Why Have a Tribal Veterans Treatment Court?
Native American Veterans

- 143,485 veterans\(^1\) (11.7% Female) - 2019
- Served in the Pre-9/11 period in a high percentage than others (19.9% vs. 13.3\%)\(^2\)
- More likely to have service-connected disability than others (29.8% vs. 20.6\%)\(^2\)

* DoD photo by Marvin Lynchard
• 181,500 total veterans incarcerated in state and federal prisons and local jails
• 3,000 or 2.3% identified as American Indian and Alaska Natives and Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islanders
• 77% of incarcerated veterans received military discharges that were honorable or under honorable conditions
• Nearly half served less than 3 years in the military

* DOJ, OJP, BJS – Veterans in Prison and Jail, 2011-12, December 2015
25% of veterans in prison and 31% in jail reported they had been in combat in the military.

48% of veterans in prison and 55% in jail has been told by a MH professional they had a mental disorder.

64% of veterans vs. 48% of non-veterans were sentenced for violent offenses.

* DOJ, OJP, BJS – Veterans in Prison and Jail, 2011-12, December 2015
Military Culture is unique. Current and former service members that become justice involved have needs and risk that require clinical and criminogenic interventions which are culturally sensitive to them.

At the same time, recognizing that these tailored interventions are most effective when balanced with an adherence to the best practices and standards that are implemented in the treatment court model.
Warrior Ethos

Sense of Purpose
Code of Conduct
Common Purpose
Identity
Morality
Selflessness
Sacrifice
Loyalty
Honor
The Impact of Transition

Today’s military deploys and redeploys (Home) exceedingly quick

Discharge/Out processing
Disconnected from civilian society
  Loss of support
  Loss of identity
  Loss of purpose
Where to go for assistance?
45%: Feel that their military skills and experience are often dismissed.

69%: “Civilians do not understand the problems faced by veterans”.

48%: “I feel so distant from people.”

48%: “Even around people I know, I don’t feel that I really belong.”

41%: “Even around my friends, there is no sense of sister/brotherhood.”
Defining VTCs – Ten Key Components
KEY COMPONENT #1: Justice and Treatment Integration

**STANDARDS**
- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- 8: Multidisciplinary team
- 9: Census and caseload

**TAKE AWAY**
- Promote recovery through a coordinated response by utilizing a team approach.
- Planning
- Documentation
KEY COMPONENT #2: Nonadversarial Approach

STANDARDS

- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- 8: Multidisciplinary team

TAKE AWAY

- Prosecution
- Defense attorney
KEY COMPONENT #3: Early Identification

STANDARDS

- 1: Target population
- 2: Equity and inclusion

TAKE AWAY

- High risk and high need
- Access for all
KEY COMPONENT #4: Continuum of Services

STANDARDS
- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- 8: Complementary treatment and social services
- 9: Census and caseload

TAKE AWAY
- Case management
- Clinical case management
- Mental health
- Trauma
- Housing
- Transportation
- Medical and dental
KEY COMPONENT #5: 
Drug Testing

STANDARDS

✔ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
✔ 7: Drug testing

Take Away

✔ Random
✔ Observed
✔ Twice per week
KEY COMPONENT #5:
Drug Testing

Need male who can pass a urine analysis at tasc. Must be able to use my ID. Text with picture. Pays $20 will negotiate.
KEY COMPONENT #6: Coordinated Strategy

STANDARDS

✔ 2: Equity and inclusion
✔ 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments

Take Away

✔ All team members participate
✔ Shared decision making
KEY COMPONENT #7: Judicial Supervision

STANDARDS

- 3: Role and responsibility of the judge
- 4: Incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments
- 8: Multidisciplinary team

Take Away

- Someone in authority cares
KEY COMPONENT #8: Monitoring and Evaluation

STANDARDS

- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 9: Census and caseload
- 10: Monitoring and evaluation

TAKE AWAY

- 65% less savings when not using electronic databases
- 131% greater cost saving by programs that review data and statistics to modify program (internal)
- 100% cost savings when a program conducts an evaluation and modifies the program (external)
KEY COMPONENT #9: Interdisciplinary Education

**STANDARDS**
- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 3: Roles and responsibility of the judge
- 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- 8: Multidisciplinary team

**TAKE AWAY**
- Ongoing training
- Cross-training
KEY COMPONENT #10: Forging Partnerships

STANDARDS

- 2: Equity and inclusion
- 5: Substance use disorder treatment
- 6: Complementary treatment and social services
- Multidisciplinary team

TAKE AWAY

- Community mapping
Success is a Welcome Home!

“Instead of throwing me in prison, veterans treatment court offered me the chance of a lifetime.”

- VTC Graduate

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Connect how the topic relates to recovery
Write down these connections to recovery
Share ideas on how to incorporate the topic into your program