

The Veterans Justice Outreach Program works with Justice Involved Veterans. A Justice Involved Veteran is any Veteran who has contact with the Judicial System, Law Enforcement or the Jail System.

KCVA Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators

Kelly England, LCSW

Kelly McDaniel, LCSW

Michele Parsons, LCSW, LSCSW

Kansas City Department of Veteran Affairs

4801 Linwood Blvd.

Kansas City, MO 64128

816-861-4700 x55649



WALK-INS

Mondays 8:00am-12:00pm

KCVA, 9th Floor Room #300

During walk-ins Veterans can possibly be referred to an attorney through legal aid, warrant relief, or Military Matters. VJO's will also provide education on Veterans Treatment Courts as applicable.

Veterans Justice Outreach Program



Kansas City VA Medical Center



What a VJO Can Do:

- Serve Veterans of all eras
- Refer and link Veteran to comprehensive health care services and mental health services.
- Link Veterans to VA services as well as community services.
- With Veteran consent, communicate essentials (attendance, progress, treatment testing, discharge plan) for vet court participants.
- Function as a court team member.
- Collaborate with law enforcement, jails and probation.
- Provide Evidence Based Treatment for court-monitored Veterans.

What a VJO Can't Do:

- Perform forensic psychiatric/psychological evaluations for the court.
- Accept custody.
- Guarantee program acceptance.
- Advocate for legislation.
- Serve VHA ineligible Veterans.
- Provide legal counsel.
- Decide criminal justice criteria for Veterans Court participation.

VJO Initiative

“The purpose of the VJO initiative is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible Veterans in contact with the criminal justice system have access to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) mental health and substance services.”

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, April 30, 2009. Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter.

Veterans Justice Outreach has three focus areas:

Courts and Attorneys

Collaborate with courts to provide VA recovery options to facilitate possible jail diversion. Develop and implement Veterans' Courts. Serve as a liaison with the court system.

Law Enforcement

Provide training to local law enforcement on Veterans' issues and strategies to help work with Veterans.

Local Jails

Develop communication with jails to identify Veterans who are incarcerated and engage Veterans in available services upon their release.

Resources and Services VA provides and/or is able to coordinate care management, on-going support, housing, employment resources to Justice-Involved Veterans.

Medical Care

Mental Health Services

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment

Case Management

Homeless Services

Employment Services

Clothing

Vet Center Information

Compensated Work Therapy

Intimate Partner Violence Interventions



The Department of Veterans Affairs is working hard to engage in partnerships with our local and state criminal justice systems. Please let us know how we can help you:

- Police and Sheriff's Departments
- Local jail administrators
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Public Defenders
- Probation Officers
- Community Mental Health Providers

