

PHASES OF NORTH TEXAS VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM

The North Texas Veterans' Court Program (VC) will last approximately 6-24 months, depending on the treatment needed and participant progress. It is divided into three phases. A participant must successfully complete each phase before moving into the next phase. Each phase has a key concept or focus.

PHASE ONE

FOCUS: ASSESSMENT/ CRISIS STABILIZATION/INTERVENTION & EARLY RECOVERY

Goals to Advance to Next Phase:

Follow all VC Requirements

Psychiatric evaluation

Treatment plan established

Dual Diagnosis Treatment/Therapy

Participant is stabilized on medication

VC Staff formulates participant case management plan

SPN is assigned and appointment is scheduled

No new arrests or probation violations

At least 30 consecutive days clean from alcohol and illegal drugs

Continue identifying strengths/barriers. Coordinate special needs (SSI; Housing; Medical; Clothing etc.)

These clients will demonstrate an ability to remain in treatment and maintain medicine compliance within the community. It is anticipated this phase will last 30-90 days.

PHASE TWO

FOCUS: RE-INTEGRATION/ ACTIVE RECOVERY & RELAPSE PREVENTION

Goals to Advance to Next Phase:

Regular attendance at Veterans' Court

Follow all VC requirements

Random drug testing

Excellent attendance at dual/support groups

At least 60 consecutive days clean from alcohol and illegal drugs

At least 16 weeks of medication compliance

Safe and stable housing

No new arrests or probation violations

No new MH hospitalization unless extraordinary circumstances

Improved personal hygiene

These clients will demonstrate an increased ability to remain in treatment and maintain stability within the community. It is anticipated this phase will last 30-60 days, and clients will report as directed to the VC.

PHASE THREE

FOCUS: CONTINUING CARE

Include wellness practices into daily life and further define life goals

Requirements:

Follow all VC requirements

Continue reporting to VC Case Manager or Treatment Provider

120 consecutive days clean from alcohol and illegal drugs

6 months of medication compliance

Safe & stable housing maintained

No new arrests or probation violations

No new MH hospitalization unless extraordinary circumstances

Client has continuing source of income and medical insurance

Client has engaged in on-going treatment/vocational or volunteer activities

These clients will be stable and responsible for their own treatment and vocational activities. They will report to a Treatment Provider in the community who will continue to monitor treatment compliance. This phase will last 4-6 months and successful completion will make the client a good candidate for early release from VC.

REPORTING

Reporting is one of the single most important aspects of the program. Within 24 hours of a missed report, an attempt should be made to contact the participant. If the participant fails to respond to the case managers efforts, the VC team should be notified immediately of the missed report with a recommended course of action.

COURT APPEARANCES

1. Veterans Court status reviews are held twice monthly for veterans in Phase I of the program and once a month for veterans in Phases II and II. Reviews are generally held on Fridays.
2. Participants are required to report for court sessions as directed.
3. Any participant reporting late for court or who fails to report to court will be subject to the sanctions of the court.

DRUG TESTING

Any participant may be tested at any time, regardless of whether he or she is here for an appointment or court.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions should be both punitive and therapeutic in nature as well as provide incentives for positive behaviors. The VC employs judicial sanctions, sanctions related to supervision, and therapeutic sanctions.

Examples of Judicial Sanctions

1. Increased contact with the Judge
2. Court admonishment

3. Jail Time

Examples of Supervision Sanctions

1. Zero tolerance
2. Reprimand
3. Community service hours
4. Increased contact with Officer
5. Move back in phase

Examples of Therapeutic Sanctions

1. Essay assignment
2. Address Judge/Peers in court
3. Increased 12 step meetings
4. Extension of time in phase
5. Increased individual counseling

INCENTIVES

Incentives are given to participants who are deserving of special recognition for achievements and/or progress while in the VC. Any member of the VC team will make recommendations for incentives.

Examples of Incentives

1. Judicial recognition
2. Reduced court appearances
3. Reduced reporting to VC Case Manager or Treatment Provider
4. Praise/Applause
5. Excused from court early
6. Framed graduation certificates
7. Ease curfew restrictions

GRADUATION

Participants are eligible for graduation after 180 days in the VC Program. Stable residence, medication compliance and participation in groups are required.

COURT ORDERED FEES AND FINES

Participants are responsible for court ordered fees and fines at the date of admittance into the VC program unless otherwise notified by the Judge.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS

Treatment Provider progress reports are due via email one day prior to Team Staffing by 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified by the VC Program Manager.

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR TREATMENT

In some cases, additional treatment will be ordered for participants. Authorizations for treatment will be requested by the VC Case Manager or Treatment Provider.