



Mutual Support

Significance of MOU's



Special Point of Interest:

New Coffee Bunker

- NAMI has started "Coffee Bunker OKC" from 0800-1100 located at the Drop in Center at 1311 N. Lottie Avenue in Oklahoma City.
- For more information about Coffee Bunker OKC, contact: Mr. Lawrence Williams, at 405-456-3630 or lawrence.williams2@va.gov or call NAMI Oklahoma Inc., at 1-800-583-1264

Want to know more about Coffee Bunkers? Click Here: <http://www.sos-coffeebunker.com/>

There are many individuals who currently work for drug courts, mental health courts, and the family courts who stated they consistently provide services to veterans actively. Creating a veteran enhanced court operation in order to best serve the veterans and service members in your program can deliver key guidance regarding military issues, courts must address other dynamics when serving this population. However, a particular judicial district may not have an adequate number of veterans/service members to justify the creation of a veterans program, or may not possess adequate resources, and may decline to create a veterans docket for other reasons.

In lieu of creating an entirely new problem-solving court these courts could adjust their existing programs to address veteran-specific issues to maximize limited resources (e.g., financial, personnel, and other resources). This could include recruiting veteran mentors, adding a team member who is familiar with military/veteran issues, utilizing the VA's medical centers/clinics or other treatment providers who are familiar with veteran-specific matters, and assisting the veterans in securing applicable veterans' benefits.

Depending upon the number of veterans or service members at issue, the problem-solving court could either incorporate the additional services into its existing docket, or address veterans and service members separately during a

portion of its existing docket (for example, hearing all veterans' and service members' cases during the first hour of a three-hour problem-solving court docket). Another alternative would be create a separate docket for veterans and service members who are participating in the problem-solving court. Adapting an existing problem-solving court to specifically address veterans' issues will require additional expenditures, but the expenditures will be significantly lower than creating an entirely new problem-solving court.

Prior to creating adjustments and assisting veterans/service members, a court should consider entering into a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the VA and any other entity in which the court will frequently be interacting. This will eliminate the potential for confusion regarding their respective responsibilities and expectations. MOU's, as well as sample MOU's, are available upon request and can be found on numerous websites including www.NDCRC.org. MOU's, while helpful, do not resolve confidentiality and privacy issues. Should there be any questions regarding confidentiality, please contact your ODMHSAS Specialty Court Field Rep.

In This Issue:

- Significance of Memorandums of Understanding **1!**
- OESC Local Veteran Rep. **2!**
- Orbit Point & Heads Up Display **3!**
- Roles of A Veteran Mentor **4!**

Workforce Veteran Employment

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Mission Statement reads:

"As Veterans serving Veterans, our mission is to insure Veterans Priority of Services throughout OESC, along with offering our Veterans and the transitioning service members with the proper resources and services to succeed in the 21st Century workforce. We pledge our utmost to protect their employment rights, maximize their employment opportunities, and meet the labor market demands with qualified veteran employees."

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides grant funds to the State of Oklahoma to provide employment and training services to eligible residents and workers. As a condition to receiving those funds, priority of service will be given to qualified veterans when referring individuals to job openings,

DOL funded training programs or related services. In accordance with the implementation of the Veterans' Priority Provisions of the "Jobs for Veterans Act" (PL 107-288), qualified veterans will receive priority referral to services over non-veterans as determined by each program's mandatory eligibility criteria.

Information and assistance will be provided by One-Stop and Workforce Center staff regarding available employment programs, training opportunities and services, eligibility requirements, and veteran's priority. Veterans are encouraged to avail themselves of these opportunities. For more information on program, eligibility, and Veteran Priority details visit or contact your local One-Stop or Workforce office. Veteran Employment and Training staff or One-Stop staff are available to explain program mandatory eligibility and veterans' priority. To locate the workforce veteran center in your county please click [here](#).

Orbit Point: Q & A

ODMHSAS!

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We are on the web!

[http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/
Substance_Abuse/
Oklahoma_Drug_and_Mental
Health_Courts/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Substance_Abuse/Oklahoma_Drug_and_Mental_Health_Courts/index.html)

Tel: 405 522 8020
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Specialty Courts Veterans Liaison

Q: How does a veteran register for VA benefits?

A: There are a few options that can be used to enroll veterans for VA benefits.

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/>

- I. Online through this link. (Additional information for I- IV provided in link)
- II. By phone: 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday- Friday 8:00 AM- 8:00 PM (ET)
- III. By Mail: Print 10-10EZ form or EZR, complete & sign, attach a copy of their DD-214 then mail to Health Eligibility Center at 2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30329-1647.
- IV. In person at VA Medical Center or contact your nearest Veteran Service Org.

HUD: Heads-Up-Display

Want to know the various services Veterans Affairs can provide?

Click Here: Current Veterans Affairs Benefit Booklet

http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp



Did you know: The Veteran Affairs top three priorities for veterans with expedited claims are severe mental illness, imminence of fatal harm, and homelessness.

Roles of A Veteran Mentor

The Veteran Mentor acts as a coach, guide, role model, advocate, and support for the veteran participant. The mentor encourages, guides, and supports the veteran participant as they progress through the court process. This includes listening to the concerns of the veteran and making general suggestions, assisting the veteran to determine their needs, and acting as a support for the veteran, especially when a veteran participant may be feeling isolated.

With the veteran mentor, veterans courts' make use of the camaraderie that exists among veterans. Veteran Mentors volunteer their time and energy to assist their fellow veterans with peer support, housing, employment linkages, job training, education, transportation, disability compensation claims, discharge status and other linkages that may be available in the community.

Veteran Mentor Duties and Responsibilities

1. Attend Court sessions when scheduled
2. Participate in and lead mentoring sessions with veterans when assigned by the judge
3. Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties other veterans are facing
4. Assist the veterans as much as possible to resolve their concerns with the court procedures
5. Assist veterans on how to access and navigate the Veteran's Affairs System
6. Be supportive and helpful to other Veteran Mentors



Many of past and future veteran graduates enjoy the aspect to remain involved.