

Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court



September 15, 2015

Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
200 College Street, Suite 326
Asheville NC, 28801

Dear Members of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for your support of our new Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). As one of your resident Superior Court Judges, I am very proud of our work protecting and serving our community. I am reaching out to educate you more about our VTC. The Mission Statement outlines our purpose which is:

To promote public safety through accountability and responsibility. Assist and support veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among the court and community-based Veteran services, – thereby leaving no Veteran behind.

Buncombe County is home to more than 19,000 Veterans. Many of whom face challenges directly connected to their service for our country in the form of PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and addiction. The VTC is a way to support these women and men who placed themselves in harm's way to protect the rights and privileges that we enjoy today. The VTC is a dual diagnosis court that provides comprehensive treatment for physical and mental health as well as addictions through the criminal justice system in a non-adversarial manner. Participants are provided a mentor who works with them throughout their 12 to 18 month term of rehabilitation. VTC is an opportunity through our legal system to reinstate many of the privileges these men and women deserve which could be lost by a criminal conviction or incarceration. Moreover, it provides veterans with the treatment that is essential to their own wellbeing as well as that of their families. It is essentially an opportunity, provided through the court to assist legally challenged Veterans in their transition back into the community and to restore them to a place of honor that they so truly deserve.

I would like to encourage each of you individually and collectively as a Commission to reach out to the Veteran's Treatment Court Coordinator, Dr. Eric Howard with any questions that you might have regarding the needs and details. It is important to keep our County Commissioners informed and involved in this exciting new program. There will be many opportunities for the community to support and serve Buncombe County's Veterans and the development of this new VTC program. Please do not hesitate to become and remain involved.

Thank you for your continued service to our County.

With kindest regards,

Marvin P. Pope
Superior Court Judge

Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court



TO: Buncombe County Commissioners

FROM: Eric Howard, VTC- Coordinator

RE: Request Funds for Veterans Treatment Court

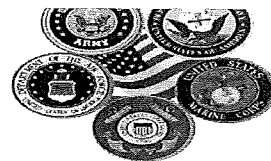
DATE: 7/22/2015

There are an estimated 19,000 veterans in Buncombe County alone. The Veterans Treatment Court or VTC is led by Judge Marvin Pope Jr. and supported fully by the Buncombe County District Attorney, Mr. Todd Williams. The VTC is a court designed to meet the needs of Buncombe County veterans who are facing legal challenges. Buncombe County is leading Western North Carolina by developing the first VTC in the WNC area, and only the third in the State of North Carolina.

The VTC is a non-adversarial court with a focus on treatment. It is unique in that it will be bringing attention the PTSD, addiction, and other unfortunate challenges that may arise due to military service especially during times of conflict. Moreover, this court recognizes that comradery and mentorship is possibly the strongest piece in restoring our veterans' hope and sense of honor.

Our team consists of a VTC Coordinator position, which is funded though the Governors Crime Commission grant along with some professional development funds. Additionally, the team is comprised of a Mental Health Specialist, Probation Officer, VA Outreach Specialist, Public Defender, Assistant District Attorney, Criminologist from Western Carolina University, Specialist from TASC, and a Mentor Coordinator.

Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court



VTC programs have created much change in communities with outstanding results and low recidivism rates. The Buncombe County VTC will certainly meet that expectation and exceed it with the goal of being a mentor court on both the State and National levels. However, to accomplish this goal I am requesting the amount of \$10,000 from The Buncombe County Commissioners and The Asheville City Council to support some critical needs. A portion of this money will provide drug testing kits, mentor support, emergency housing, transportation, and special systems such as Call to Test, a system that prompts random drug screens and daily phone check-ins. As this program grows we will be serving as many as 25 participants at a time, replacing Veteran participants as they exit or graduate the program. Any monies received will be managed under ABCCM-VTC. The partnership with ABCCM will ensure money is tracked and records kept, which is invaluable to the longevity of this program. Additionally there will be a dual signature process for any expenses and a committee made up of the VTC Team to review. Please let me know if you need any additional information that might influence your decision to approve funding.

Eric Howard, MSW, Ed.D VTC- Coordinator
Eric.d.howard@nccourts.org
Cell: 828-713-7468
Office: 828-259-6601

Program Support Budget													
Revenue:													Line Totals:
County Funding													29,000.00
Total Revenue Generated:	0.00												29,000.00
Expenses:	Allotted	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15
Graduations	1,000.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00							0.00
Drug Screens* Job Uniforms/Tools/Room	9,000.00	0.00											0.00
750.00 x4 and Gol 300 x 4	4,200.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00
Housing**	12,000.00												0.00
Education	500.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00
Books/Literature/Medallions	600.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00							0.00
Transportation***	1,800.00						0.00						0.00
Incidentals	500.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00						0.00
Incentives/Reinforcements Coordinator	700.00	0.00	0.00		0.00								0.00
Travel/Training****	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00
Miscellaneous***** MH/SA	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00						0.00
Assessments/Evals*****		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00
Medical Expenses	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00						0.00
Client Support/ Reinforcements, including	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						0.00
Totals:	35,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29000
FY End Balance													29000

This budget encompasses incidental expenses related to direct services to Veterans Treatment Court participants and local staff training.

*Drug Screens include female specimen pans and drug testing reagents not supplied by the State.

**Housing is crucial for VTC participants who need a safe place to live during treatment and recovery. Paying for 60 days will help keep them in a stable environment until they become employed and can pay their own room and board.

***Transportation includes monthly bus passes or cab fare for participants when ART buses aren't running.

****Coordinator Travel and Training includes trainings and conferences for educational purposes and to assist in meeting required to remain current on VTC issues and eligibility for funding sources for Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator.

*****Miscellaneous expenses include food for meetings, other program costs unrelated to client participation.

*****MH/SA Assessments/Evals NOT covered through state funding - VTC Team will vote to use Eblen funds for these assessments on a case by case basis.

*****Client Support/Reinforcements refers to other treatment costs.