

Second Judicial District of Wisconsin

Veteran's Treatment Court

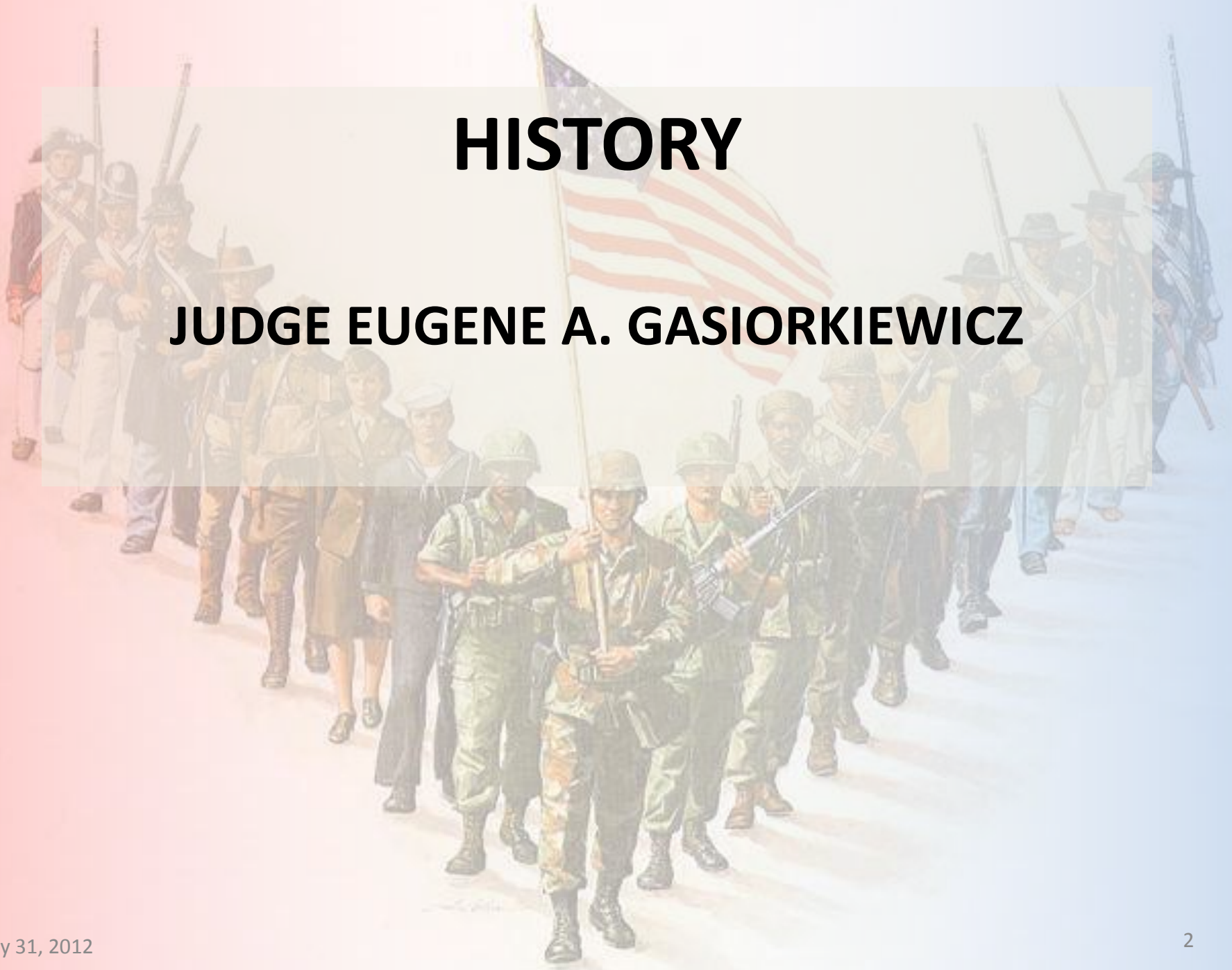


July 31, 2012



HISTORY

JUDGE EUGENE A. GASIORIEWICZ



Abbreviations

- OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- OEF – Operation Enduring Freedom
 - OND – Operation New Dawn
- GWOT – Global War on Terror

Statistical Information

- BY THE NUMBERS (2011 Statistical Data)
 - 23 million U.S. Veterans
 - Over 2 million and counting from Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Over 565,000 deployed more than once
 - 28% National Guard and Reserve soldiers
 - Average age is 27
 - Average age of deployed National Guard or Reservist is 33
 - 60% deployed are married
 - 50% deployed have children
 - 88% male
 - 12% female
 - 40% of deaths caused by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's)



Second Judicial District of Wisconsin Veteran Statistics

(as of 9/30/11)

- Kenosha County 10,439
- Racine County 12,432
- Walworth County 6,763
- TOTAL 29,634

History of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



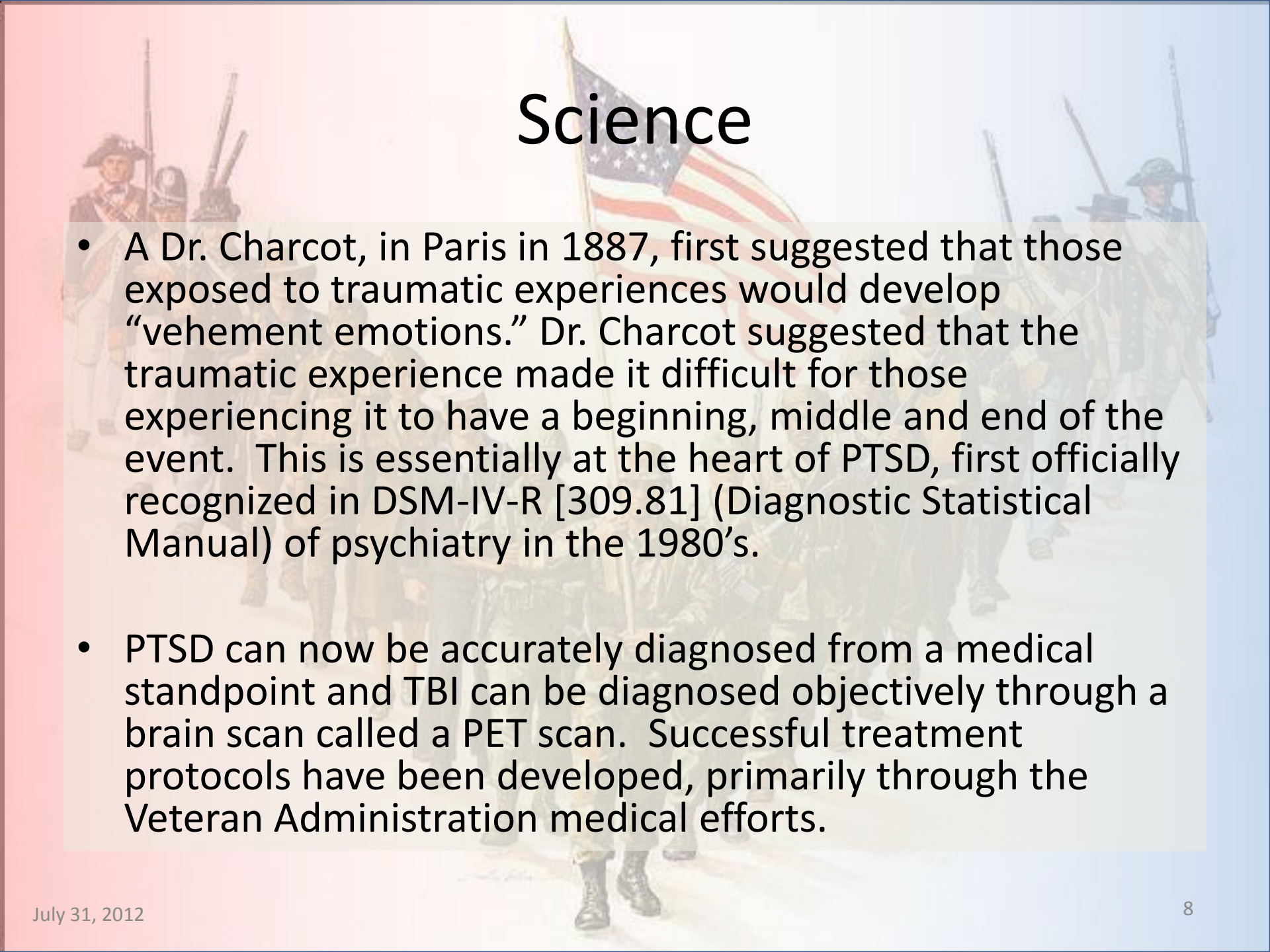
Throughout history there exists documentation of how war affects those who participate in it:

- Civil War
 - *IRRITABLE HEART*
- WORLD WAR I & II
 - *SHELL SHOCK*
 - *NEUROSIS*
 - *COMBAT FATIGUE*
 - *COMBAT EXHAUSTION*
- VIETNAM
 - 1ST recognition of *POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER*
 - Subsequently – *Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)*

Summary of Literature

- Over 300,000 Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans currently suffering from PTSD
- When factoring in delayed onset of PTSD % as high as 35%
- Those diagnosed with PTSD are particularly high risk of becoming perpetrators of domestic abuse
- 33% of those suffering from PTSD are domestic abusers
- Those diagnosed with PTSD twice as likely to become divorced
- Current Vet population suicide rate exceeds Vietnam era rate (58,000)
- Among all veterans, a suicide occurs every 80 minutes, around the clock (Time Magazine 7/23/12)
- Since 2001 - 4,486 U.S. troops have died in Iraq
- Since 2001 - 1,950 U.S. troops have died in Afghanistan
- Since 2001 - 2,676 have died by suicide
- Veterans constitute up to 10% of U.S. prisons population
- Veterans constitute high percentage of homeless

Science

A faded background image showing a group of soldiers in uniform marching in a line. They are carrying rifles and an American flag is visible in the center of the formation. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

- A Dr. Charcot, in Paris in 1887, first suggested that those exposed to traumatic experiences would develop “vehement emotions.” Dr. Charcot suggested that the traumatic experience made it difficult for those experiencing it to have a beginning, middle and end of the event. This is essentially at the heart of PTSD, first officially recognized in DSM-IV-R [309.81] (Diagnostic Statistical Manual) of psychiatry in the 1980’s.
- PTSD can now be accurately diagnosed from a medical standpoint and TBI can be diagnosed objectively through a brain scan called a PET scan. Successful treatment protocols have been developed, primarily through the Veteran Administration medical efforts.

Characteristics of PTSD

- Symptoms appear quickly and without warning
- Symptoms range from subtle to overwhelming
- Symptoms from combat or terror differ from civilian events
 - The duration of exposure to trauma
 - Likelihood of multiple traumatic experiences in short time period
 - The trauma is man-man vs. natural disasters, accidents or “acts of God”
 - The sufferer is usually victim and perpetrator of violence

Symptoms of PTSD

The background of the slide features a faded, historical-style illustration of a military band or marching unit. In the center, a soldier in a green uniform and helmet carries a large American flag. To his left, a man in a dark suit and white sailor's cap walks. To his right, a soldier in a blue uniform and helmet is visible. The scene is set against a light blue sky and a light-colored ground.

- HYPERAROUSAL AND ABNORMAL STARTLE RESPONSE
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- NIGHTMARES AND INSOMNIA
- FLASHBACKS
- INTRUSIVE MEMORIES
- OVERWHELMING WAVE OF EMOTION
- SURVIVOR GUILT
- EMOTIONAL WITHDRAWAL/DETACHMENT
- FRAGMENTED SENSE OF SELF
- PANIC ATTACKS
- SHAME
- DESPAIR
- LETHARGY
- FEAR
- AVOIDANCE
- HOPELESSNESS
- ANGER
- DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR

Why a Veteran's Treatment Court?

- No veterans had problems before leaving. All would have been fit for service.
- Current members of the military and veterans...
 - and their families experience unique stressors due to military experience.
 - are a unique population with unique needs.
 - require a greater need for supervision and support,
 - require increased collaboration with law enforcement and Veterans Affairs
 - require speedy identification and referrals
- Veterans respond more favorably to other veterans in the court
- Traditional community services may not suit their treatment needs

JUDGE ROBERT RUSSELL'S GROUNDBREAKING COURT FOR BUFFALO'S VETERANS



In 2008, Judge Robert Russell, presiding judge of the Buffalo Drug and Mental Health Courts, created the Nation's first Veterans Treatment Court in response to the growing number of veterans appearing on his dockets who were addicted to drugs or alcohol and suffering from mental illness.



Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

- APRIL 2009
 - Authorization to the (VHA) to provide services to Veterans in the criminal justice system setting.
 - The VA is committed to assisting its Veterans in our Courts and providing the necessary medical and mental health treatment necessary to reacclimatize Veterans back into society.
- JANUARY 2011
 - President Obama, as Commander in Chief, approved a study and conclusion contained in STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES – MEETING AMERICA’S COMMITMENT as a “top national security policy priority.”



What is a Veteran's Treatment Court

Combined drug and mental health court that serves veterans who are struggling with addiction and / or mental illness by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system into a voluntary specialized veterans court.

Court Components

- Court entirely of Veterans
- Veterans Health Care Worker(s) - in court
- Veteran Mentors
- Therapeutic Environment

What does a Veteran's Treatment Court provide?

- Early identification through evidence based screening and assessments.
- Transferring of cases that traditionally were in other treatment courts (drug, mental health, etc.) to a centralized singular court of all eligible veterans
- Greater focus on veterans poor decision-making
- Peer to peer, vet to vet mentoring, to help the veterans build and achieve healthy goals.
- Links individuals with service providers who either share or understand the unique experience of military service, military life, and the distinctive needs that may arise from that experience.
- A judicially supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff, veteran health care professionals, veteran peer mentors, substance abuse health care professionals and mental health professionals develop with the veteran.

Value of the presence of the VA

- Liaison
- Obtaining VA Releases of Information
- Facilitating VA linkages for services
- Coordinating and providing evaluation and treatment, VA status report regarding Tx, UDS's, appointments, etc.
- Care coordination & crisis management

Mentor Roles

The background of the slide features a faded, artistic illustration of a military band or marching unit. In the center, a soldier holds a large American flag. To the left, a soldier in a Revolutionary War-style uniform is visible. Other soldiers in modern military gear are marching in formation, some carrying rifles. The scene is set against a light, hazy background.

- Mentors must....
 - Reinforce mentee commitment to court
 - Reinforce military bearing in courtroom and with vet court team
 - Provide guidance, direction, support
 - Keep record of contacts
 - Provide assistance to resources
- Mentors must NOT....
 - Be a counselor
 - Order participants around
 - Contradict court team's recommendations and rulings

Veteran Mentor Qualifications (Musts)

- Be a veteran
- Stable without current criminal offense
- Free from drug/alcohol addiction
- Be a volunteer
- Have mentoring training
- Be non-judgmental
- Be confidential
- Be willing to commit to at least a 12 month tour of duty
- Be willing to commit to at least 2 contacts per week

Development Team Partners

- **Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties**

- Judiciary
- District Court Administrator
- District Attorneys
- Public Defenders
- Veteran Service Officers
- Department of Corrections
- Law Enforcement
- Human Services

- **U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs**

- Milwaukee VA
- Madison VA
- North Chicago VA
- Milwaukee Vet Center

- **Non-governmental agencies**

- Racine Psychological Services
- Wisconsin Veterans Work Project, Ltd.
- United Way
- Johnson Foundation



SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

JUDGE GERALD P. PTACEK

Mission Statement

The mission of the Veterans Treatment Court of the Second Judicial District of Wisconsin is to honor veterans by restoring them to a productive life by providing judicial support, treatment and supervision thereby enhancing public safety.

The background of the slide features a faded, historical-style illustration of soldiers in uniform marching in formation. They are carrying rifles and an American flag is prominently displayed in the center of the group. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid clearly.

Goals

1. Connect veteran defendants with appropriate VA benefits, treatment and support services.
2. Expedite case processing in order to move defendants into appropriate treatment settings.
3. Create effective working relationships between the criminal justice, treatment and Veterans Administration systems.
4. Promote employment, stable housing, sobriety and other evidences of recovery.
5. Re-establish veteran defendants as productive members of their communities.

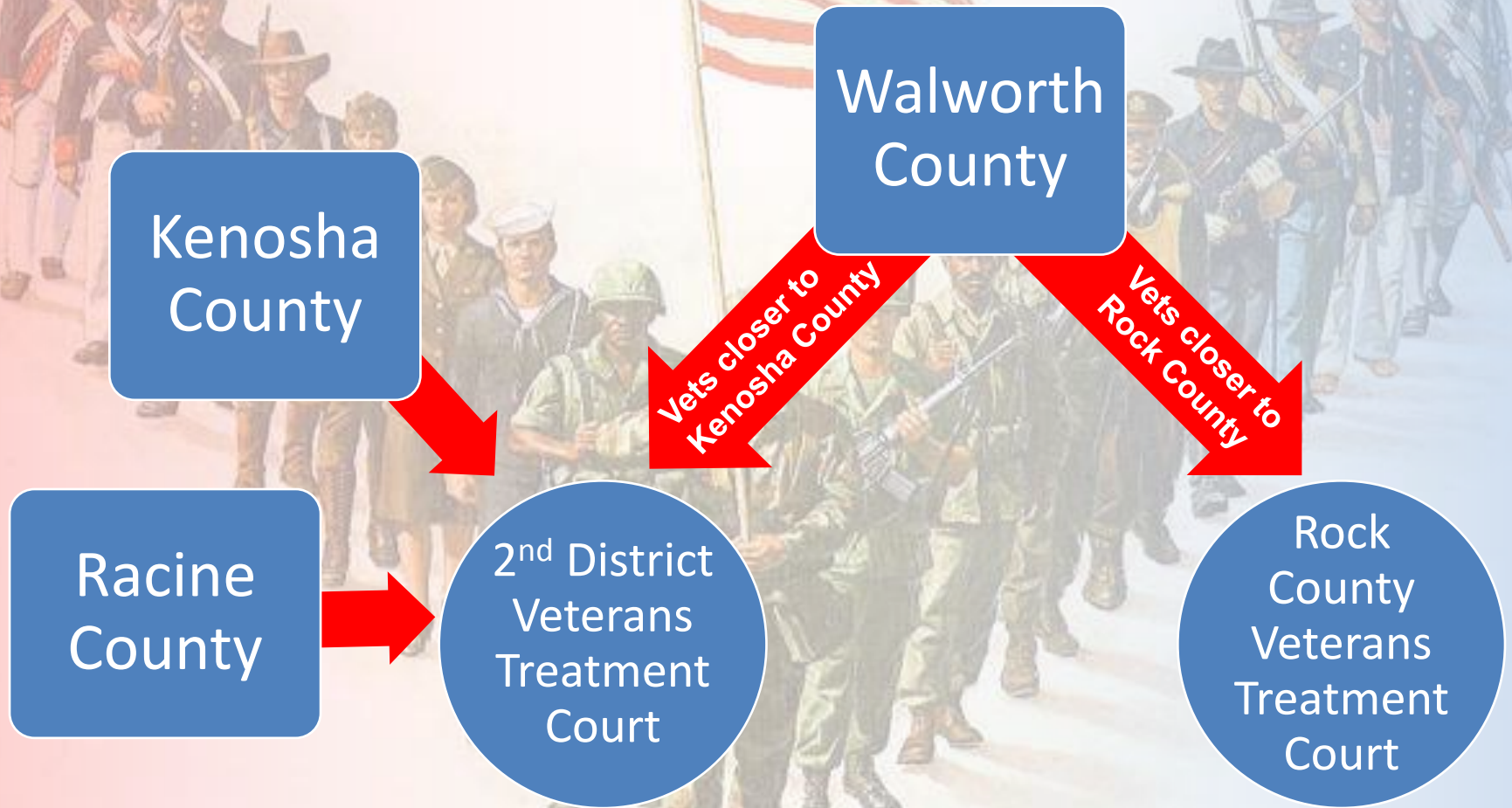
Objectives

- Provide access to integrated care including substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and other medical services
- Provide educational and work skill development, residential and transportation services, and outpatient treatment

Veteran's Court Participants Before & After

Before	After
Substance Dependent - Drugs/alcohol	Clean and Sober
Unemployed	Employed
Homeless	Housed
Lack of Confidence	Confident
Directionless	Sense of Direction (life goals)
Hopeless/Helpless	Empowered
Isolated	Productive
Depressed	Connected with Family/Friends
Fearful	Better Attitude
Unmotivated	Improved Health
Anxious	Enhanced Faith
Pending criminal charges	Clean/improved physical appearance
	"Standing tall"

Jurisdiction



Target Population

- 3 Counties (Kenosha, Racine, Walworth)
- Over age 17
- Veteran:
 - Any branch of the military
 - Currently serving or completed service
 - Any discharge
 - Qualifies for veteran resources
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues
- Felonies and Misdemeanors
 - No Class D or more serious felonies
 - No homicide, sexual assault, or stalking offenses
 - Weapons/crimes against children charges considered on a case by case basis

Eligible Veterans

- **Branch:** Any branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard)
- **Status:** Active Duty/Reserves
- **Discharge Types:** Honorable, General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- **Duration of Service:** – Greater than 90 days
- **Combat Experience:** None required
- **Deployment:** Not required

The following will be considered on a case by case basis:

- **Discharge Types:** UOTHC (Under Other Than Honorable Conditions), Bad Conduct, Dishonorable
- **Duration of Service:** – Less than 90 days

Offense Eligibility

Vets charged with a Class D or more serious felony and/or with sexual assault or stalking will not be considered for participation in the Veteran's Treatment Court. The issue of whether a violent charge or history will affect a veteran's eligibility for the program will be discussed and decided by the team on a case by case basis.

Screening

What?	Who?	When?	How?	Where?
Clinical (Mental Health and Substance Abuse)	1. ZCI 2. Jail	Within 24 Hours	1. Validated clinical screening tools 2. Collateral Information: family, employment, residence	ZCI or Jail
Legal	District Attorney	Within 72 Hours	1. Facts 2. Criminal History	
Veteran	1. Jail 2. Law Enforcement	1. Arrest 2. Booking 3. Jail Risk Assess.	1. Questionnaire 2. DOD Database	

Decision made at all types of screening: **In or Out?**

Assessment

- Completed by an LCSW with CSAC cultural competency. Each county will identify a qualified assessor to do assessments.
- Assessment Instruments:
 - Clinical interview
 - Standardized protocol throughout the Second Judicial District
 - Screen for PTSD and TBI
 - Veteran Identification

Assessment

To be eligible to participate, the participant must have:

Alcohol and/or drug dependence

AND/OR

A treatable mental health diagnosis*

** A Treatable Mental Health Diagnosis is characterized as an illness which does not interfere with the participant's ability to:*

- 1) Cognitively understand and follow directions,*
- 2) Comprehend the treatment court requirements*

Ancillary Services Needed

A painting of a military band marching in formation, carrying an American flag. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing the title and a list of services. The background is a gradient of light blue and white.

- Health/Dental
- Education
- Housing
- Employment
- Transportation
- Legal Services (Family Court)
- Recreation/Self Help
- Spirituality

Length of Treatment



- Months
 - 12 Minimal
 - 18 Optimal
- Phases of Treatment
- Frequency of treatment contact (based on individual)
- Uniform Case Management Report
- Transportation

Treatment Providers

	Veterans Administration	Community Resources
Substance Abuse	1. Inpatient Medical Detox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Zablocki V.A. Hospital B. North Chicago C. Madison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Milwaukee B. Chatham House C. Spring Place D. Crossroads E. Options
	2. Outpatient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. VA B. Vet Center C. Racine/Union Grove D. Kenosha E. Walworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. ZCI B. Racine Community Health Center C. ZCI In-Jail program D. Racine County Human Services Department
	3. Medications	
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Zablocki V.A. Hospital B. North Chicago C. Madison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. SAIL Program – St. Lukes B. Racine Community Health Center

Funding for Treatment

VA

Insurance

DOC

County

Private pay

Grant funds

Court Phases

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		Requirements			
Item		Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
Duration		4 weeks or less	60 days or less	5 Months or less	Between 12 and 16 Months
Goal Target		25 Participants	25 Participants	25 Participants	25 Participants
Caseload		1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25
Performance Qualification Standards	Drug/Alcohol Testing	2 random UAs per week (Minimum)	2 times per week (random)	2 times per week (random)	2 times per week (random)
	Compliance Time	2 weeks compliant to advance	30 days compliant to advance	90 days compliant to advance	90 days compliant to advance
	Supervision/ Probation	Enrolled – COMPAS Completed	Enhanced 1 time	2 times per month (Maximum)	2 times per month (Maximum)
	Court	Once per week	Every other week	Once every 3 weeks	Once per month
	Curfew	As necessary per DOC	As necessary per DOC	As necessary per DOC	As necessary per DOC
	Home Visits	1 per month – more contact as needed	1 per month – more contact as needed	1 per month – more contact as needed	1 per month – more contact as needed
	Support Meetings	2 times per week (minimum)	2 times per week (minimum)	2 times per week (minimum) with sponsor	2 times per week (minimum) with sponsor
	Housing	Adequate Housing	Stable Housing	Stable Housing	Stable Housing
	Alumni Group	N/A	N/A	N/A	Participation for 90 days
	Medical Care	Adequate Medical Care – Appointments Stabilized	Adequate Medical Care – Appointments Kept	Adequate Medical Care – Appointments Kept	Adequate Medical Care – Appointments Kept
	Treatment	Treatment Intake Completed – Treatment (AODA and/or MH) Ready to Begin	AODA: Compliant with treatment – continues as needed	AODA: Compliant with treatment – continues as needed	AODA: Compliant with treatment – continues as needed
			Mental Health: Following doctor's treatment plan	Mental Health: Following doctor's treatment plan	Mental Health: Following doctor's treatment plan
	Employment/ Education	Employment Evaluation and/or Education Plan	Employed or in job search/Educational Plan – Meaningful Activities	Employed / In School	Employed / In School
	Case Management	Assessment Completed	Monitored by Case Manager 2 times per week	Monitored by Case Manager 1 time per week	Monitored by Case Manager 1 time per week
	New Cases	No new charges	No new charges	No new charges	No new charges
	Veteran Mentor	2 times per week	2 times per week	2 times per week	2 times per week

Implementation Date

The week of November 12, 2012
in conjunction with
Veterans Day - 2012



Questions?



Thank you for coming.