The mission of Pennsylvania's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery grant is to identify and divert veterans with trauma-related disorders from the criminal justice system to effective behavioral health services and supports. The grant is directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. A Statewide Advisory Committee provides oversight of the grant. The Philadelphia pilot site is coordinated by the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health. It primarily serves veterans who are not eligible for VA services that have been diverted through the Philadelphia Veterans Court and Veterans who are diverted by Crisis Intervention Team police officers. The Allegheny County pilot, coordinated by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health diverts at any point along the criminal justice continuum through trial. Service coordination is provided for non-VA eligible Veterans through their Justice Related Services unit. Service coordination for Veterans involved with Allegheny County's Veterans Court are provided through either the Veterans' Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach or Allegheny County's Department of Human Services Justice Related Services.

**Statewide Rollout & Sustainability**

During the first three years of the grant the focus of the statewide rollout strategy has been on convening annual statewide conferences to disseminate knowledge on Veterans jail diversion, including promoting best practices, and trauma-informed care. The project plans to support expansion sites in the fifth year of the grant. Other initiatives that support the rollout include the statewide Forensic Peer Specialist Initiative that prioritized Veteran Peer Specialists, the Veterans Peer Support Enhanced Training, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training focused on Veterans. The grant also collaborates with the PA Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE) to provide information promoting the use of evidence based practices and serves as a resource for technical assistance and training that include Veteran-related topics. Veteran issues are also incorporated in the CoE's Cross Systems Mapping workshops that have now been completed in 32 of 67 counties. The state plans to use the experiences of the pilot sites to serve as a catalyst for expanding Veterans jail diversion version to counties and communities across Pennsylvania.

**Point of Diversion**

Intercept 1 – Police based Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)  
Intercept 2 – Preliminary hearings through Justice Related Services  
Intercept 3 – Veteran Treatment Courts or Justice Related Services

**Trauma-Informed Care**

For trauma specific services, Philadelphia offers Vet-TREM and Allegheny County offers Seeking Safety. Veterans and trauma issues are integrated into both the Philadelphia and Allegheny CIT training programs. The Philadelphia pilot has provided a two-hour continuing education program on Veterans and trauma to 631 experienced CIT officers. Trauma-informed care trainings are taking place at both pilots. The state plans to use the experiences of the pilot sites to serve as a catalyst for expanding Veterans jail diversion to counties and communities across Pennsylvania. Allegheny County has provided training to 1,580 individuals and 56 agencies in trauma informed care and Seeking Safety.

**Summary of JDTR Features**

**Service Area(s):** Philadelphia and Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), PA  
**Project Director:** Terry Moloney, Dept of Public Welfare  
**Phone:** 717-772-7625  
**E-mail:** Tmoloney@pa.gov

**Veteran/Peer Involvement**

Representation by Veterans across the pilot sites includes four Veteran consumers who are members of the Philadelphia advisory committee and two in the Allegheny County committee. Philadelphia’s project coordinator is also a Veteran.
# Pennsylvania Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Priority to Veterans Program

**Grant awarded September 2010 - ending September 2015 (6 month/12 month no-cost extension available)**

## Program Overview

The mission of PA's JDTR program is to identify and divert veterans with trauma related disorders from the criminal justice system to effective behavioral health services and supports. Statewide Strategy includes educating the state on jail diversion for veterans through statewide conferences. The grant is directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. A Statewide Advisory Committee provides oversight of the grant.

## Statewide Rollout

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Stakeholder Involvement</th>
<th>Leadership and Organizational Changes at the State Level</th>
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<td>Key stakeholders such as county providers (and department heads) and Consumer Associations continue to meet on a regular basis and remain dedicated to serving this special population.</td>
<td>No significant changes have taken place thus far. There has been an ongoing discussion among state leaders and consumers regarding state level planning at the SAC meetings. Year 5 project expansion is a standing item on the SAC meeting agendas.</td>
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## Training

Training and education on trauma specific treatment was available at the last JDTR state Conference. Twenty-five new trainers attended the GAINS Center training on How Trauma Informed Care Improves Criminal Justice Systems Responses. The Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence hold cross-systems mappings every other month. To date, 32 counties (out of 67) have been mapped.

## Policy Changes

Governor Corbett signed an Executive Order (EO) on 11/11/13 creating the Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services. This elevates the state’s behavioral health efforts for veterans, and also reaches across systems (including states’ justice agencies) to address needs of veterans and their families.

## Other Legacy Accomplishments

1. Established a role/function in the two largest Veterans Courts in PA (Allegheny County and Philadelphia) in the diversion and treatment (and graduation) of Veterans with trauma and/or behavioral health disorders.
2. Provided extensive training through four statewide Veterans Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery conferences and local pilot site trainings on a wide range of areas that included trauma informed care, evidence based trauma treatment modalities (Seeking Safety and Vets TREM), support services, as well as best practices for diverting justice involved Veterans. (Over 2,600 individuals, from the behavioral health, criminal justice, and veterans systems have participated in these statewide and local trainings.)
3. Integrated Veterans issues into both pilot sites Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings, and over 1,000 police officers were trained on issues faced by Veterans. Based on the success of these CIT Veteran focused trainings, and using the Philadelphia model as the foundation, a 4-hour supplemental training module focusing on Veterans issues was created and is available for law enforcement and justice practitioners.
4. Developed a Veterans Peer Support certification enhanced skills training/curriculum for Veteran Peer Specialists. The 2-day 12-hour training will be offered regionally throughout PA in 2014. The certification enhancement training is also being adapted for use by state inmates/Veteran Peer Specialists at the PA Department of Corrections. 5. Partnered with PA's Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (CoE) which resulted in a focus on Veterans issues. As part of the CoE’s Cross Systems Mapping/Action Plans workshops - Veterans issues were incorporated into the workshops that have now been completed in 33 of 67 counties, and the CoE website provides a wide range of information and resources for justice involved Veterans.