



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



THE HONORABLE JOHN R. ROACH, JR.,  
PRESIDING JUDGE





# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Program Funding:



**This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission *Fund for Veterans' Assistance*.**

**The *Fund for Veterans' Assistance* provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families.**

**For more information, visit [www.TVC.Texas.gov](http://www.TVC.Texas.gov).**



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## The Regional Court:

- Comprised of five North Texas counties:  
Collin – Rockwall – Grayson – Kaufman – Fannin
- The regional concept maximizes community resources & outreach in North Texas.
  - Assists smaller counties lacking the ability to effectively support veterans' treatment programs.



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Treatment Team:

- Presiding Judge
- Court Coordinator
- Two Case Managers
- Mental Health Consultant
- Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist
- Assistant District Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- County Sheriff's Office Staff
- Supervision Officer
- County Veterans Services Officer
- Peer Mentor Coordinator



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Team Composition:

- Presiding Judge, Court Coordinator, Case Managers, Clinical Director and Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist remain the same for each county.
- Individual teams for each county provide volunteers from:
  - DA Rep.
  - Defense Attorney
  - Sheriff's Office Rep.
  - Probation Officer
  - Veterans Service Officer



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Eligibility:

- Criminal charge in Collin, Rockwall, Grayson, Kaufman, and/or Fannin county;
- Veteran / Active / Reserve in U.S. Armed Forces, including National or State Guard;
- Connection between military service and current offense: issues resulting from or exacerbated by military service affected the criminal conduct at issue in the case;
  - Ex: brain injury, post-traumatic stress (PTSD), or victim of military sexual trauma (MST)
- Must NOT have received a Dishonorable Discharge.
  - District Attorney's (DA) Office MUST consent to JIV's participation



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Eligibility cont.:

- **COURTESY SUPERVISION:**

- If a defendant is charged with an offense in a county that does not operate a veterans treatment court program, the court in which the criminal case is pending may place the defendant in a veterans treatment court program located in the county where the defendant works or resides...

Texas Government Code § 124.006. Courtesy Supervision.



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Program Phases:

- Phase I – Orientation/Assessment
  - Assessment/Crisis Stabilization/Intervention & Early Recovery

Upon entering the program, the JIV is evaluated by our Clinical Psychologist:

- In-depth interview for customized treatment plan;
- DSM-5 to assess Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Multiphasic Personality Inventory Assessments, etc.



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Program Phases:

- Phase II – Treatment & Recovery
  - Active Recovery & Relapse Prevention
- Phase III – Reintegration
  - Continuing Care



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Types of Available Services:

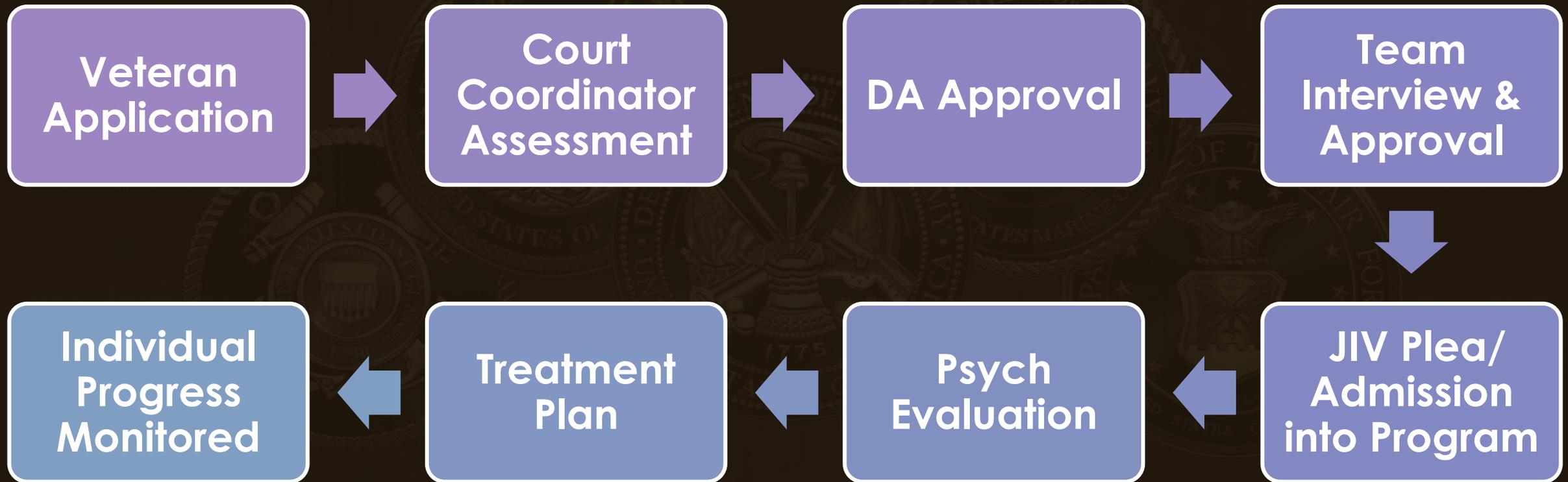
- Counseling
  - Group & Individual, Trauma-focused, Cognitive Behavioral/Processing, Acceptance Commitment, etc.
- Education
- Vocational training
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Housing
- Transportation
- Alcohol & drug monitoring
- Medical care
- Texas Veterans Commission



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



## Standard Process Flow:





# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



The program currently supervises 89 JIV participants:

County	Year Established	Current Participants	Most Common Offense	Predominant Age Range	Graduates	Unsuccessful Discharge
<b>Collin</b>	2013	38	Misdemeanor DWI	26-35	47	30
<b>Rockwall</b>	2015	16	Misdemeanor DWI	26-35	31	3
<b>Grayson</b>	2016	17	Misdemeanor DWI	26-35	15	14
<b>Kaufman</b>	2016	8	-	26-35	14	3
<b>Fannin</b>	2016	10	Misdemeanor DWI Felony PCS	36-45	8	9



# North Texas Regional Veterans Court



Questions?



**Veterans Accessing Lifelong Opportunities for Rehabilitation**

# VALOR



## **Philosophy:**

Veteran offenders should be held strictly responsible and accountable for their actions, while being provided alternative resources for positive and pro-social behavioral changes.

# VALOR



## **Mission:**

Our program is designed to help Veteran defendants develop better decision-making, coping skills, and provides them with the necessary tools to enhance their well-being to assist with reintegration into society.

All programs offered in VALOR use evidence-based practices.

# VALOR



## Program Facts:

- “Gap” between court supervision and incarceration.
- Run jointly by the North Texas Regional Veterans Court, Collin County Sheriff’s Office and Collin Country CSCD.
- State-funded Intermediate Sanction Facility.
- In-custody facility offering work programs and intensive treatment alternatives for felony/misdemeanor Veteran offenders facing probation revocations or incarceration.

# VALOR



## Program Eligibility

- Open to Veterans of the Armed Forces (to include State and National Guard)
- Must NOT have Dishonorable discharge
- Both Felonies and Misdemeanor cases are eligible
- Non-Violent Offenses (please call for pre-authorization)
- No Conviction for Assaultive Charges
- No Sexual Offenses
- Complete Classification Evaluation

# VALOR



## Time Frame:

**TWO** available tracks:

- VALOR-RP (Restorative Program)
  - 60 day program
- VALOR-IP (Intensive Program)
  - Up to 6 months

# VALOR



## Program Admission:

### Court Orders

- Original Terms and Conditions of Supervision
- Amended Orders / Sanctions

### Plea Bargain

- After Motion to Revoke filed.
- After Motion to Adjudicate filed.

# VALOR



## Program Admission, cont.:

### Out of County Transfers

- All Texas Veterans may be eligible.
- Collin County does not provide transportation to and from the program facility.

### Volunteer

- Veteran offender may request program for Substance Abuse Services.
- Veteran offender may request in lieu of Revocation or Adjudication.

# VALOR



## Admission Process – Probation to Probation

The Veterans' probation officer must contact the Collin County probation representative in order to start the application process.

### Collin County VALOR Probation:

- Kelly Hallmark: 972-548-3680; [khallmark@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:khallmark@co.collin.tx.us)
- Brittany Gurney: 972-548-3678; [bgurney@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:bgurney@co.collin.tx.us)
- Lt. Henry Rodriguez: 972-547-5095; [hrodriguez@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:hrodriguez@co.collin.tx.us)

# VALOR



## Team Members:

<b>Program Director</b>	Judge John Roach, Jr. - USMC
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	Brennan Jones, MSW - USMC
<b>Clinical Director</b>	Misty Ely, LCSW - USMC
<b>Lead Clinician</b>	Tess Lipscomb, LMSW
<b>Case Manager</b>	Justin Ewing – US Army

# VALOR



## Intake

- Complete Classification Evaluation
- Psychological Assessment
  - Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), drug and alcohol screening, depression, anxiety – in accordance with the DSM 5
- Follow-on neuropsychological test batteries
  - MMPI-2, MCMI-III and WAIS-III

# VALOR



## Services Received:

Each participant is given a treatment plan based on their clinical assessment.

- ✓ One-on-one counseling with a licensed social worker
- ✓ Seeking Safety (PTSD & SUDs)
- ✓ Wellness & Recovery (anxiety & depression)
- ✓ Trauma informed yoga
- ✓ ArtHEALS groups
- ✓ Trauma informed CBT groups
- ✓ Moral Reconciliation Therapy
- ✓ Substance use treatment, AA/NA
- ✓ Celebrate Recovery, Overcomers
- ✓ Lifeskills and Budgeting, Parenting
- ✓ Anger Management, Conflict Resolution
- ✓ Narrative Journaling
- ✓ Job Readiness

# VALOR



## Programming/Daily Activities

- From the first day of admission into the program, we educate VALOR participants to be more responsible.
  - We provide a structured environment and teach work ethic like their military experience.
  - Develop better decision-making and coping skills
  - Provide the necessary tools to enhance well-being and assist with reintegration into society.
- 0400-0530 - Reveille/Hygiene
  - 0500-0600 - Breakfast
  - 0615 - Scheduled Medications
  - 0700-1130 - Work Crew
  - 1130-1230 - Break/Homework
  - 1230-1330 - Lunch
  - 1330-1430 - Commitment to Change
  - 1500-1630 - Individual Counseling
  - 1630-1715 - Seeking Safety
  - 1715-1830 - Integrative therapy
  - 1830-1900 - Dinner
  - 1900-2200 - Free time/Medications/TAPS
  - 2230 - Lights out

# VALOR



**We track all pre and post assessment scores for every participant.**

## The Data Shows:

- There is a significant decrease in symptomology upon completion of the program compared to beginning scores.
- Most leave the program no longer meeting the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, Major Depression or Generalized Anxiety disorders.

If further residential treatment is warranted, the clinical team makes the appropriate referrals and recommendations for the participant so that care can be continued.

# FUNDING



**TEXAS VETERANS  
COMMISSION**

*"Helping Veterans Starts Here"*

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# POINTS OF CONTACT



## Veterans Court & VALOR Program Coordinator:

**Brennan Jones**  
**brijones@co.collin.tx.us**  
**469-974-7731**

## VALOR Clinical Director:

**Misty Ely**  
**mely@co.collin.tx.us**

## Veterans Court Clinical Director:

**Dr. Tracie Kaip**  
**tkaip@co.collin.tx.us**

# VALOR



# Questions?