies and procedures.
- Be a law-abiding citizen in good standing.
- Have a genuine concern for the veterans introduced to the criminal justice system.
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of six months.
- Complete a screening process.
- Complete required training procedures.
- Participate in additional training throughout time of service.
- Attend court sessions as scheduled.
- Be ready to respond when needed for court proceedings.

Desirable Qualities

- Active listener.
- Empathetic.
- Encouraging and supportive.
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences.
- Knowledge of Veterans Affairs Services.
- Knowledge of community resources and services.
- Knowledge of criminal court procedures.

The Mentoring Process

When a Mentor is assigned to a Client (veteran defendant participant), the primary purpose will be to serve as a role model, a link to personal stability and a connection to community resources. Activities pursuant to that objective are; initiate conversation, build rapport, establish and maintain trust and most importantly; listen.

- Values
- Fears
- Goals
- Capabilities (skill/talent/education)