Goals for Veterans Therapeutic Court:

- 1. Reduce criminal recidivism by providing assessment, education and treatment to drug/alcohol addicted veterans in our criminal system.
- 2. Monitor treatment compliance through frequent court contact and supervision.
- 3. Require strict accountability from participants and impose a graduated system of rewards and interventions to encourage positive choices and behaviors in the defendants.



"The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude." Former President George W. Bush

Let's honor our military, The men and women who serve. Whose dedication to our country Does not falter, halt or swerve. Let's respect them for their courage; They're ready to do what's right To keep America safe, So we can sleep better at night. Let's support and defend our soldiers, Whose hardships are brutal and cruel, Whose discipline we can't imagine, Who follow each order and rule. Here's to those who choose to be warriors And their helpers good and true: They're fighting for American values; They're fighting for me and you.

By Joanna Fuchs

For more information contact: Shauna McCloskev. Therapeutic Specialty Courts Coordinator Phone: 360-397-2431

Fax: 360-759-6582

Email: shauna.mccloskey@clark.wa.gov

For more information on drug and veterans courts nationwide, please visit:

www.allrise.org

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-DC-BX-0097 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

Clark County Veterans Therapeutic Court



Judge Darvin Zimmerman, Presiding 2nd Floor, Courtroom 4 Wednesdays at 10:00am

Who is Eligible?

The participant must be an adult that resides in Clark County that admits to having a substance abuse or co-occurring disorder that is driving his/her criminal misdemeanant behavior. The potential candidate must also pass a background check with confirmation of honorable veteran discharge status (must be eligible for medical benefits through the VA) and must be non-violent / non-sex offender status. The participant must volunteer for the program as an option to their sentence and serve any mandatory minimums and clear any/all outstanding warrants prior to entering.

BENEFITS for choosing this program:

- Reduced sentence!
- Comprehensive and Immediate access to the VA Health Care system and all other associated programs
- Reduced fines and fees!
- Vet-to-Vet peer mentor program
- A team of support and case management to help reduce any barriers to your success!



Why a separate docket for Veterans?

Honor, Duty, Courage, Bravery, Leadership, Commitment, Respect and Obedience.

These words are instilled in the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces.



For some veterans, however, the return home may be a bit more challenging. Time away from home can strain relationships, leave the

veteran unemployed, feel detached from society, a loss of service camaraderie felt while on active duty, a search for new purpose. For others, perhaps it was their combat experience or time in service or multiple deployments that may have circumstantially left them with some heightened anxiety, depression or post traumatic stress disorder. Many studies report an alarming increase in the prevalence of substance use/abuse in returning service members.

Creating a specialized court calendar just for veterans can start the process of healing. Because each branch of the military has its own culture, its own language, code of conduct, rules, regulations, norms, ranks, stories, legends, rituals and rites, we feel we are justified in creating a separate specialized court docket dedicated solely to address the specific needs of our service men and women and forge a stronger relationship with the VA.

Thank You for Your Service!



Mission Statement

Clark County's Veterans Therapeutic Court provides a means to successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to lead a productive and law-abiding life through treatment, rehabilitative programming, reinforcement and judicial monitoring.

The program is an alternative treatment and sentencing option for defendants suffering from an underlying substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental illness and facing misdemeanor criminal charges. Veterans are identified early through specialized screening tools and they must voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed by a team of court staff, probation and law enforcement officers, veteran peer mentors, veteran resource professionals, and treatment professionals. The program is designed into four phases and is a minimum of one year in length.

Through frequent status review hearings, a veteran participant's treatment plan and other conditions are reviewed. Incentives are offered to reward compliance to court conditions, and immediate sanctions for non-adherence are fairly handed down.