



**LOOKING BACK, MOVING AHEAD AND EMBRACING
SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES**

PRESENTED BY

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Administrator**

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. 95 diversions since October 2011
2. Established an Operation Recovery (OR) Veterans Process and Procedures in a designated courtroom. This is a process that establishes procedures for:
 - Identifying veterans who are charged with a crime
 - Assessing whether there are services available through OR that would benefit the veteran
 - Setting up a time and place for defense attorneys and designated OR staff to present veterans information to either the assistant district attorney or the judge, depending upon the circumstances
3. Offer psycho-educational/informational groups and a one-stop shop for OR and Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) services at pilot site.
4. Salisbury, VA's VJO continues to work out of OR office location 1-2 days weekly.
5. Partners and consumer-run agencies (i.e. Mecklenburg's Promise and PSO-Substance Abuse Services Center) continue conducting seeking safety groups (Evidence-based trauma informed treatment for those with PTSD and a substance abuse disorder).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

6. Operation Recovery partnered with Mecklenburg County DSS Trauma Informed Committee and was instrumental in sponsoring a county-wide Trauma Informed training presented by a Senior SAMHSA consultant and consumer.
7. Local Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) are trained quarterly by project staff on trauma and OR diversion opportunities.
8. Expanded program ELIGIBILITY to include non-veterans at the Substance Abuse Services Center involved in the criminal justice system who have experienced trauma and are managing a mental illness and substance issue.

KEY SERVICES/ACTIVITIES TO EXAMINE FOR SUSTAINABILITY/DISSEMINATION

- 1. Identification of Veteran Status, Trauma Disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) at Earliest Intercept Points (Including those by police before arrest and on pods at Jail Central) and Trauma Integrated Services – screenings, assessments, treatment planning.**
- 2. Enhance provision of evidenced-based treatment e.g. seeking safety**
- 3. Court attendance and Case Management**
- 4. Operation Recovery Courtroom 1130 Alternative Sentencing Initiative**
- 5. SASC Veteran/Non-Veteran Services for Individuals Involved in the Criminal Justice System Who Are Managing A Mental Illness And Substance Abuse Issue**
- 6. Veterans Court/Track**
- 7. Trauma Training and Trauma Education & Awareness (Including DSS Committee and Traumatic Brain Injury Project Star/OR Initiative)**
- 8. Local Advisory Committee**

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

- 1. Challenges faced with federal funds disseminated through the state to the county, creating delays in access to funds that have slowed service delivery, i.e. unable to fund peer specialist program.**
- 2. Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to be seen as a civilian community, as the military are invisible here, thus making vast system change focused on veterans a long, slow process.**
- 3. Difficulty getting cooperation/collaboration from local partners in establishing a Veterans court/court docket and no coordinated state effort.**
- 4. Limited number of behavioral health services are available within the county, primarily to Medicaid-eligible clients and uninsured.**
- 5. Challenges defining/implementing peer roles**
- 6. Significant staff turnover**

MORE INFORMATION

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