Establishing A Community Based Program And Housing Unit

Deputy William Droge
Deputy Dennis Stevens
Kisten Born - VTC Coordinator
STRATEGICALLY planning
a community based program and housing unit.

Identifying the NEEDS → Defining the GOALS → Developing the STRATEGIES → Implementing the PLANS → Managing the PERFORMANCES
IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.

Who is the demographic population that needs attention?

What is the problem these individuals are facing?

Why is this an issue That our community cares about?
IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS
d of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.

El paso COUNTY’S MILITARY PRESENCE

- Fort Carson
- Peterson Air Force Base
- Schriever Air Force Base
- United States Air Force Academy
- Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station - NORAD

Military & veteran population

Over 128,200 of the 688,284 El Paso County residence

≈ 20% Active Duty, Reservists or Veterans
IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS

of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.

Currently at the El paso County Jail

11.03% OF MALES AT CJC ARE VETERANS,
Active Duty, Reservists, or National Guard members

2.57% OF FEMALES AT CJC ARE VETERANS
Active Duty, Reservists, or National Guard members

www.epcsHERIFFSOFFICE.com
Unique Challenges faced
When Working with the veteran population

Warriors returning home from deployment may experience challenges when reintegrating into civilian life due to survival skills they have developed while living in a combat environment. Veterans may also have mental health concerns, physical disabilities, or other personal issues that can impact their personal and professional lives.

1. PTSD, TBI, Disability
2. Substance Abuse
3. Prone to Violence
4. Unemployment & Homelessness

Percentage of compensation for the 37% of veterans in El Paso County collecting disability

- 10%-20%
- 30%-40%
- 50%-60%
- 70%-90%
- 100%
Defining the **GOALS**

by clearly stating what you intended achieve with action-oriented terms.

**SET SMART goals**

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable**
- **Relevant**
- **Time Bound**

**set specific, relevant, & attainable Goals identified by your needs.**

your goals should include

A set date in which you can

Measure your degree of success.
The goal is to reduce recidivism within the veteran Jail population by:

1. Addressing veterans needs during and after incarceration.
2. Looking at the totality of the veteran's situation with consideration to their needs.
3. Having community based partnerships working with veterans in the criminal justice system.
4. Pool resources and streamline processes to help veterans.
DEVELOPING the strategies
by bringing everyone to that table and putting a plan in place.

What community partners can help
are there already some non-profit organizations addressing these issues

Is it scalable
what will be needed to grow this program successfully

What organizations can help
are there professionals in this area that can assist us

Is it sustainable
can this program maintain a level of success going forward

What can we do internally
is there current staffing and resources available to us
Internally there was a need to keep active military away from foreign born nationals.

Externally veterans services was spread thin having to visit many different wards.

Having one location where only veterans were housed was a practical solution to both.

Creating a ward that was dedicated to housing only veterans and active military inmates solved both these issues and was an easy solution.

DEVELOPING the strategies by bringing everyone to that table and putting a plan in place.
IMPLEMENTING THE PLANS
by managing and determining which resources are necessary

Location
Prepping for scalability in long term population and resources.

Population
Setting parameters for selecting the targeted population.

Staffing
Assigning staff members who are committed to the success of the program.

Community Support
Setting regular meetings with all participants for continued flow of communication.
It's not a class or program, it is simply a safe environment for fellow veterans to come together and begin to build the camaraderie and friendship we once had while serving.

Since transitioning out of the service or coming home from combat overseas, we are losing Veterans to suicide, addiction, and incarceration at an alarming rate. These losses are unacceptable.

By creating camaraderie we hope to find our purpose again and realize that the battle for our lives has just begun... No matter where we go or what mistakes we make we must remember that we will always be WARRIORS FIRST!
Managing the **PERFORMANCES**
and evaluating the successes and failures of the program

- **Strengths**: characteristics of the program that give it an advantage over others
- **Weaknesses**: characteristics of the program that place it at a disadvantage relative to others
- **Opportunities**: elements in the environment that the program could exploit to its advantage
- **Threats**: elements in the environment that could cause trouble for the program

www.epcsheriffoffice.com
Managing the **PERFORMANCES**
and evaluating the successes and failures of the program

**S**
- **Strengths**
  - Low Recidivism
  - Strong Community Ties
  - One Stop Shop

**W**
- **Weaknesses**
  - Possible Funding Issues
  - Misaligned Community Goals

**O**
- **Opportunities**
  - Public Awareness
  - Stronger Military/Law Enforcement Ties

**T**
- **Threats**
  - Internal Inconsistency
  - Politics
  - Veteran Offender Non-Interest
What is a veterans treatment court and problem solving courts

- Best practice is to use evidence based practices for behavior modification
- Vet courts follow the “Ten Key Components for Veterans Treatment Courts”
- Most of the key components mention “integrated responses” or “coordinated responses”

Implementing the plans by managing and determining which resources are necessary.

Drug courts
Treatment courts
Specialty courts
IMPLEMENTING THE PLANS
by managing and determining which resources are necessary

Key component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the VTC program
Want them in program within 50 days of arrest
Find them early
Jail daily targeted classification report
“Go fishing where the fish are”

WORKING WITH OUR VETERANS WARD
Since 2009

Key component #10: Forging partnerships among VTC, VA, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances the VTC’s effectiveness
Develop coalitions within the CJS
VA, community services, employment, housing
Common need to provide wrap services
In program – sanctions, treatment planning
Who picks them up at the door?

404 Participants
262 Graduates
85 Currently in the Program
16 Pending Entry, 12 Referrals Done
IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.

HOW WE KNOW THIS WORKS

A RETURN ON AN INVESTMENT

- Jail Diversion Savings
- Simplified Cost Savings Estimate
  - $1.38 million per year
- MACDE Estimated Cost Savings
  - $568,000-620,800

- 2014 - NIC selected as one of six Veterans Treatment Courts in US with “Best Promising Practices”
- 2016 – We are a Justice for Vets National Mentor Court
- If interested in visiting us: www.JusticeForVets.org

RECIDIVISM

2013 2014 2015

In program

1-Year Post Release

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%

27% 27% 11%

6% 6% 0%
Defining the **GOALS**
by clearly stating what you intend to achieve with action-oriented terms.

**Incarcerated Veterans Oversight Committee**
Established August 2015

1. Community based partnership between Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations working with veterans in the criminal justice system
2. Addresses veteran needs during and after incarceration
3. Looks at the totality of the veteran’s situation with consideration to substance abuse, physical health needs, mental health needs, housing needs, employment needs
4. Interacts to pool resources and streamline processes to help veterans
Defining the **GOALS**
by clearly stating what you intended to achieve with action-oriented terms.

**Members of IVOC**

1. 4th Judicial District Veterans Trauma Court (VTC)
2. El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
3. Family Care Center
4. Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS)
5. Veterans Administration (VA)

- El Paso County Veteran Service Office (Providing Services Outside Of IVOC)