

## Testimonials

“I think it was helpful in giving us a second chance at life, because we could have ended up in a whole lot of different situations, we were given a second opportunity to stay clean and be a productive member of society”

- Tommie, Army Veteran



“I’ve had help from a lot of community resources, which to include the Dry Hooch, and they really helped me out when I was flat on my back.”

- Nathan, National Guard

I thought I was being, like, punished. . . . But since I've been in this program, I've been so inspired to change for the better and to strive to be a better person and do something with my life instead of just doing it on pass. It has taught me to move forward, and it has also taught me that if you seek help, people will help you.

- Karen, Navy Veteran

To make a referral or to obtain additional information, contact:

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## MILWAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT INITIATIVE

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### Welcome to the MCVTI

The Milwaukee County Veterans Treatment Initiative (VTI) is a voluntary program designed to successfully rehabilitate veterans in recognition of their service to our country and the challenges they and their families may encounter. VTI diverts Veterans from the traditional criminal justice system into a specialty court specifically designed with the needs of Veterans in mind and strives to provide Veterans with the tools they need to lead productive and law-abiding lives.

## **Program Overview**

The VTI is a far reaching criminal justice initiative designed to link veterans with evidence based rehabilitative services that address their individual criminogenic needs.

### **Program Goals**

1. Reignite the core values of military service into veteran participants' daily routines.
2. Reduce criminal recidivism and other court contacts.
3. Facilitate sobriety, abstinence, and improved behavioral health.
4. Increase compliance with treatment and other court ordered conditions.
5. Work to alleviate issues surrounding veteran participants' service-related behavioral health issues.
6. Ensure available VA benefits and services are accessed by veteran participants.
7. Integrate community based treatment options and services as appropriate.
8. Improve veteran participants' family relationships and social support connections.
9. Improve veteran participants' economic stability.

## **Program Eligibility**

Anyone may refer cases involving veterans to the VTI, including, but not limited to attorneys, veterans, probation or extended supervision agents, family members, or the sentencing judge.

The District Attorney's office will review the eligibility standards for the referred veteran and determine if the charges and sentencing guidelines are appropriate for participation in the VTI.

To be eligible for participation, a prospective veteran participant must:

- Complete an application and submit it to the VTI Coordinator
- Have served in the United States Armed Forces and have received a discharge other than dishonorable
- Be facing criminal charges in the Milwaukee County Circuit Court
- Be able to appear at all required session of the VTI
- Be reviewed and approved by the VTI Team to determine appropriateness for participation

## **Program Components**

The VTI has adopted the following key components as its essential tenets:

1. VTI integrates alcohol, drug treatment, and behavioral health services with justice system case management.
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly admitted to VTI.
4. VTI provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, behavioral health and related treatment services.
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
6. A coordinated strategy involving consistent case management that governs the responses to participants' compliance.
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each veteran is essential.
8. Monitoring and evaluation measures the achievement of program goals and gauges effectiveness.
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective planning, implementation, and operation.
10. Forging partnerships generates local support and enhances the VTI's effectiveness.