



Veterans Intervention Strategy

*Protecting Veterans * Increasing Public Safety *
Improving Community Health*



Current Situation

- 241 self-identified veterans in Deschutes County Jail in 2019.
- 8.5% of ODOC inmates are veterans.
- 30% of vets deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have mental health conditions requiring treatment.
 - Less than 50% receive treatment.
- More than 2 out of 10 veterans w/PTSD have a SUD.
- Vets w/PTSD are more likely to engage in criminal activity.



VIS Timeline

- 2018-2020: Need for special program for justice-involved vets established
- 2020-2022: Program started in November 2020
 - Not a VTC, although modeled on similar concepts
 - Capacity for 20 vets at a time
 - Minimum one year program
 - Appropriate supervision, support, resources



VIS Interagency Team

- DA's Office
- Vet Center
- Veterans Administration
- Parole & Probation
- Defense Attorney
- Volunteer Mentors
- Victims Advocate



VIS Interagency Team

- **DA's Office**
 - Case Review & Selection
 - Program Management & Assessment
 - Victim's Perspective
- **Veterans Affairs Health Administration**
 - VJO – Connect to Services
 - Care/Treatment Provider
- **Vet Center**
 - Participant Assessment
 - Treatment Provider
 - Mentor Coordination
- **Parole & Probation**
 - Specialized Track II Participant Supervision
- **Defense Attorney**
 - Participant Representation
 - Identifying Veterans

Interagency Team Responsibilities

- Encourage and support participants.
- Address issues of discrimination or reduced social opportunities for participants.
- Identify ways for continuous improvement – for the participants and the program’s processes.
- Respect participant confidentiality and observe participants rights.
- Assist with educating the public and victims about the program.
- Work as a team to determine incentives, sanctions, & phase up opportunities.



Eligibility

- Charged felony or misdemeanor crime.
 - No sex crimes.
- Veteran status (discharge can be less than honorable).
- Have or be diagnosed with a mental illness or substance use disorder.
 - Related to their service and criminal offense.
- Program availability.



VIS Tracks

- **Track I**
 - 3 Program Phases
 - Low level crimes
 - Lower risk/needs individuals
 - 3 months active engagement, 9 months low level periodic check-ins
- **Track II**
 - 4 Program Phases
 - Higher risk/needs individuals
 - Higher level crimes
 - 12 months minimum of active engagement



Track 1

T1 Engagement (Phase 1)

- Establish treatment plan
- Secure required assistance
- Meet mentor
- Begin treatment
- Minimum 1 month in length
- 1 VIS meeting check-in

T1 Action (Phase 2)

- Confirmed engagement in treatment plan
- Minimum of 2 months length
- Monthly VIS meeting check-ins

T1 Maintenance (Phase 3)

- Plan engagement recommended not required
- Minimum of 9 months
- Three (3) VIS meeting check-ins

Graduation



Track 2

T2 Engagement (Phase 1)

- Establish & begin treatment plan
- Secure required assistance
- Meet mentor
- Min. of 1 month in length
- 2 VIS meeting check-ins

T2 Action (Phase 2)

- Complete wellness plan
- Secure housing
- Min. of 3 months in length
- Monthly VIS meeting check-ins
- UA tests

T2 Re-Claiming Self (Phase 3)

- Secure employment or enroll in school
- Begin paying restitution
- Min. of 6 months in length
- Monthly VIS meeting check-ins

T2 Maintenance (Phase 4)

- Final restitution payment
- Min. of 3 months in length
- Every 6 week VIS meeting check-ins

Graduation



Overview of the Numbers: VIS Program November 2020-July 2022

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Referred | Total | Ineligible after Initial Review | Potentially Eligible | |
| | 43 | 19 | 24 | |
| Potentially Eligible | Total | Ineligible after Screening | Eligible and Enrolled | |
| | 24 | 11 | 13 | |
| Eligible and Enrolled | Total | Graduated | Currenty Active | Revoked |
| | 13 | 4 | 7 | 2 |



Participants Own Words

- “[Prior to the program, my life was a] Shambles. I was pretty lost. I was in disarray and didn’t know what was going to happen. I regretted the past and feared the future. [After participating in VIS,] I found support in VIS. I used that support to inventory my moral and spiritual wellbeing.”
- “[Prior to the program, my life] was chaotic and stagnating. There was no order and I was unhappy. [After participating in VIS,] I have my sobriety, I have my job, and my mental condition is far better than it was coming into the program.”



Need for Judicial Involvement

- Potentially better judicial outcomes
- Neutral figurehead
- Program stability
- Legitimacy/Visibility
- Community desire



Questions?

