



Delaware Valley Veterans Consortium

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Supporting our Veterans:

**Navigating NJ's Veterans Diversion Program and
Philadelphia's Veterans Treatment Courts**

July 17, 2020

NOTICE: THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

- DVVC will create a recording to be stored on DVVC's Social Media sites. (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and DVVC website)
- By your participation in this meeting, you agree that DVVC may include your statements, and images (still or video), in this archive recording as well as in our promotional purposes.



New Jersey Veterans Diversion Program (VDP)

NJ Criminal Code 2C:43-23 to 2C:43-31 (effective 12/1/2017)

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

CAPE MAY COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY-CRIMINAL DIVISION—VICINAGE 1

VDP diverts eligible vets and servicemembers to treatment vs. traditional criminal justice process

- ▶ Non-violent 3rd and 4th degree crimes and DP/PDP offenses
- ▶ Dishonorable Discharge not eligible
- ▶ Diversion for 6 to 24 months/Superior & Municipal Courts
- ▶ No limit to enrollment based on prior diversionary programs
- ▶ Monthly court appearances with VDP team and judge
- ▶ Features: Accountability, Treatment, Community Support, Benefit Counselling & Mentoring
- ▶ A “prosecutor’s program” with essential partner buy-in (the VA, providers, Public Defenders, private bar, vet organizations)

Statistics

- ▶ CPM 100% success rate; 5 graduates; 6 current participants
- ▶ ATL 85% success rate; 11 graduates; 20 current participants; 2 terms
- ▶ 5 cases in CPM and 14 cases in ATL not admitted/not qualified
- ▶ Over 50 court sessions in two counties since December 2017
- ▶ VA key provider/referral for most participants; JFS & other providers
- ▶ Cases involve narcotics, thefts, burglary, MV offenses, some DV

VDP involves intensive supervision and treatment monitoring to ensure success of the veteran culminating in the dismissal of the charges and return to society offense free.

- ▶ Guide vets to engage and participate in treatment and services
- ▶ Expand mentorship relationships
- ▶ Encourage graduates to “pay forward” by mentoring or serving as “alumni” examples
- ▶ Leverage relationships with providers, government, service and community organizations
- ▶ Explore discharge upgrade opportunities to maximize range of benefits
- ▶ Formalize graduation event to recognize accomplishment and re-entry to the citizen-servicemember ethos

Appendix

- ▶ Atlantic County Prosecutor's VDP
<https://www.acpo.org/forms/veterans-diversion-program/>
- ▶ Cape May County Prosecutor's VDP
<http://www.cmcpros.net/veterans-diversion-program/>
- ▶ NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/diversion-program/>
- ▶ NJ Attorney General <https://www.nj.gov/oag/vdp/>
- ▶ NJ Courts <https://njcourts.gov/notices/2018/n180612c.pdf>
- ▶ NJ Office of the Public Defender <https://www.nj.gov/defender/>
- ▶ N.J.S.A. 2C:43-23 to 2C:43-31 (NJ Criminal Code)

Philadelphia Veterans Court



**President Judge of
Philadelphia Municipal Court
US Army – Retired 2017**

Enlisted infantryman
JAG officer

Philadelphia Magazine - Best
Philadelphian 2004.

Ancient Order of Hibernian's
National Dr. Sean McBride award
for humanitarian service.

The Bronze Star • e t

The Combat Action Badge

The Parachutists Badge

The Expert Infantryman's Badge

Global War on Terrorism Service
Medal.



The honorable
Patrick F. Dugan

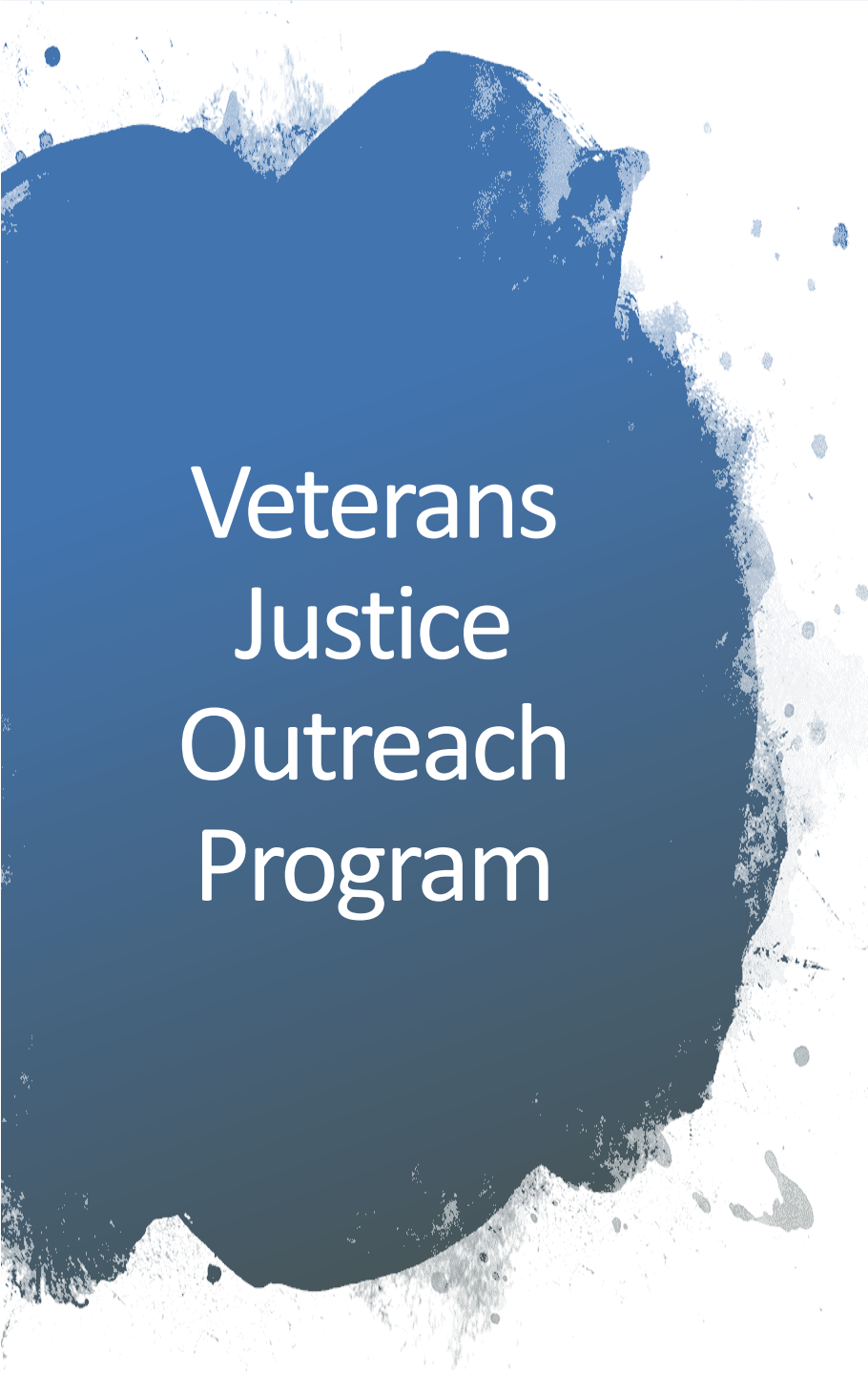
How does a veteran's criminal case get referred to Philadelphia Veterans Court?

- Who is responsible for initiating the case?
- How is this different from a case in criminal court?
- What types of offenses are taken into Philadelphia Veterans Court?
- Who would be present at the veteran's initial hearing?
- Vet Court team role.
- Mentors program

Margaret Maynard, LCSW
ACSW
Veteran Justice Outreach
Coordinator

- US Air Force Veteran
 - Graduate of University of Central Florida
 - BS Legal Studies
 - MSW Social Work
- Mother of 6
Grandmother of 12 with more coming





Veterans Justice Outreach Program

- The purpose of the VJO outreach program is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by making sure eligible Veterans at risk for homelessness, substance abuse, and physical health problems have access to VA mental health and substance abuse services when they are needed.

Role of VJO in Veterans Court

- Intake and Assessment;
- Referring to treatment, treatment plan, monitoring progress, court reports.
- Support/education/re-assessment.
- VBA, Vet Centers, VSO, VA State programs
- Talk about non VA treatment. Equine Therapy for PTSD/MH issues; OPTIONS,
- VMC programs, MAP, HAP, Drexel University, SCI program.
- VA ineligible vets – DBH role

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Role of the Mentor

- a. who are your mentors? How do they get recruited and approved?
- b. how do they get assigned to a particular veteran
- c. how do they interact with your veterans?

Treatment Follow-up

- a. Sanctions and Incentives
- b. Probation - supervision, UDS testing, support and home visits.

Program Completion

- a. how cases are completed
- b. Graduation
- c. Expungement

In the Time of COVID-19

- a. Technology
 ZOOM - Court cases
- b. Treatment
 TELEHEALTH, Veteran Connect program, My Healthy Vet,
 Phone outreach
 In person – Emergency Room or Urgent Care Clinic

Contacts

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