The Project VETS Intervention Program (PVIP) has three objectives. First, to prevent veterans from coming into contact with the justice system. Second, to divert veterans in the justice system to behavioral health services including trauma-specific services and services to the veteran’s family. Third, to provide long-term recovery and support services to veterans and their families. Partners in the project include local criminal justice and mental health agencies, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Them Bones Veterans Community, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and state agencies such as the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. More than one third of the State Advisory Council members are veterans. The Ohio Department of Mental Health, along with the Adjutant General and the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, have partnered in OHIO-CARES, an initiative to improve the access of veterans, service members, and military families to community-based behavioral health services. Statewide trainings have been provided on trauma-informed care, and plans are being made for a law enforcement conference that will address veterans as part of an advanced training for crisis intervention teams. The pilot site is Hamilton County (Cincinnati), and the expansion site is in Richland County (Mansfield). Veterans are identified at intake by pretrial services, the veteran justice outreach specialist (VJO), probation, and the courts. Initial screening includes veteran status, PTSD, and other mental and substance use disorders. The program provides trauma-specific services, the Trauma Empowerment Model, behavioral health services, and wrap-around support. Peer support is provided through the Court Peer Mentor Program. The program has provided training in trauma-informed care and screening for trauma to stakeholders including pretrial services, the probation department, the court clinic, and court personnel.

**Statewide Rollout & Sustainability**

The original pilot site in Hamilton County has added a second misdemeanor court and expanded its outreach capacity by adding an additional VJO. The second pilot program was implemented in Richland County (Mansfield) and began serving participants in October 2011. The program is developing a planning grant to expand to Chillicothe. Statewide rollout is promoted by the House Bill 86 Sentencing Reform –statutory change that allows individuals with mental illness to receive intervention in lieu of conviction. JDTR program stakeholders continue to participate in the OHIO-CARES Committee, which is “a collaboration of state and local agencies which aim to enhance the “safety net” of behavioral health services available for service members and their families”.

**Point of Diversion**

Intercept 2/3 – identification at intake –by pretrial services, the VJO, probation, and/or courts

**Summary of JDTR Features**

**Veteran/Peer Involvement**

Veteran involvement exists at two levels. First, veterans are involved as staff members in the VTC. Some of the volunteer lawyers, PVIP staff and mentors are also veterans. Second, the PVIP includes a peer mentoring component for all clients going through the veterans treatment courts. They try to meet regularly with the participants for support and to reduce feelings of isolation, and sit with the participants during court to provide support and encouragement.

**Trauma-Informed Care**

The program has provided training on trauma-informed care to program stakeholders, and statewide at the Ohio Forensic Conference in November 2011. Participants who are enrolled in the program have access to the trauma-specific service, the Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model.
# Ohio

## Ohio Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Priority to Veterans Program - Project VET

**Grant awarded September 2009 - ending March 2014 (6 month/12 month no-cost extension available)**

### Program Overview

Ohio’s JDTR program is called The Project VETS Intervention Program (PVIP) and it is run by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and its many local, state, and federal partners. PVIP has the following three objectives: to prevent veterans from coming into contact with the justice system, to divert veterans in the justice system to behavioral health services including trauma-specific services to the veterans family, and to provide long-term recovery and support services to veterans and their families.

### Statewide Rollout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stakeholder Involvement</th>
<th>Local community partners will continue to work with the Municipal Veterans Treatment Court and the Felony Diversion Veterans Court in Hamilton County.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and Organizational Changes at the State Level</td>
<td>Department of Mental Health and Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services are now combined into a single state agency which will provide better coordination of services and state resources to programs and projects. The State Advisory Council will remain intact and continue to meet on a quarterly basis. Oversight of JDTR activities will remain with the Office of Forensic Services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>The state is working to expand partnerships into other counties and jurisdictions. Meetings with Judge Charles Patton of the Cleveland Municipal Court have taken place to discuss developing a plan to introduce Trauma Screening training to all court personnel. The project sponsored Veteran specific CIT training provided by the VA to all VA law enforcement in the southwest region. That training will be replicated for local law enforcement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Changes</td>
<td>House Bill 197 is a sentencing bill that requires all judges in Ohio to consider a military record before sentencing. House Bill 86 Sentencing Reform-Statutory change that allows individuals with mental illness to receive intervention in lieu of conviction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Legacy Accomplishments</td>
<td>The initial training and collaborative relationships are in place from the JDTR Project and personnel working on the project are existing court personnel who will remain within the operating budget of the court when JDTR Funding is terminated. A bi-monthly PVIP sustainability committee began meeting in November 2013 to identify resources to support the two treatment courts personnel; specifically, the special docket administrator and the 2 peer mentor coordinators. The Supreme Court of Ohio has promulgated rules on specialized dockets that require certain things to be in place to be considered a specialized docket. The Supreme Court finalized its commission that is charged to oversee and implement the special docket certification process. Essentially, compliance requires EBP’s be utilized.</td>
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