



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE
COURTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VETERANS IN THE COURT AND MILITARY FAMILIES SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

Friday, September 10th, 2021
12.15 pm- 1.15 pm
Conference Call

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Eileen Moore (Chair), Hon. Stephen Manley, Dr. Kathleen West, Ms. Deb Cima

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Mary Kreber Varipapa, Hon. Sam Lavorato, Mr. Michael Elliott, and Ms. Kacie Patton.

Others Present: Dr. Jack Tsai (National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans), Dr. Andrea Finlay (Department of Veterans Affairs), Jessica Blue-Howells (Deputy Director of Veterans Justice Program in the Veterans Health Administration), Anthony Noriega (League of Latin American Citizens) Michael Roosevelt, Francine Byrne, Carrie Zoller, Angelica Souza, and Mairead Ahlbach

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 11, 2021 were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)

Item 1

A National Study of Veterans Treatment Court participants: Who Benefits and Who Recidivates

- The subcommittee welcomed Dr. Jack Tsai and Dr. Andrea Finlay and facilitated a discussion based on their paper "A National Study of Veterans Treatment Court participants: Who benefits and Who Recidivates".
 - o Dr. Tsai briefed the committee on the study of veteran treatment court data from 2010 to 2015 and was limited to those enrolled in VA and veteran's justice programs.

- The history of Latino American service in the military was discussed. For context about 7% of total veteran population are Hispanic Latino Americans. The data found 11% of veterans were Hispanic Latino Americans and were more likely to be entered into a Veterans Treatment Court, compared to other treatment courts or no treatment court.
- The subcommittee discussed the challenges around collecting accurate statistics for Hispanic Latino veterans and how to overcome that to capture race and ethnicity. It was acknowledged that people may be under-identifying because of confusion around ethnicity and race and more questions could be asked to identify which country best describes ancestry and heritage.
- The subcommittee was apprised of the equity toolkit that the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) has available, and which is being used to capture data in Drug Courts. The subcommittee will look at this further to see if it could be used for Veterans Treatment Courts.
- The subcommittee discussed the eligibility criteria different courts and programs have that can limit access to services and treatment for veterans. It was noted that there are databases within the VA and Department of Defense and other tools available to court staff to help identify veterans and the benefits they are eligible for.
- The subcommittee also discussed the studies being done on racial and gender biases in discharge status and the effects that have on access and eligibility of VA services for non-white and female veterans
- The subcommittee discussed the consideration of cultural attitudes and stigma around behavioral health and access to culturally competent care.
- The subcommittee discussed equal access to quality care. It was noted that there are discrepancies in the treatment and medication offered to white veterans and the medications offered to black and Hispanic Latino veterans for opioid use disorders.
- The subcommittee also discussed the gender gap in veterans treatment court participants and the accompanying factors that might preclude women from identifying as a veteran.

Action: *subcommittee to review the NADCP equity toolkit for use in VTC's*

Item 2

California Association of Collaborative Courts (CACC)

- CACC Conference September 2nd – 4th

- The conference was sold out and the specific veteran's track program was very well received. A full report will be sent to the committee before the next meeting when the feedback has been summarized.

Action: *Report on feedback from CACC Conference participants to be shared with eh committee before the next meeting*

Item 3

CACC – Update on Veterans Treatment Court Strategic Plan

- All strategic plan goals have been met.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Diversion Statute for Veterans

- The subcommittee discussed the differences between diversion statutes for veterans and diversion for mental health cases. Currently, military diversion is only available for misdemeanors, whereas mental health diversion is open to misdemeanants and felons.
- The subcommittee will consider if the statute is amended to allow veterans who are qualified for military diversion to participate in a diversion program uniquely for them regardless of whether the offense is a felony or misdemeanor.

Action: *JC staff will advise the Chair on how to procedurally move this item forward if the committee agrees to it.*

IV. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Date of next meeting: Friday, December 10th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.

The minutes were approved by the subcommittee on March 11th, 2022.