



WASHTENAW COUNTY VETERANS RECOVERY COURT

WASHTENAW COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT

Hon. Chris Easthope
Presiding Judge

Darius Robinson, M.A., J.D.
Veterans Court Coordinator

Deirdre Madden, J.D.
Mental Health Court Coordinator

What Are Treatment Courts

- Provides opportunities to treat and correct mental health or substance use issues related to military service or a diagnosed mental health condition or developmental disability that has caused criminal behavior
 - The “But For” Test
- Recognizes UNIQUE POPULATIONS with UNIQUE PROBLEMS
 - IE: PTSD, MST, TBI, Bi-polar, etc.

Differences from Regular Court

- Frequent drug and alcohol monitoring
- Bi-monthly court review sessions and team meetings
- Sanctions for non-compliance and incentives for strides in recovery
- Development of a treatment plan by Treatment Court Team
- Regular meetings with Treatment Court Probation Officer
- Phase promotions and demotions

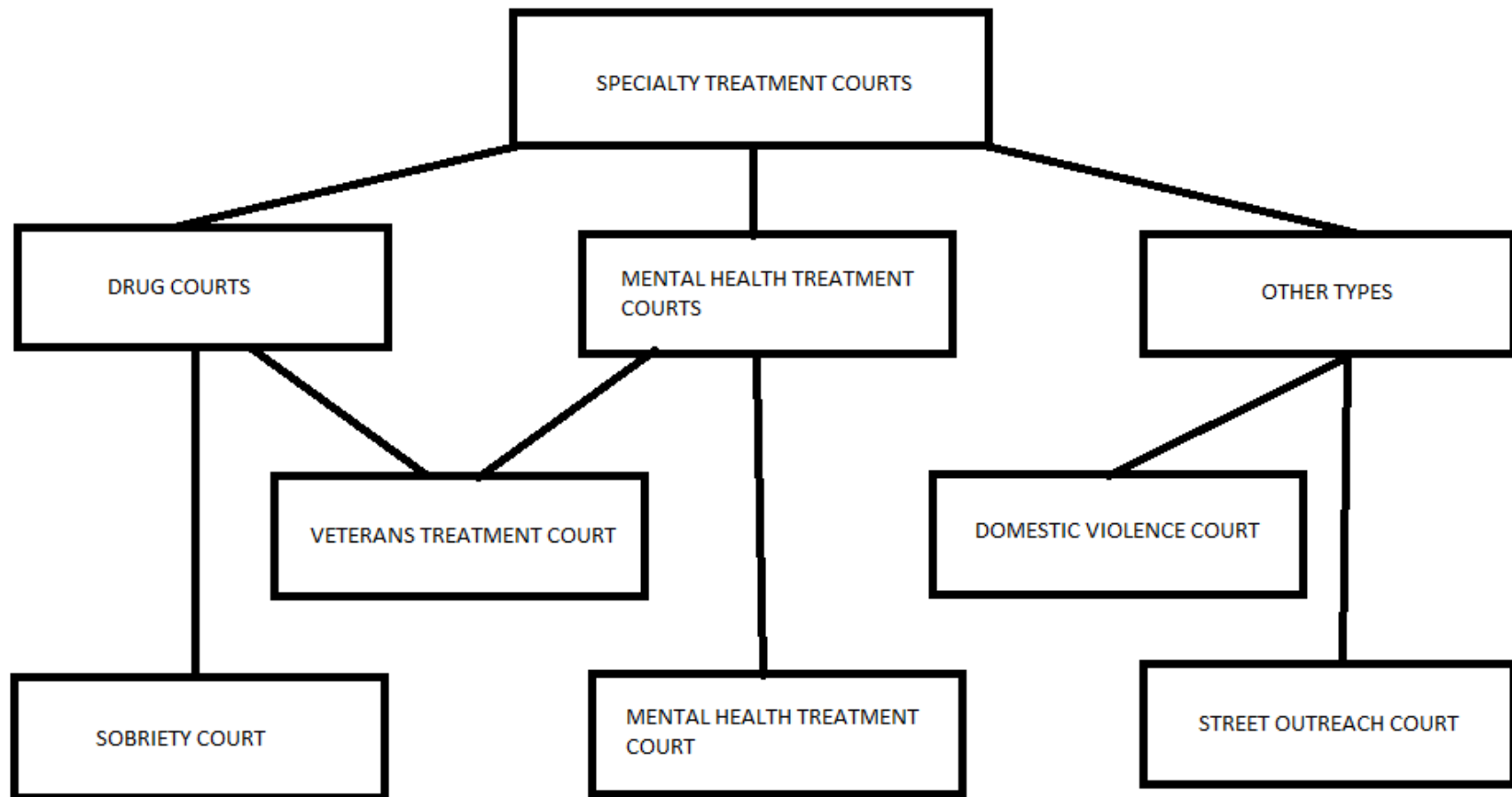
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Courts of Accountability

- Honesty
- Sobriety
- Treatment and Recovery

Treatment Court Structure



Who Veterans Court Serves

- Those veterans who suffer from a mental health or substance use condition, caused by military service, that has caused their criminal behavior
- Most maintain the “Warrior’s Mentality,” that leads to not actively seeking treatment prior to court involvement
- Many suffer from “hypervigilance”
- Many self-medicate with drugs and alcohol to treat mental conditions and physical injuries

Who Mental Health Court Serves

- Criminally involved adult defendants that have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or developmental disability.
- The severe nature of the mental illness must necessitate intensive clinical treatment and services.
- Many of the WCMHTC's participants are also suffering from serious substance abuse issues.

Veterans Court History

- Judge Easthope started Veterans Treatment Court in October 2012.
- Awarded State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) grant of \$92,279.00 in October 2013.
- In February 2014, Veterans Court Mentor Program started.
- 1st group graduation on June 18, 2014 (9 graduates).
- Awarded 2nd SCAO grant of \$81,632.85 in October 2014.
- 2nd group graduation on November 9, 2014 (5 graduates).
- Currently 25 active participants.
- Total of 47 veterans treated over the Court's existence.
- 0% RECIDIVISM RATE OF GRADUATES.

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Mental Health Court History

- Planning Phase began in April, 2014 with an \$117,000 grant awarded through the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO)
- The WCMHTC went live on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 and as of January 12th the court has 45 active participants
- Started October 1st, 2014 the WCMHTC's Operational Phase began with an additional \$282,000 grant award by the SCAO for FY2015
- Currently 42 active participants

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Referral Sources

- Judges (main referral source)
 - Both Treatment Courts cover all of Washtenaw County (14A and 14B District Courts and 22nd Circuit through special Michigan Supreme Court appointments)
- Attorneys (main referral source)
- Psychiatrists and Psychologists
- Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS)
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Family
- Probation Officers
- Private Citizens

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Process

- Referred to Veterans Court or Mental Health Court
- Informational interview with a Treatment Court Probation Officer
 - Not everyone remains interested
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health Screening by Treatment Providers
- Eligibility Screening by Treatment Court Coordinator
- Approval by Presiding Judge
- Sentencing into Veterans or Mental Health Court
- Orders for Probation and Treatment

Admission

- Privilege, not a right
- Voluntary programs, but defendant will be on probation regardless
- Must demonstrate absolute commitment to every phase of the treatment program
- Must meet statutory and local eligibility requirements
- Termination
 - Option of LAST RESORT

Treatment Court Review Hearings

- Non-adversarial
- Usually, no involvement by defense counsel or the prosecutor
- Conversation with the Judge
 - Judge can ask direct questions about the personal life, treatment, or other aspects of the participant's life
 - Participant can make requests, ask questions, and be their own non-legal advocate
- Court routinely involves Team members, family, and friends

Veterans Court Team

- Presiding Judge
- Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator
- Veterans Probation Officer
- Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator
- Veteran-Mentor Coordinator
- Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs
- City of Ann Arbor Attorney's Office
- Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office
- Dawn Farm
- Home of New Vision
- Ann Arbor Police Department
- Reiser & Frushour

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Mental Health Court Team

- 15th District Staff
 - Presiding Judge, Court Coordinator, Probation Officer
- Reiser & Frushour, PLLC
 - Defense Counsel
- City of Ann Arbor City Attorney's Office
- City of Ann Arbor Police Department
 - Community Engagement Officers
- Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS)
 - Case Managers
 - JPORT Jail Staff
- Home of New Vision
 - Special Programs Coordinator
- Dawn Farm
- NAMI Washtenaw County
 - Court Volunteers

What Treatment Courts Bring to the Participant

- Sense of COMMUNITY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- MENTORSHIP
- Dedicated resources assistance from the VA, CSTS, Dawn Farm, Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs and Home of New Vision
- Coordination of resources
- Accessibility to local, state, federally funded resources and opportunity

What Treatment Courts Bring to the Participant

- Collateral Programs
 - Fare Deal Bus Passes
 - Alternative Treatment Providers
 - Mentor Program
 - Drug and Alcohol Testing
 - Incentives
 - Veterans Living Classes
 - Peer-to-Peer Resources
- Results
 - MHC
 - Recidivism (new conviction) after 1 year
 - Nonparticipants: 22%
 - Participants: 4%

Obligation from the Participants

- Veterans Court: 18 Month Commitment to the Court, with a POSSIBILITY of 24 Months
- Mental Health Court: 12-24 Month Commitment
- Obligation to actively participate in treatment
- Obligation to follow ALL court orders

Phase Program

- Works as both Incentive and Sanction
- Four Phases
- As participants move through the phases, the court allows more autonomy and freedom

Rewards and Punishments

- Best Practices
- Distal and Proximal Goals
- Used to adjust behavior
- Compliance with Treatment, Court, and Probation Orders=Rewards/Incentives
- Non-Compliance =Proximal Sanctions

Incentives

- Applause
- Court Appearance decreased
- Court Appearances increased
- Curfew reduced
- Drug Testing Decreased
- Entry into gift drawing
- Early Graduation
- Early dismissal from Court Review Hearing
- Gift Certificate
- Individual Reward (ie: gift card, cookie, etc.)
- Permission to travel
- Phase Promotion
- Probation Fee Waiver
- Probation Reporting Decreased
- Probation Reporting Ended
- Recognition Poster or Chart
- Other rewards, as recommended by the treatment team, and granted by Judge Easthope

Sanctions

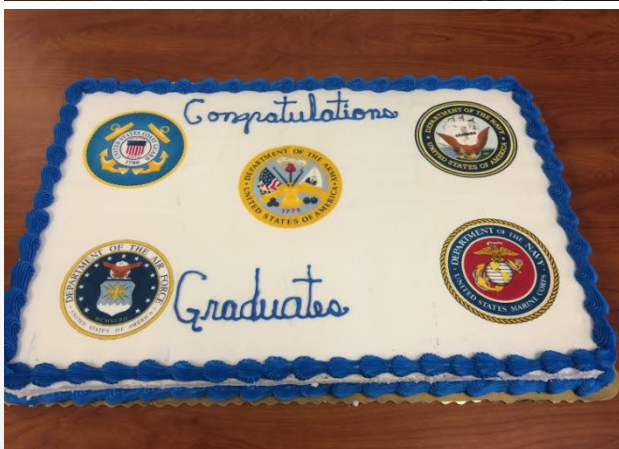
- ¾ Housing
- Substance Abuse Testing Increased
- Community Service
- Court Appearances Increased
- Curfew imposed
- Home Detention
- Jail
- Job Club until employed
- Letter of Apology
- MADD Impact Panel
- Phase Demotion
- Phase Time Extended
- Probation Reporting Increased
- Removal of Driving Privileges
- Residential Facility
- Self-help sessions increased
- Sit in on other Court Sessions
- Tether
- Verbal Warning
- Weekend Program
- Writing Assignment
- Other sanctions or punishments, as recommended by the treatment team, and granted by the presiding judge

Termination

- Team and Court avoids this at all costs
- Last Resort
- Sends participant back into traditional judicial system, with possible jail time
- May reinstate original charges, if treatment court was part of plea agreement with prosecutor

Graduation

- This is the Win for EVERYONE!



Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs

- Provides two staff members to the Court
- \$84,118.80 in retroactive financial benefits for Vets Court participants
- \$26,304.13 in monthly income for Vets Court participants
- \$56,006.96 in financial assistance to Vets Court Participants

Veterans Court Budget

- Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program
 - \$173,911.85 (FY 2014-15)
 - Coordinator Compensation
 - Incentives
 - AAATA Fare Deal Bus Pass Program
 - Drug Testing
 - Treatment Providers
 - Graduation Ceremonies
- In-kind Contributions
 - City of Ann Arbor (via 15th District Court)
 - Computers, pens, paper, space, etc.

Mental Health Court Budget

- Community Support and Treatment Services
 - \$92,736.22 allocated for FY2015
- Home of New Vision
 - \$35,720.00 allocated for FY2015
 - Average Cost of Inpatient Stay: \$3,230.00
- Community Corrections (Drug and Alcohol Monitoring)
 - \$30,000 allocated for FY2015
 - Average Monthly Cost: \$5,500

Treatment Court Challenges

- Limited Financial Resources for MHC Services
- Affordable Housing for Participants
- Medication Compliance
- Substance Use/Abuse
- History of Trauma and Abuse
- Lack of Support from Family and Friends
- Poverty
- Absconding From Program

Veterans Court Success

- Graduated 15 participants
- 7 participants ready to graduate in April 2015
- Over 588 hours contributed back into the local community through community service
- Currently 17 veteran-mentors from the local community

Mental Health Court Success

- Positive feedback from Participants
- 10 Participants in Phase 2 and on-track to graduate in July 2015
- Approximately 25 Participants are 100% compliant with terms of MHC and leading more stable lives
- High Rate of Attendance at Court Reviews
- Only 2 participants have been charged with a new crime

Fiscal Year 2015 Goals

- Establish Emergency Fund
- Identify and Obtain additional funding sources
- Host 1st Mental Health Court Graduation Ceremony
- Reduce Recidivism Rates in Washtenaw County
- Obtain Affordable Housing for homeless and precariously homeless Participants through the new SPDAT(VI) System and Veterans Affairs.
- Establish Peer Mentor Program
- Reduce drug testing expenses

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Saved Rounds and Questions

