

4th Judicial District – Veterans Trauma Court

Veteran Mentor Corps Information Sheet



Mission Statement

The 4th Judicial District Veterans Trauma Court (VTC), through a collaborative problem-solving approach, will reduce recidivism of individuals who served in the armed forces and are involved in the criminal justice system. Preference is given to those individuals with PTSD, TBI or substance use related to their service. The VTC will promote public safety, ensure participant accountability, support recovery, and improve quality of life for participants and their families.

Are you a U.S. military veteran interested in community service volunteerism? Do you miss the camaraderie found with fellow service members?

The VTC program is currently seeking U.S. military veterans who are willing to volunteer their time mentoring fellow veterans. The Veteran Mentor Corps provides a unique and rewarding opportunity for volunteers – the opportunity to make a powerful difference in the lives of at-risk veterans *and* have a positive impact on our community! Mentors will be provided basic mentor training, from a Justice for Vets, and additional ongoing training is offered.

Having veterans participate as Mentors is an important part of the 4th Judicial District Veterans Trauma Court program, as there is a bond that occurs between veterans around the values that are shared and the sacrifices that have been made.

The Mentor Program offers support and encouragement for veterans (mentees) in the court system by spending one-on-one time with the veteran before and after they appear during the regular court review docket of the VTC. This mentoring time gives the mentee the opportunity to bring up concerns and get feedback and support from another veteran. Mentors will need to commit to attending the court at least once a month to be a true member of the Mentor Corps.

**The 4th Judicial VTC also offers support and supervision to all of the Mentors.
What are the Goals of the Veteran Mentor Program?**

The primary mission of the Mentor Corps is to:

1. We are serving those who have served. We leave no service member behind, regardless of branch, service time or discharge status.
2. Participate in training to prepare for working with U.S. military vets involved in the criminal justice system with trauma-related injuries and co-occurring disorders.
3. Maintain high standards of personal conduct, acting as a role model for those we serve.

4. Respect the rights and dignity of those we serve, providing support and guidance during the recovery process.
5. Assist the veteran in accessing community resources, advocating for them when necessary and encouraging the mentees participation in treatment.
6. Establish good boundaries so mentees feel supported but not dependent on a mentor.
7. Keep current with emerging knowledge relevant to recovery, veterans benefits and participate in training with the mentor corps.
8. Participate in joint pro-social events when available with your mentee.
9. Advocate for the full re-integration of veterans into our community and promote the inherent value of these veterans to our country.

Q: What qualities do you need to be a Veteran Mentor?

A: The best Mentor qualities include:

- Mindful Listener
- Encourage self-reliance
- Nurturing
- Trustworthy
- Observant
- Respectful

Who We Help & Issues We Address:

The VTC is a state and grant funded program that provides an alternative to incarceration for U.S. military veterans and active duty service members, with trauma spectrum disorders, who are determined to be high risk and high need. With the collaboration of individuals from the 4th Judicial District's Attorney's Office, Public Defenders offices, El Paso and Teller County Sheriff's Departments, Probation Department, Veterans Administration, and alternate treatment providers, eligible veterans are moved from the traditional courtroom environment into the VTC under the supervision of Judge David Shakes, a former Judge Advocate with the U.S. Army.

Program participants agree to actively engage in treatment and counseling, make regular court appearances, and are intensively supervised. The VTC program assists participating veterans in accessing mental health and/or substance use treatment, and can connect them to educational, housing, and employment resources. Most program participants have useful public service (UPS) and some have fines and costs as well. Mentor support is available, but not required.

How do I get involved?

Please contact the VTC Lead Mentor, Laurie Clemons at (719) 452-5056 or by e-mail at laura.clemons@judicial.state.co.us

Or contact the VTC Coordinator, Kisten Born at (719) 452-5039 or by e-mail at kisten.born@judicial.state.co.us

For more information or an application, please contact the 4th Judicial District's Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator, Kisten Born, at (719) 452-5039 or by e-mail: kisten.born@judicial.state.co.us