

# **NIJ's Multisite Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts: Sanctions and Incentives Research**

**NADCP/Vet Court Con Panel**

**July 15, 2019**

**Chair:** Linda Truitt, Ph.D., National Institute of Justice

**Presenter 1:** Julie Marie Baldwin, Ph.D., Justice Programs Office-American University, Missouri State University

**Presenter 2:** Richard Hartley, Ph.D., University of Texas at San Antonio

**Presenter 3:** Kevin Rumley, M.S.W., LCAS, LCSW-A, Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court

**Presenter 4:** Calvin Elkins, North Carolina Department of Public Safety

**Description:** The majority of veterans treatment courts (VTCs) across the U.S. report using a system of sanctions and incentives in their programs. However, these systems remain largely unexamined. NIJ's Multisite Evaluation of VTCs provides an opportunity to empirically examine these systems in eight sites that vary in region, populations, and program design. Research questions include: what are the different types of sanction and incentive program policies; how are the policies implemented; and how are they perceived by VTC team members and participants? Based on analysis of information collected via policy manuals and handbooks, team surveys, and participant interviews, the researchers will present findings on sanction and incentive policies and implementation strategies. Next, Buncombe County's VTC Coordinator and Probation Officer will share insights on policies and practices from the perspective of the court and other stakeholders. We will then invite an open exchange to discuss the issues surrounding sanction and incentive systems and how research and evaluation can inform policy and practice.

## ***NIJ's Multisite Evaluation of Veteran Treatment Courts: Project description, progress to date, and descriptive information on the sites***

*Summary: Overview of NIJ's Multisite Evaluation of VTCs with information on the eight participating sites that vary in region, populations, and program design*

*Objective: Understand the purpose and scope of NIJ's multisite process and outcome evaluation of VTCs*

## ***Comparison of VTC Sanctions and Incentives, as well as Related Successes and Challenges, within Varying Jurisdictions***

*Summary: Preliminary findings that describe and compare the sanction and incentive policies and processes and the challenges and success of implementation across VTCs, based on the analysis of policy content, team surveys, and participant interviews*

*Objective: Recognize, interpret, and discuss results regarding the VTC process of identification from NIJ's study*

**Stakeholder Perspective**

*Summary: The VTC Coordinator and Probation Officer for the Buncombe County Veterans Court will provide information on sanction and incentive policies and practices from the perspective of court and other stakeholders.*

*Objective: Recognize, identify, and discuss stakeholder successes and challenges related to sanction and incentive implementation in VTCs*

**Audience Discussion**

*Summary: The presentations will lay the groundwork for a facilitated audience discussion including practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the larger community.*

*Objective: Recognize, identify, and discuss successes and challenges in related to sanction and incentive policy and practice in VTCs*

Questions? Please contact:

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