

**Attachment B:
Volunteer Mentoring
Program
Information Sheet**



Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project Mentoring Program Information Sheet

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Veteran's Mentoring Program is to support the veteran through their readjustment to civilian life, to assist the veteran navigate through the court, treatment, and VA systems, and to act as a friend and ally through this difficult time.

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Veteran's Mentoring Program is that "No Veteran is left Behind."

Having veterans participate as mentors is an important part of the Buffalo Veteran's Treatment Court as there is a bond that occurs between veterans around the values that are shared and the sacrifices that have been made.

The Mentoring Program offers support and encouragement for veterans in the court system by spending one-on-one time with the veteran after they appear during the proceedings of the Veteran's Specialty Court. These mentoring sessions usually do not last longer than 10 minutes and give the veteran the opportunity to bring up concerns and get feedback and support from another veteran. The Mentor has a Resource book at his/her disposal to refer Veterans to a wide range of available services. These include Medicaid (for vets Family), Food Stamps, Civil Service agencies, employment, housing, legal, etc. etc. The Mentor is a resource to the Vet, NOT A COUNSELOR.

Trainings on how to lead a mentoring session, what to ask, how to ask, and how to listen to the answers, are offered as part of the orientation trainings. In addition, program specific trainings are also offered through the State OASAS Division, including information about the court system and the VA system.

The Buffalo Veteran's Treatment Court Mentoring Program also offers support and supervision to all of the mentors from the Team Leaders and the Mentor Coordinator as well as from the other mentors in the program. Support is the main component of the program, for the veterans involved with the court system as well as the mentors in the program.

The Mentoring Program is looking for a six month commitment from all volunteer mentors in order to maintain the program at a level that will be effective in supporting the veterans in the court system. All potential mentors are required to fill out an application and complete a short face-to-face interview with the Mentor Coordinator and each Team Leader before being accepted into the program. Observational activities, including observing the court proceedings and observing other mentors, will be completed prior to a new mentor leading a mentoring session.



Volunteer Veteran Mentor Position Description

Main Function:

The role of the Volunteer Veteran Mentor is to act as a coach, a guide, a role model, an advocate, and a support for the individuals s/he is working with. A mentor is intended to encourage, guide, and support the mentee as s/he progresses through the court process. This will include listening to the concerns of the mentee and making general suggestions, assisting the mentee determine what their needs are, and acting as a support for the mentee at a time when they may feel alone in a way that only another veteran can understand.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend at least one out of every four court sessions which occur on alternating Tuesdays.
- Participate in and lead mentoring sessions with veterans who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties veterans face.
- Assist the veterans as much as possible to resolve their concerns around the court procedures as well as interactions with the Veteran's Administration system.
- Be supportive and helpful to the other mentors within the program.

Requirements:

- Be a veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military, including the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve or Guard branches. You must have a Honorable Discharge and provide a DD 214 stating such
- Adhere to all of the Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project policies and procedures.
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of six months.
- Participate in additional trainings throughout time of service.
- Go through our Vetting process (police background check)

Desirable Qualities:

- Willing listener
- Encouraging and supportive
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences

For more information or an application, please contact the Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project, Mentor Coordinator at 845-2789.

**Buffalo Veterans Treatment
Court
Volunteer Mentoring
Program
Application**



Buffalo Veteran's Court

Volunteer Mentoring Program

Application Form

Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ Home Work Cell

Phone 2: _____ Home Work Cell

Branch of Service: _____ Length of Service: _____
 TYPE OF DISCHARGE _____

Occupation: _____

Are you available on Tuesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm? Yes No

What does being a "mentor" mean to you?

What motivated you to want to participate in Veteran's Court Mentoring Program?



Buffalo Veteran's Court

Volunteer Mentoring Program

Application Form

What skills and experiences do you bring to the mentoring program that will be helpful to you, the other mentors, or the veterans in the program?

What are you hoping to take away from volunteering with the Veteran's Court Mentoring Program?

*****MENTORS MUST HAVE A HONORABLE DISCHARGE AND SUBMIT TO A VETTING PRCESS (POLICE BACKROUND CHECK)**

Mentors will be expected to participate in observation, training, shadowing, and supervision as part of their entry into the mentoring program. Mentors will also be expected to attend additional trainings and monthly group supervision meetings. The Veteran's Court Mentoring

Name: _____

Docket # _____

**Buffalo
Veterans Court**

Mentor Log

Buffalo Veteran Court Continuity Sheet

Name: _____		Current Address	
DOB _____ (MM/DD/YR) _____		_____	
Current Phone# () _____		_____	
Branch of Service <input type="radio"/> Army <input type="radio"/> USMC <input type="radio"/> Navy <input type="radio"/> Air Force <input type="radio"/> Coast Guard		Years Served <input type="radio"/> Active # _____ <input type="radio"/> Reserves # _____ <input type="radio"/> Retired	
Combat Deployments <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> Korea <input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf <input type="checkbox"/> OEF <input type="checkbox"/> OIF Other _____		DD-214 <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Enrolled in VA <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No Visited OEF/OIF Office <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	

Benefits

Entitled to GI Bill <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Applied to VA Comp & Pension <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Family			
Married <input type="checkbox"/>		Separate <input type="checkbox"/>	
Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>		Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Spouse Name _____		Children <input type="checkbox"/>	
		# of Boys _____ # of Girls _____	
Employed <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Transportation issues <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Where _____		Issued Bus Pass <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
		Pending <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Arrested <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		Offense Charged (optional)	
City _____			
Initial Mentor:		Date	
_____		_____	



Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court Resource Directory



"Leave No Veteran Behind"

Honorable Robert T. Russell
Presiding Judge, Buffalo Veterans Court

Hank Pirowski
Project Director, Buffalo Veterans Court

Jack O'connor, Veteran Mentor Coordinator

Buffalo City Court
50 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202



BUFFALO VETERANS TREATMENT COURT REFERENCE SHEET

TYPE OF RESOURCE	CONTACT	PHONE (716)	EMAIL
COURT	Judge Robert T. Russell	845-2623	rrussell@courts.state.ny.us
	Annie Hemphill, Conf. Secy	845-2623	ahemphil@courts.state.ny.us
C.O.U.R.T.S. PERSONNEL	Mikel Morris, Sr. Case Mgr.	845-2696	mimorris@courts.state.ny.us
	Archie Amos, Case Mgr.	845-2623	aamos@courts.state.ny.us
	Pam LaMancuso, Sr. Case Mgr.	845-2695	plamancu@courts.state.ny.us
	Melenie Lanier	845-9321	mlanier@courts.state.ny.us
DEPT VETERANS AFFAIRS	Timothy Philo	857-3315	Timothy.Philo1@va.gov
	Carly Klein	857-3118	carly.klein@va.gov
	Veronica Klein	857-3322	veronica.kellam@va.gov
MENTOR COORDINATOR	Jack O'Connor	858-7345	oconnorj@erie.gov
V.A. BENEFITS	Jack O'Connor	858-7345	oconnorj@erie.gov
	Nikki Slaughter	862-8561	Tamekia.slaughter@va.gov
	Marlene Roll	937-4549	mroll2@verizon.net
	Luis Rodriguez	857-3346	luis.rodriguez1@va.gov
Veterans Disability	Tim Philo	857-3315	
EMPLOYMENT	John McKeon		mckeonj@buffalostate.edu
EDUCATION	Patrick Welch PhD	566-7855	patrick.welch@daemen.edu
	Sergio Rodriguez	858-5349	Sergio.rodriguez@erie.gov
TRANSPORTATION	Any available mentor		
COUNSELING	Jim Becker	862-7350	James.becker@va.gov
	Nikki Slaughter	862-8561	Tamekia.slaughter@va.gov
DISABILITY BENEFITS	Tracy Kinn	632-4190	tkinn@veterans.state.ny.us
Social Security Disability	Janet McClain	886-1242	
FAMILY ASSISTANCE	James Germain (Col.)	236-2097	james.germain@niagarafallsaf.mil
	Peter Pilc	888-5797	Peter.pilc@us.army.mil
LEGAL ASSISTANCE	Mike Lancer	855-1660	mlancer@ccklaw.com
	Roman Fontana	858-7345	rfontana@yahoo.com
	Mark Dunford	491-7890	mdunfordlaw@aol.com
	Mike Quinn	858-7345	quinn1475@yahoo.com
HOUSING	Dan Stegeman	531-5254	Daniel.stegeman@va.gov
	Ganson Jones	715-3612	Gjones@wnyvhc.org
Medicaid/Public Assist.	Debbie May	845-6295	mayd3@erie.gov
Food Stamps	Barbara Shaw	858-6804	shawb@erie.gov

Team 1 Leader	Mike Lancer	855-1660	mlancer@cklaw.com
	Phil Ippolito	680-1379	ippster@aol.com
	Bob Clark	418-9361	papabobclark@yahoo.com
	Patrick Welch, PhD	566-7855	patrick.welch@daemen.edu
	Tracy Kinn	632-4190	tkinn@veterans.state.ny.us
	Michael Kruse	857-3352	michaelkruse2@va.gov
	Eddie Gibson	858-7345	eddiegib@roadrunner.com
	Leon Smith	818-3404	Lubeman444@aol.com
	Jim Becker	862-7350	James.becker@va.gov
	Joe Morath Jr.	858-7345	jdm@connors-vilardo.com
	Susan Fischer	852-5533	sbf@connors-vilardo.com
	Archie Amos	845-2643	aamos@courts.state.ny.us
	Kendall Monroe		biggiek40@yahoo.com
	Ganson Jones	715-3612	gjones@wnyvhc.org
	Bob Cook		bcook@wnyvhc.org
	Jack Michel	435-7210	vva77@verizon.net
Team 2 Leader	Jim Mulderig	633-3911	jmulderig@gmail.com
	Phil Ippolito	680-1379	ippster@aol.com
	Bob Clark	418-9361	papabobclark@yahoo.com
	Chris Krieger	(888)400-3892	kkrieger@wnyheroes.org
	Sergio Rodriguez	932-2543	srr37@medaille.edu
	Tim Strunk	858-7345	tjstrunk@bpdny.org
	Joe Alajko	858-7456	alajkoj@erie.gov
	Deb Ramson	858-7345	Bebbera5055@yahoo.com
	Roman Fontana	858-7345	rfontana@yahoo.com
	James Schultz Jr.	847-0680	james.schultzjr@thehartford.com
	Marlene Roll	937-4549	mroll2@verizon.net
	Dan Stegeman	531-5254	Daniel.stegeman@va.gov
	Peter Pilc	888-5797	Peter.pilc@us.army.mil
	Dennis Smith	908-6536	dennis_smith@kenton.k12.ny.us
	Pierre Harper		Pierre-harper@yahoo.com
	Doc D'Amato		docdamato1@hotmail.com
	John Mskeone		mckeonj@buffalostate.edu
Team 3 Leader	Jason Jaskula	862-7828	jason.jaskula@va.gov
	Phil Ippolito	680-1379	ippster@aol.com
	Bob Clark	418-9361	papabobclark@yahoo.com
	Stephanie Thurston	(888) 400-3892	sthurston@wnyheroes.org
	Renee DeRouche	574-7315	rderouche@yahoo.com
	James Germain	236-2097	james.germain@niagarafalls.af.mil
	Tom Todaro	857-3349	thomas.i.todaro@va.gov
	Luiz Rodriguez	857-3346	luis.rodriguez1@va.gov
	Mark Dunford	491-7890	mdunfordlaw@aol.com
	Mike Quinn	858-7345	quinn14075@yahoo.com
	Janet Longo		janetniag@aol.com
	Ed Vasbinder	858-7345	edvasbinder@roadrunner.com
	Patrick Boyle		pwboyle@buffalo.edu

Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court
Resource Book

MEDICAID:

Description:
Medicaid is a Federal Health Insurance Program for uninsured individuals with limited or no income.
Contact Person:
Jack O'Connor Phone: (716) 857-7345 Email: occonnorj@erie.gov
Jack is a mentor and former Director of the Buffalo Medicaid Program. He is authorized to help veterans and specifically their families with applications for Medicaid.
Location:
Department of Social Services 95 Franklin Street – 3 rd Floor Buffalo, NY 14202