The Alternative Sentencing and Trauma Recovery (ASTR) pilot site is located in Kent County, RI. ASTR goals include transforming the behavioral health and criminal justice systems based on principles of trauma-informed care, decriminalization of veterans and individuals with trauma-related disorders, and promoting recovery and improving quality of life for individuals and families facing trauma-related issues. The ASTR program has recently expanded to include taking referrals from surrounding counties and outside courts. The program serves individuals with a history of trauma, giving priority to military veterans and service members. The majority of referrals occur at arraignment and pre-sentencing, and the Kent Center's Emergency Department is working with law enforcement and hospitals to divert individuals prior to incarceration. Participants are formally screened at the Kent County Court House and the Kent Center, and informal trauma screening occurs at all points along the Sequential Intercept Model. Each potential program participant receives a panel review by a court team comprised of representatives from Pre-Trial Services, Legal Aid, the Kent Center, the Attorney General's Office, private attorneys and the Veteran Mentor Coordinator. Participants in the program receive the trauma-specific service TAMAR, which the project revised to meet the needs of veterans and women in the justice system. The State Advisory Council includes representatives from the Operation Vet2Vet, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Veterans Benefits Administration, the Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, and the Rhode Island Coalition Against Human Trafficking, among others.

Statewide Rollout & Sustainability

The Kent County VTC and ASTR program now accepts referrals from outside courts, and the peer program was expanded to Providence, RI. Screening procedures have been enhanced to promote sustainability. VA/Community partnerships are strong and community-based providers receive training in Military Culture. Trainings have been provided to police (statewide) on veterans issues with the goal of each jurisdiction having at least one officer trained on crisis response. The modified TAMAR was disseminated by a representative from the Kent Center and the Project Director. ASTR has made TAMAR a billable service to promote sustainability. Additional expansion strategies may include hiring staff to support the VTCs in other counties, increasing the state capacity to conduct TAMAR groups in other areas. Sustainability of the Veterans Peer Mentor program is likely since it is a volunteer program and requires minimal funding.

Point of Diversion

Intercept 1 – Law enforcement and hospitals
Intercept 2 – Prior to arraignment and pre-sentencing
Intercept 3 – Non-misdemeanor cases are considered on a case-by-case basis
Intercept 4 - Probation and Parole Violators

Summary of JDTR Features

Trauma-Informed Care & Military Culture

Participants have access to TAMAR groups, modified for veterans and women involved in the justice system. The Kent Center has trained 20 providers on the use of the modified TAMAR. In collaboration with the National Guard, Rhode Island conducted military culture training at Camp Fogarty the past two years using the Operation Immersion model. Both events trained a total of 100 providers.

Veteran/Peer Involvement

The ASTR peer program is comprised of two components that are separate and unique: 1) Veteran peer mentors, and 2) recovery coaches. The Veteran Mentors are in the court and have been heavily utilized by program participants. The Recovery Coaches meet the participants at the Recovery Facility during their treatment and it is up to the participant if they want to engage with the Coaches. Both programs collaborate with Operation Stand Down to assist homeless veterans in need of housing and employ-
**Rhode Island**

**Rhode Island Alternatives to Sentencing and Trauma Recovery-Priority to Veterans (ASTR)**  
Grant awarded September 2009 - ending September 2014 (6 month/12 month no-cost extension available)

### Program Overview

The Alternative Sentencing and Trauma Recovery (ASTR) pilot site (JDTR program) is in Kent County. ASTR goals include transforming the behavioral health and criminal justice systems based on principles of trauma-informed care, decriminalization of veterans and individuals with trauma related disorders, and promoting recovery and improving quality of life for all individuals and families living in RI who might be facing trauma related issues.

### Statewide Rollout

#### Key Stakeholder Involvement

There has been new involvement from Americorps volunteers. Representatives from Pre-Trial Services, Legal Aid, the Kent Center, The Attorney General’s Office, private attorneys, the Veteran Mentors, and the Project Director remain committed to the ASTR program and expansion efforts.

#### Leadership and Organizational Changes at the State Level

Loss of a leader from the Veterans Benefit Administration was a setback for the ASTR program because he was a champion of the program who had been involved since the beginning of the project. Another barrier at the state level was the inability to hire a quality court clinician through the state hiring process and having to move the hiring process (and position) to the pilot site provider.

#### Training

The ASTR Program in collaboration with the National Guard has conducted military culture training at Camp Fogarty for the past 2 years training over 200 providers.

#### Policy Changes

RI House bill H6045 amended Domestic Violence Prevention Act so that veterans could receive counseling services from a VA approved program.

#### Other Legacy Accomplishments

The Kent Center and the Project Director adapted TAMAR for veterans and trained more than 20 providers on the use of the modified version. TAMAR is now a billable service so both the pilot and expansion site in Providence will both be sustained.