

## The 10 Key Components of Veterans Court

**Key Component #1:** Veteran's Treatment Court integrates alcohol, drug treatment and mental health services with justice system case processing.

**Key Component #2:** Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

**Key Component #3:** Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court.

**Key Component #4:** Veterans Treatment Court provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

**Key Component #5:** Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

**Key Component #6:** A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.

**Key Component #7:** Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.

**Key Component #8:** Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

**Key Component #9:** Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.

**Key Component #10:** Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness.

## Thank You For Your Service!



Referrals for eligibility screening may be made by all Metropolitan Court Judges, the District Attorney's, Office of the Public Defender and private defense counsel

For Additional Information Contact:

**CVC Program  
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court  
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Albuquerque, NM 87103  
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**Leaving No Veteran Behind!**

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT ALBUQUERQUE, NM

## COMMUNITY VETERANS COURT



The Mission of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Community Veterans Court is to enhance public safety by providing a judicially supervised program with substance use and mental health treatment with the goal of returning Veterans to the community as healthy law abiding citizens.

# **THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO - BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT COMMUNITY VETERANS COURT (C.V.C.)**



Most veterans are strengthened by their military service, but the combat experience has unfortunately left a growing number of veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. One in five veterans has symptoms of a mental health disorder or cognitive impairment. One in six veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom suffer from a substance abuse issue. Research continues to draw a link between substance use and combat related mental illness. Left untreated, mental health disorders common among veterans can directly lead to involvement in the criminal justice system.\*

## **COMMUNITY VETERANS COURT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Early identification of veterans who have been charged with a misdemeanor offense in Bernalillo County and establishment of a collaborative effort of court supervision and treatment providers working to assure the best possible outcome for the veteran and the community.

## **COMMUNITY VETERANS COURT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Entry into the CVC is voluntary. CVC hearings and team meetings are held twice monthly at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courthouse in Albuquerque, NM. The program length is 6-12 months and is also based on individual case needs. There are two program tracks. The diversionary track is for participants who meet the low-risk criteria (as established by an objective assessment) and will generally be six months in length. Participants referred for a DWI 1<sup>st</sup> offense may participate in the diversionary track. The post-plea track is expected to last 12 months. There are four phases in the post plea track and advancement from phase to phase is based on meeting clearly outlined criteria. Following the 10 Key Components of Veterans Courts, Presiding Judge, Sandra Engel, and a multi-disciplinary team of professionals work collaboratively to address the offense behavior and treat the existing mental health, substance use, or behavioral problems; and to facilitate access to eligible services through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system. Eligible defendants, who voluntarily agree to participate, may enter the CVC pre-adjudication (acceptance after charging, but prior to a plea or finding of guilt) or post sentence (acceptance after a plea or finding of guilt).

## **SERVICES**

- Judicial oversight
- Supervision and monitoring
- Substance use treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Alcohol and drug screening
- Assigned Veteran Mentors
- Connections with veterans community resources
- Assistance with VA benefits
- Additional services as needed

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- 18 years of age or over
- Charged with a misdemeanor offense in Bernalillo County
- Must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces or the corresponding reserve branches and/or members of the National Guard. Less than honorable discharges are reviewed on a case by case basis
- Eligibility for CVC is not determined by eligibility for benefits from the Veterans Administration
- An identified treatment need/issue substantially related to the offense
- Consent of the prosecuting authority for pre-plea referral to the CVC or post plea if a presumptive commitment to prison/jail exists.

Acceptance in the program is contingent upon meeting the full eligibility criteria of the program and approval of the CVC Presiding Judge.

