The grant’s vision is “that individuals suffering from PTSD, specifically veterans would have immediate access to adequate care for PTSD, behavioral health care and other community resources such as housing thereby reducing unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system”. The pilot was based in DeKalb County (Decatur) but moved to Chatham County (Savannah) in 2010, with a focus on the diversion of veterans and civilian adults with PTSD through specialty courts. The pilot has transitioned to a focus on referrals from mobile crisis and local attorneys and court referrals from eight municipalities. The pilot is also working with mobile crisis in neighboring Effingham County (Springfield). Participants receive behavioral health services and case management, including the trauma-specific service Seeking Safety. Trauma screening has been implemented across multiple referral points and agencies. The pilot provides trauma screening trainings on a monthly basis. Also, the Pilot site is working with Probation to capture those who have been identified for re-arrest because of an infraction or violation. In 2012 the grant expanded to the Accountability Courts in the three counties – Pickens, Fannin, and Gilmer – of the Appalachian Judicial Circuit of the Georgia Ninth Judicial District. The state delivered training and support to implement the expansion site.

Statewide Rollout & Sustainability

As a statewide rollout strategy, the program will be planning a regional training approach on trauma, peer involvement, and diversion, which will cover the entire state through a series of regional events. They already have developed five Vets-to-Vets programs. To support sustainability, they are planning to leverage some connections the project has developed with the state mental health authority. The program also intends to utilize connections provided by overlapping membership between the JDTR Statewide Advisory Committee and the Georgia Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council. In addition, the program will host a statewide conference on trauma-informed care, behavioral health and justice, and veterans on June 16-18, 2013. This conference will bring together stakeholders from state policy makers, the criminal justice system, law enforcement, mental health providers, other community-based service providers, faith-based programs, service members, veterans, and family members with the goal of expanding services for the JDTR target population.

Point of Diversion

Intercept 1 – Referrals from mobile crisis
Intercept 2/3 – Referrals from the courts and local attorneys
Intercept 5 – Referrals at re-arrest due to probation infractions/violations

Summary of JDTR Features

Trauma-Informed Care

The following trainings were provided throughout the state for service providers, law enforcement, the judiciary, military personnel, consumers and family members: Trauma-Informed Care for Georgia Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT); Trauma-Informed Care for Veterans, Clinical Perspectives; Understanding Trauma Series; Seeking Safety; Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) Training; Vet-to-Vet Peer Support Training; and Military Cultural Competency. In addition, the program is planning a statewide conference on trauma-informed care and veterans’ justice for various stakeholders (see description in “Statewide Rollout”).

Veteran/Peer Involvement

Peer Specialists who provide services are state certified. Consumers participate as peer mentors at the pilot site and serve on the State Advisory Council and Local Advisory Councils. Consumers assist JDTR staff in presentations at key statewide meetings and conferences to increase awareness of the JDTR program and trauma-informed care. Plans are underway at the newer expansion site to implement a mentoring program. Veteran leaders are meeting and working with veterans currently in the JDTR Program, with plans to expand the mentoring program to serve other Veteran’s Court participants.
## Georgia Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery with Priorities to Veterans

**Grant awarded September 2008 - ending September 2014 (with no-cost extension)**

### Program Overview

The Georgia JDTR program primarily serves veterans suffering from PTSD. The program aims to provide immediate assistance (housing, medical services, employment) for those diagnosed with PTSD in order to reduce unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system. The original pilot site was located in DeKalb County, but moved to Chatham County (Savannah) in 2010 to focus on diversion of veterans and civilian adults with PTSD through Specialty Courts. With the geographical move came a referral change. The new focus was on receiving referrals from Mobile Crisis, local attorney's, and court referrals from eight municipalities. The pilot site is also working with Mobile Crisis in Effingham County (Springfield).

### Statewide Rollout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stakeholder Involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The GA JDTR SAC has members from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Justice Outreach Worker, Air Force Reserve, HQ Command, University of Georgia, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Highland Rivers Health CSB, Gateway Behavioral Health CSB, Oconee County CSB, Emory University Brave Heart Program, DBHDD, DeKalb County Magistrate Court, NE GA Homeless Veterans Shelter, Consumers, and family members. All representatives remain committed to the JDTR program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Leadership and Organizational Changes at the State Level

Recently, the GA Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council (MHPAC) recommended the creation of an ad hoc Behavioral Health & Justice Committee (based on a report from one of the JDTR staff members on JDTR activities and sustainability plans). One of the sustainability strategies was to nominate two JDTR State Advisory Council members to the MHPAC. This creates a whole new committee that will focus on treatment needs of GA's justice-involved citizens - including Veterans. The JDTR Project Directors position will become permanent prior to the end of the JDTR grant enabling her to continue supporting existing programs and to continue the state level work of expanding the JDTR/Vet Court Model.

### Training

The following trainings were provided throughout the state for more than 600 service providers, law enforcement, the judiciary, military personnel, consumers and family members: Trauma-Informed Care for Georgia Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT); Trauma-Informed Care for Veterans, Clinical Perspectives; Understanding Trauma Series; Seeking Safety; Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) Training; Vet-to-Vet Peer Support Training; and Military Cultural Competency. In addition, the program held a statewide conference, JDTR Unspoken Wounds: Breaking the silence, in October 2013 to promote a comprehensive system of care that addresses the treatment, case management, and reintegration needs of veterans and their families. The conference was attended by more than 300 individuals and was considered to be a huge success.

### Policy Changes

In 2013 House Bill 188 was signed authorizing the expedited transfer of certain military certifications to professional licenses in the state. This Bill, known as the "Veterans Licensure Bill" enables returning veterans to obtain gainful employment much more quickly than they used to by applying online for the certificate transfer which then matches them up with available appropriate jobs such as, Electrical Contractor, Journeyman Plumber, Air Conditioned Contractor, Residential-Light Commercial Contractor, and Utility Foreman. In 2010, Senate Bill 419 was passed which would allow veterans and active duty service members suffering from PTSD to put a designation on their driver's licenses reflecting such a diagnosis. There has been much opposition to this Bill from many people who fear veterans will be discriminated against due to the PTSD designation.

Legislation is pending to write Veterans Courts specifically into Georgia law.

### Other Legacy Accomplishments

Being able to bill for JDTR services is a huge accomplishment that will ensure the sustainability of the JDTR programs. The statewide training opportunities provided through the JDTR program has helped educate and train professionals across the state on the need for trauma specific treatments and the necessity of specialty courts to divert veterans and civilian adults with PTSD away from the criminal justice system and into treatment. In 2008, when the Georgia JDTR program began, there were no Veteran Treatment Courts. Diversion was taking place through Accountability Courts. Now, a little more than 5 years later, there are 5 Veteran Treatment Courts operating in Georgia (Appalachian, Atlanta, Chattahoochee, Eastern, and Towaliga).