

WHO SALUTES? ~ HANDLING VETERANS IN NORTH DAKOTA COURTS

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WHO SALUTES? ~ HANDLING VETERANS IN NORTH DAKOTA COURTS

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Abstract

A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a fair deal later.” Theodore Roosevelt.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken an unprecedented toll on our men and women in uniform. While most return home strengthened by their service, far too many struggle in their effort to readjust to life outside the military. Military service leads to time away from home and the combat experiences leave some veterans with heightened anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and/or physical traumas. These mental health issues can be compounded by substance abuse, family strife, unemployment, and homelessness, ultimately leading to incarceration.

In an effort to rehabilitate defendants whose criminal behavior may be an outgrowth of military service, many courts across the nation have developed veterans treatment courts. This type of problem-solving court provides pre- and post-trial adjudication alternatives and opportunities for court supervised diversion.

The following paper explores the traditional and alternative models of justice and the development of veterans treatment courts. Different models of veterans treatment courts are examined, along with considerations necessary to establish a veterans treatment court. Finally, the feasibility of establishing a veterans treatment court in North Dakota is explored.

To fully examine the concept of a veterans treatment court in North Dakota, a multi-step process was used. First, demographic information was gathered about veterans in North Dakota. Second, a review of the literature on the subject of veterans treatment courts was completed, both generally, and as it relates to this specific court project. This allowed close examination of eligibility criteria utilized by various veterans treatment courts as well as a better understanding of how the veterans treatment court concept could be applied in a more rural court system. Court statistics from one county in North Dakota were reviewed to determine the possible number of defendants with military backgrounds interacting with the court system. Additionally, statistics for the number of incarcerated defendants with military backgrounds were obtained from the state's only penitentiary.

Survey instruments were also used to gather information for this project. One survey was created for the purpose of determining if court districts currently track information on criminal defendants related to military service. A second survey was created to explore attitudes about the need for veterans treatment courts in North Dakota and to identify any perceived barriers to the creation of a veterans treatment court in North Dakota. The final method of data collection was an interview with a similar state to discuss the veterans treatment court implemented in 2014.

Findings and results obtained from the data collection and surveys were reviewed and evaluated. Survey results suggested a need for education of key partners in the justice system on the components and effectiveness of veterans treatment courts, identified perceived barriers in the feasibility of establishing a veterans treatment court in North Dakota, and identified resource availability in North Dakota for veterans

treatment courts. As a result of these findings, it is recommended that North Dakota implement a number of practices to further determine the feasibility of implementing a veterans treatment court and how such a court would operate in the North Dakota Court System.

Introduction

North Dakota is home to approximately 739,482 persons (United States Census Bureau, 2015). North Dakota ranks 19th in size among the 50 states (NetState.Com, 2015). The total land area of North Dakota is 70,703 sq. mi. (NetState.Com, 2015). The persons per square mile in North Dakota are 9.7 (United States Census Bureau, 2015). There are 53 counties in North Dakota. North Dakota houses two air force bases, one located in Minot and the other outside of Grand Forks. In 2014, there were a total of 57,395 veterans in the state, of which 45,414 were wartime veterans (United States Department of Veterans Affairs, 2015).

North Dakota has a Unified Court System with the exception of municipal courts, which maintain the option to have their own courts or transfer jurisdiction of cases to the State Courts. The judicial branch structure in North Dakota is comprised of a Supreme Court with five justices, seven judicial districts with 47 district court judges; and 73 municipal court judges (North Dakota Courts, 2015). The court system in North Dakota employs approximately 363 people, excluding any temporary employees. In 2013, the number of criminal filings in the states courts was 31,787 (North Dakota Courts, 2015). Of these, 72% are misdemeanors, 20% are felonies and the remaining 8% are infractions (North Dakota Courts, 2015).

There are a growing number of veterans entering our jails, state and federal prisons with criminal behavior stemming from service-related mental health issues (Institute for Veteran Policy, 2011). Skills learned in the military, skills which are necessary for survival such as rapid response or hyper vigilance may translate in the civilian world to

aggression, impulsivity, and arrest (Institute for Veteran Policy, 2011). In the 2009 ND Legislative session, the topic of veterans treatment courts was discussed. A justice for the North Dakota Supreme Court sent some queries to district court judges regarding the idea. As a result of this inquiry in 2010, a court committee reviewed background information regarding veterans treatment courts, discussed the feasibility of establishing veterans treatment courts and discussed alternatives to veterans treatment courts.

A number of concerns were raised in the review. In North Dakota, there is no uniform or accurate method of identifying or calculating the number of veterans entering the criminal justice system so this makes quantifying the need for a veterans treatment court challenging. Further, considering the overall rural nature of the state, determining how judicial resources and non-judicial resources would be best utilized was challenging. At that time the committee reached the conclusion that a veterans treatment court was not possible in light of the limits of judicial system resources. Instead this committee decided to endorse the adoption of a formal policy that would institute a number of process changes to accomplish the same objectives as a veterans treatment court. While the proposed policy was not formally adopted, a number of recommendations were acted upon. For example, jail intake sheets, bond forms, district court intake sheets now solicit information about an individual's status as a veteran. The clerk of court offices also posted brochures that highlight the available Veterans Administration services in their offices. Finally, judges received several training sessions regarding veterans and the criminal justice system as a result of the committee's recommendations.

The goal of this project is to review the historical development of veterans treatment courts in the United States. The project examines the models and structures of veterans treatment courts currently in existence. This project also explores the eligibility criteria utilized by the various veterans treatment courts in existence. Finally, this project examines the feasibility of establishing a veterans treatment court or alternative process in North Dakota and what that could look like.

Literature Review

The establishment of veterans treatment courts represents an emerging criminal justice trend across the United States. The dominant American Jurisprudence model historically has been the adversarial system of law (Schroeder, 2010). In this system of law, parties present their case before an impartial fact finder. The case is developed through the presentation of arguments, evidence, and witness testimony all in accordance with the laws and legal processes. An alternate system of justice is a collaborative, problem-solving approach. The collaborative system of justice seeks to find a more effective resolution of problems through a coordinated, team approach involving not only the traditional court players, but also community and other professionals working together to analyze problems and develop appropriate, responsive solutions (Berman & Feinblatt, 2005).

Models of Justice

The origins of the adversarial system of law are described to be a derivative of ancient combat rituals, utilizing scholarly arguments within the tenets of the law as a weapon (Smee, 2012). Critics argue justice in this model is really a consequence resulting from the parties or representatives skills. Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court himself stated, "trials by the adversarial contest must in time go the way of the ancient trial by battle and blood" (Smee, 2012).

In contrast to the adversarial system, a collaborative system of law involves many players beyond a traditional judge working together to create a coordinated response to issues that are facing the legal system. Collaborative justice involves a forging of partnerships to address the complex medical, social, fiscal and behavioral problems of a

criminal defendant (Collaborative Justice, 2015). Some examples of collaborative justice courts are mental health and drug treatment courts. Veterans treatment courts are a newer model of collaborative court. Veterans treatment courts are collaborative courts designed to assist persons who have served, or are currently serving in the military, and, as a result of that service, developed issues leading to interaction with the justice system having been charged with a criminal offense, and the risk of reoffending absent intervention is high.

Veterans Treatment Courts

The first veterans treatment court was established by Judge Robert T. Russell in Buffalo, N.Y. (Renz, 2014). Judge Russell began to see the increased presence of defendants in his drug and mental health courts who were veterans and observed the way these defendants interacted with other veterans associated with Judge Russell and subsequently, he developed the veterans treatment court as a way to address the serious needs of veterans appearing in the criminal justice system (Renz, 2014). Today, there are 104 veterans treatment courts in existence with many more in the planning stages (Justice for Vets, 2015).

Veterans treatment courts are problem solving collaborative courts that are judicially supervised, multi-phase programs through which criminal offenders who are former military men or women are provided with intensive treatment and other services and are closely monitored by a team which includes judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, treatment providers, veterans administration officials amongst others (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). Veterans treatment courts move veterans

from the traditional criminal justice system to a non-traditional justice system where appropriate treatment in addition to legal mandates can be prescribed (Baldwin, 2014).

Veterans treatment courts have 10 key components and these are listed in the table below :

Figure 1. Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts

1. Veterans Treatment Courts integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing;
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights;
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed into the Veterans treatment court program;
4. Veterans treatment courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services;
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing;
6. A coordinated strategy governs veterans treatment court responses to participants' compliance;
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each veteran is essential;
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness;
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective veterans treatments court planning, implementation and operations; and
10. Forging partnerships among veterans treatment courts, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances veterans treatment courts effectiveness.

(Justice for Vets, 2015).

Why Have a Veterans Treatment Court?

The common underlying theme all veterans have is their shared combat trauma, and this is something that cannot be addressed as effectively in a traditional drug or mental health court (Cartwright, 2011). A specialized veterans treatment court can address this trauma in unique ways. In these courts, there is a culture of respect and honor for the military experience (Cartwright, 2011). Additionally the traditional players in a courtroom, i.e., the judge, prosecutor and defense counsel develop an expertise on the issues surrounding veterans (Cartwright, 2011).

Studies from the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicate that approximately ten percent of state prisoners reported prior military service (Cartwright, 2011). Further, veterans are more likely than other prisoners to have been convicted of violent crime; fifty-seven percent were convicted of a violent crime, as opposed to forty-seven percent of non-veterans (Cartwright, 2011). What is unique or interesting about this higher percentage is the military recruitment practices seek out candidates for service that have lesser chances of committing crimes, such as those without history of mental illness, substance abuse or criminal records (Cartwright, 2011). One could surmise from these statistics and recruitment practices that the experience of military conflict can lead some veterans to have difficulties re-adjusting to civilian life and some have conflicts with the law (Cartwright, 2011).

It's likely this will continue as veterans returning home from today's combat have been exposed to long-term guerilla type of warfare that produces coping mechanisms such as hypervigilance, aggressive driving, and aggressive interactions (Cartwright, 2011). While these skills are necessary for combat, these skills can lead to conflict and potentially criminal behavior once home and removed from the war zone (Cartwright, 2011).

The primary arguments for establishing a veterans treatment court typically fall into three categories:

- Pragmatic, mitigation of future harm and moral justifications (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010). Pragmatic justifications are those that reflect purely practical justifications without reliance on moral or predicative argument—an example of this type of justification would be the availability of resources to help establish

and run critical components of the program (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010). Mitigation of future harm arguments suggests that without a veterans treatment court, a veteran could cause harm and be harmed without special intervention programs like a veterans treatment court (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010).

- Moral justifications, which argue that veterans treatment court should be established out of a sense of gratitude owed to a veteran for their service and the collective responsibility owed by all for the injuries suffered by a veteran while engaged in the service (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010).

Millions of people have served this country through military service. Countless have suffered physical traumas, emotional and mental health scars that last a lifetime. History has shown our veterans have been overlooked and ignored in the past. A veterans treatment court would help a veteran overcome service-related issues that effect the quality of his or her civilian life. A veterans treatment court would help assure a veteran his or her sacrifice to this country is recognized and appreciated.

Models of Veterans Treatment Courts

As noted above, a veterans treatment court can be designed around any court culture, need, barrier. One type of veterans treatment court is the “Buffalo Model” (Bjerke, 2009). Developed by Judge Robert T. Russell, this model is based or developed in part on the Drug Court concept (Bjerke, 2009). Judge Russell developed a veterans treatment court because he was concerned the traditional drug or mental health court wasn’t enough to address the needs of veteran defendants (Bjerke, 2009). Judge Russell felt these defendants needed someone to act as an advocate or rather

someone familiar with their military background (Bjerke, 2009). Hence, the development of the veterans treatment court, includes components of a drug court and mental health courts as well as the addition of the mentor and a Veterans Administration (VA) representative (Bjerke, 2009). The duties or role of the mentor in a veterans treatment court is multi-faceted and involves the mentor speaking with the veteran prior to the veteran standing before the judge (Bjerke, 2009). The mentor also assists the veteran in connecting with appropriate VA representatives to start or continue with services that may be needed almost immediately after leaving the courtroom (Bjerke, 2009). Finally, the mentor assists the veteran with daily needs such as transportation, housing, and etc. (Bjerke, 2009). However, the mentor's interaction with the veteran does not happen outside the courthouse (Bjerke, 2009).

Another model of veterans treatment court is the "La Crosse Model" (Bjerke, 2009). Based on the premise of early identification, this model works to identify veterans at the earliest possible moment, even before a defendant becomes a defendant in the court system (Bjerke, 2009). Police, when interacting with someone who has previous military service enter the veterans name into a two-tiered model, it was developed to address the needs of veterans appearing in court, but is operated independent from the judicial system (Bjerke, 2009). The first tier of this model is the Veterans Network; the second involves consistent court interaction with a veteran who is eligible (Bjerke, 2009). In this model, the Veterans Network works to educate the community and justice partners about the issues facing veterans and to oversee the mentoring of the veteran involved with the court system (Bjerke, 2009). In this model, the role of the mentor is different than the Buffalo Model. Here, the mentor is more hands on and outside of a

court setting, assisting the veteran with any potential mental health or emotional issues (Bjerke, 2009).

Considerations for Planning a Veterans Treatment Court

There are numerous issues to be resolved in the planning process of any veterans treatment court. A multi-disciplinary team must design how the court will operate, explore and obtain support, participate in extensive collaboration with the local VA medical centers, community healthcare providers, veterans service organizations, community based agencies, and volunteer veteran mentors (Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, 2010). The process includes planning meetings which involve judges and key players of member courts as well as law enforcement/correctional representation, prosecution and defense bar (Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, 2010). Veterans treatment courts are designed to reflect local needs and culture (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). At the outset there are the following things to be considered:

1. Eligibility considerations. Under this category, the inquiry should entail who is to be defined as a veteran, Should eligibility be restricted to currently serving service members, a person with any military service, only those with combat service, regardless of whether they qualify for VA benefits, only those who qualify for VA benefits?
2. What procedure(s) should be utilized for identifying participants?
3. Should the veterans treatment court be a pre-adjudication court, a post-adjudication court, or some combination thereof?
4. What should the disqualifying considerations be? Nature of the criminal offense, a person's criminal background? A person's medical condition?
5. Should participants be able to show a connection between the military service, the mental health/substance abuse issues and the commission of the offense at issue?
6. What screening mechanisms should be used to evaluate potential participants?
7. Issues of confidentiality/privacy/constitutionality must be addressed.

8. Will a mentor component be utilized and how so?
9. How will the veterans treatment court deal with transportation and other issues facing potential participants?
10. Will there be specific defense counsel assigned to represent offenders in veterans treatment courts?
11. What are the costs associated with a veterans treatment court and how will that be addressed.
12. How will the veterans treatment court be evaluated?
13. Should the veterans treatment courts be a regional schematic?

An important consideration in designing a veterans treatment court is who is eligible to participate. While there are variations among the veterans treatment courts, the majority still accept only veterans who have been charged with non-violent offenses, diagnosed with substance or mental health problems that are the result of the prior military service (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010).

In 2012, Julie Marie Baldwin, Ph.D. prepared an executive summary with findings from a national survey of veterans treatment courts (Baldwin, 2014). One aspect of this summary looked at eligibility/disqualifying criteria across the nation. The table below reflects her findings.

Table 1. Eligibility Exclusions

Military and VA status Exclusions	Percentage of VTCs (n=59 VTCs)
Dishonorable Discharge	47.4%
VA Ineligibility	32.2%
Bad Conduct Discharge	28.8%
Active Duty	11.8%
Other than Honorable Discharge	5.0%
None	5.0%
Criminal Status Exclusions	Percentage of VTCs (n=74 VTCs)
Any Repeat Offenders	2.7%
History of Sex Offense Requiring Registration	1.3%
Charge Exclusions	Percentage of VTCs

(n=74 VTCs)	
<i>Sex Offenses</i>	
Any Sex Offense Charge	28.3%
Child Abuse/Sexual Assault Charges	12.1%
Rape	8.1%
Registerable Sex Offense	2.7%
Nonviolent Felony Sex Offense	2.7%
<i>Violent Felonies</i>	
All Violent Felony Charges	45.9%
Homicide	17.5%
Severe Felony Charges (3G), Aggravated Felonies	8.1%
Any Domestic Violence	6.7%
Violent Felony with a Weapon	4.0%
All violent felonies but allow some domestic violence	2.7%
Violent Felonies unless DA allows	2.7%
Burglary	2.7%
Any pending felony charges in other county	1.3%
<i>Nonviolent Felonies</i>	
DUI	6.7%
All nonviolent felonies	4.0%
Crimes against Children	4.0%
Burglary	2.7%
ID Theft	1.3%
Arson	1.3%
Weapons	1.3%
<i>Drug Offenses</i>	
Any drug trafficking	6.7%
Any drug sales	6.7%
All drug offenses	1.3%
Felony drug possession level 2	1.3%
High-level drug trafficking	1.3%
<i>Traffic Offenses</i>	
All traffic offenses	18.9%
Traffic citations/violations	5.4%
Misdemeanor Traffic	2.7%
Reckless Driving	1.3%
<i>Miscellaneous Level/Not Specified</i>	
Any misdemeanors	4.0%
Assault	2.7%
Enhanced Firearms Charges	2.7%
Kidnapping	1.3%
Multiple Weapons Charges	1.3%
Sentence Exclusions	Percentage of VTCs (n=74 VTCs)
Mandatory Sentences, Three Strikes	6.7%
Sentences without Supervision Mandate	1.3%

Sentences with more than 3 years of supervision	1.3%
Offenses requiring life sentence	1.3%
Other Exclusions	Percentage of VTCs (n=74 VTCs)
No identified need of treatment services	2.7%
Serious bodily injury to victim	1.3%
Previous acceptance into VTC	1.3%
Deemed non-treatable	1.3%

(Baldwin, 2014)

As Table 1 suggests, most veterans treatment courts are similar in the respect that eligibility is primarily open to discharge under honorable conditions. Almost all veterans treatment courts restrict eligibility to non-violent offenses. Some restrict based on whether the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor versus a felony. Almost all require an aspect of military trauma having been the underlying cause of the criminal behavior. Some courts have opened the door a bit to consider eligibility of both violent and non-violent offenders (Jacobs, McFarland, & Ledeen, 2010).

Considering what screening mechanisms will be utilized by a court is an important consideration in establishing a veterans treatment court. Ensuring the court accurately identifies eligible defendants and thoroughly identifies their risk and needs is critical to the case planning process. Assessing for substance abuse, mental health and trauma are all important areas to explore in the screening process.

Referral Process

Early identification of a participant is crucial for quick intervention and courts should attempt to identify veterans as quickly as possible following arrest. To capture the best information about a defendant's past military service, multiple methods of self-reporting should be utilized (Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, 2010). Screening methods for past military service utilized include, at the time of arrest, booking of an

offender, on bond intake sheets, court intake sheets, at the time of arraignment by judicial inquiry, reporting by defense bar and VA referrals (Baldwin, 2014). Once identification or referral methods are determined, a court needs to establish protocols for an effective method of communicating the information to the court. Participation in a veterans treatment court is typically voluntary and subject to the discretion of the prosecutor. That being said, admission decisions are usually a collaborative effort with input from all members of a veterans treatment court team with the final decision being left to either the prosecutor or the judge (Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, 2010). Establishing a process that fairly screens all legally eligible defendants for participation is an important component of the program.

Court Considerations

There are several resource and structure questions a court must consider when establishing a veterans treatment court. Whether a court will utilize a single judge presiding judge to preside over the veterans treatment court or rotate judges in veterans treatment courts is a key consideration.

Also, determining whether the court will operate as a pre-adjudication veterans treatment court as opposed to a post-adjudication veterans treatment court is an important consideration. In a pre-adjudication veterans treatment court, the defendant is typically under some type of pretrial diversion, and in this scenario, there is likely no supervision of the candidate without added cost (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). There may be less legal incentive for a defendant to enroll in a post-adjudication court given that the conviction is not avoided (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012).

Privacy, confidentiality and constitutional issues also are a consideration. To address these issues, courts typically utilize memorandums of understandings (MOUs). These MOU's typically set out responsibilities and expectations of the VA and any other entity with which a veterans treatment court will interact (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). Another consideration is the confidentiality issues that surround the substance abuse and mental health treatment records the courts obtain to function in the veterans treatment courts (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012).

A distinguishing component of many veterans treatment courts is that of the mentor role. Judge Russell, in Buffalo's veterans treatment court, noted particularly the importance of the mentor role to the veterans treatment court process (Bjerke, 2009). Judge Russell established the mentor process so that defendants would have an advocate, familiar with the military background, the VA and the court system to support the defendant (Bjerke, 2009). The role of the mentor is typically that of an advocate, champion, and motivational presence (Bjerke, 2009). Other courts however, do not utilize a mentor component to the veterans treatment courts. The Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts notes that the following categories should be considered when selecting mentors or determining assignment of mentors to participants:

1. Branch of service
2. Type of service (combat vs. non-combat)
3. Personal interests
4. Family history
5. Gender
6. Age
7. Ethnicity
8. Mentor candidates' familiarity with issues which would be helpful in assisting

Defendants (mental health, employment, transportation, veteran's benefits, education, etc.)

(Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012).

Other considerations that must be looked at when planning a veterans treatment court involving potential participants are the barriers faced by these participants.

Veterans may have issues with transportation, homelessness, unemployment as well as the previously noted issues of substance abuse, PTSD, TBI. Veterans treatment courts require participants to attend regular sessions, appear for treatment sessions, screening tests for drug/alcohol use as well as other requirements unique to a participant.

(Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). A court wishing to establish a veterans treatment court must identify the resources needed to address these barriers if they are to be successful.

A final important consideration in establishing a veterans treatment court are the evaluation mechanisms that will be established. Evaluations foster public and stakeholder trust as well as provide accountability to funding sources. At its core, a veterans treatment court should have a mission statement outlining its goals and objectives (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012). Evaluations can assess the extent to which the court is meeting these goals. Additionally, courts must have a mechanism to gather and analyze data. That allows the court to determine if it is reaching its intended population and to measure recidivism rates in veterans treatment courts (Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, 2012).

Methodology

Data for this project was gathered from surveys, data review of this county's court appearances and other queries to personnel within the court system and outside of the court system are the methods utilized. Interviews were conducted with a neighboring state implementing a veterans treatment court. The first survey was distributed to stakeholders throughout North Dakota including judges, prosecutors, defense bar, veterans administration personnel, and clerks of court. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A. Data from the survey was used to identify the resources available to North Dakota should a veterans court or alternative process be implemented. Data was also used to highlight barriers that either exist or are perceived to exist in North Dakota. Finally, the data identified the beliefs held by stakeholders about the effectiveness of a veterans treatment and their underlying knowledge about what a veterans treatment court is. A second survey, found in Appendix B, was distributed to clerk of courts in North Dakota. Data from this survey was used to capture the different methods used to identify veterans coming into contact with the criminal court system in North Dakota.

Statistical data collection from one county's clerk of court intake sheets was taken for the months of September, October, November, and December of 2014 to identify how many veterans or defendants with prior military experience were appearing in criminal court. Appendix C reflects the intake form utilized to gather this data. This data was used to look at whether or not North Dakota is ready to implement a veterans treatment court or alternative process. This data was utilized to glean information on what types of cases are presenting with veterans defendants. Additionally, statistical data received

from the North Dakota Department of Corrections was utilized to identify the characteristics of defendants currently or recently incarcerated in the state's only prison.

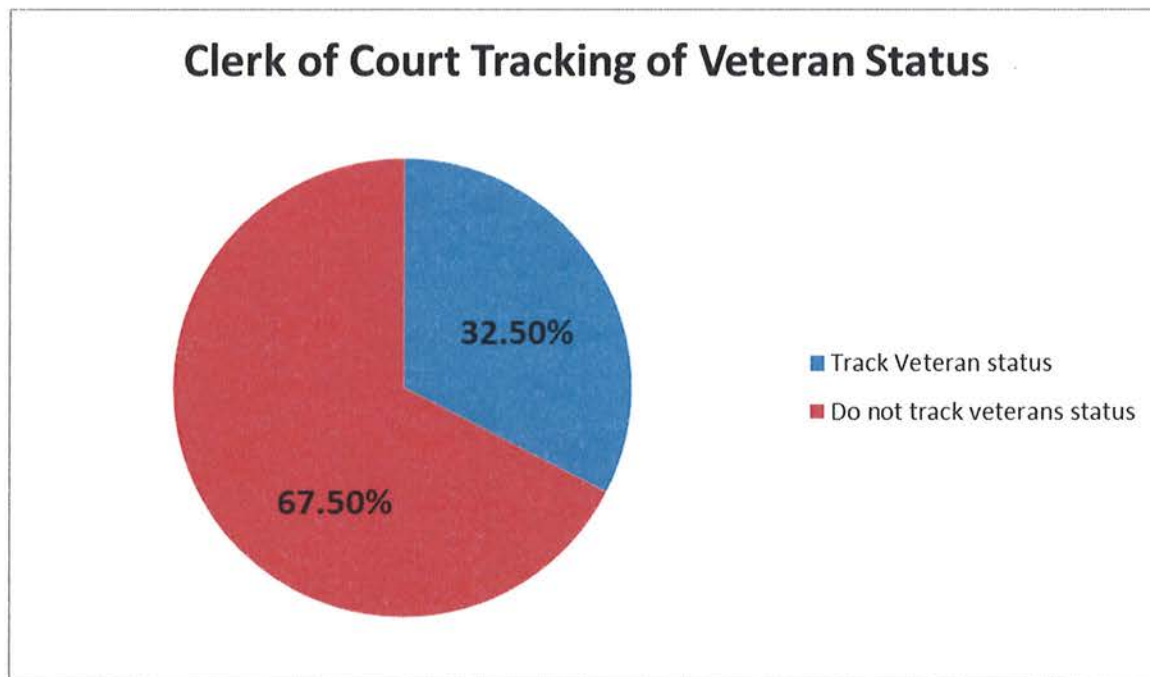
Findings

The following graphs, charts and tables identify reporting practices, resource availability in North Dakota. There are 53 Clerk of Court offices in North Dakota and, of those, 43 counties responded to the survey (81% response rate).

Veteran Population in North Dakota's Criminal Court System

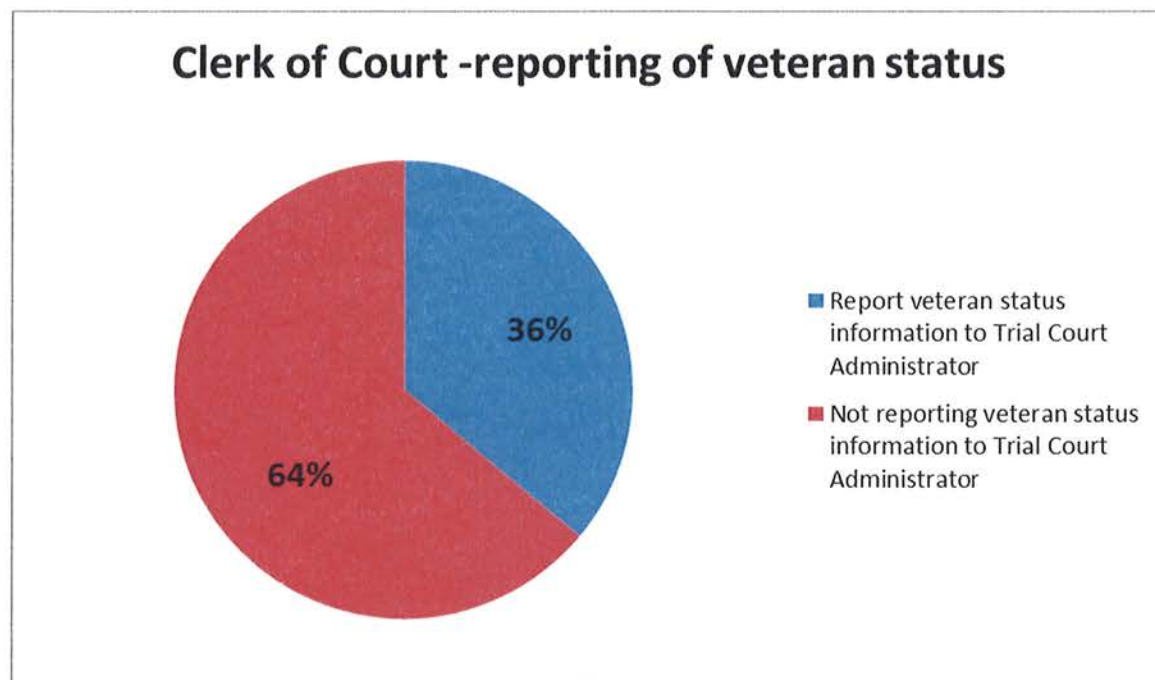
Figure 2 below indicates that clerk of court offices throughout the state are not uniformly tracking veterans coming into the court system, nor are the offices consistently tracking a defendant's military status coming into the criminal court system. Of the clerk offices responding to the survey, 32.5% indicated they are tracking the veteran status of a person appearing in criminal court.

Figure 2. Clerk of Court Tracking of Veteran Status



In the counties that are keeping track of veterans status, only a portion of those offices are reporting the data to the Trial Court Administrators.

Figure 3. Reporting of Veteran Status



The second survey provided insight into the perceptions of resources, barriers and support for a veterans treatment court in North Dakota. The survey was distributed to judges, defense counsel, prosecution and veterans administration personnel. The following charts and graphs highlight the information gleaned from this survey.

Perception of Resource Availability

The resources inquired upon in the survey could be categorized into five main areas. First, the survey examined "Interpersonal Relationship Resources" which include treatment services such as anger management, batterer's intervention, domestic violence treatment, couples/family counseling and parenting classes. The response showed most justice partners think resources are available, with some variation on types.

Table 2. Interpersonal Relationship Resource Perceptions

	Not Available at All	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know	Total
Anger Management Classes	10.71%	35.71%	28.57%	25.00%	0.00%	28
Batterer's Intervention	17.86%	28.57%	35.71%	14.29%	3.57%	28
Parenting Classes	3.57%	39.29%	42.86%	10.71%	3.57%	28
Domestic Violence Treatment	10.71%	35.72%	25.00%	25.00%	3.57%	28
Couples/Family Counseling	10.71%	32.14%	28.57%	21.43%	7.15%	28

The survey also examined the availability of “Mental Health Resources.” This includes services such as mental health treatment (inpatient and outpatient), mental health evaluations, psychiatric services and cognitive behavioral training. The survey responses were consistent in that most people felt there was sufficient access to mental health evaluations almost everywhere, but not consistent access to mental health treatment in each county.

Table 2. Mental Health Resource Perceptions

	Not Available at All	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know	Total
Mental Health Treatment (Inpatient)	35.71%	17.86%	28.57%	17.86%	0.00%	28
Mental Health Treatment (Outpatient)	17.86%	35.71%	25.00%	21.43%	0.00%	28
Mental Health Evaluations (to identify diagnosis)	11.11%	25.93%	44.44%	18.52%	0.00%	27
Psychiatric Services (including	17.86%	35.71%	21.43%	21.43%	3.57%	28

access to psychotropic medications)						
Cognitive Behavioral Training	21.43%	32.14%	17.86%	7.14%	21.43%	28

The third set of resources focused on “Substance Abuse Treatment Resources”. This includes treatment resources such as substance abuse evaluations, substance abuse treatment (residential or inpatient as well as outpatient), substance abuse education, peer groups and Medically Assisted Treatment such as methadone clinics. The survey respondents were unanimous regarding peer group availability such as AA, but survey responses indicated the remaining services were sporadically available depending on the location in North Dakota.

Table 3. Substance Abuse Treatment Resources

	Not available at all	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know	Total
Substance Abuse Evaluations	3.57%	17.86%	28.57%	50.00%	0.00%	28
Substance Abuse Treatment-Residential	21.43%	28.57%	25.00%	25.00%	0.00%	28
Substance Abuse Treatment-Outpatient	3.57%	21.43%	35.71%	39.29%	12.50%	28
Substance Abuse Education Groups	3.57%	25.00%	28.57%	32.14%	10.71%	28
Substance Abuse Peer Support Groups	3.70%	14.81%	29.63%	48.15%	3.70%	27
Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g. Methadone, Suboxone,	28.57%	32.14%	10.71%	10.71%	17.86%	28

etc)						
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The fourth set of resources this survey inquired on was involving sex offender evaluations and treatment availability. Most respondents to the survey felt this was a resource mostly unavailable in their communities.

Table 4. Sexual Offender Treatment Resources

	Not available at all	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know	Total
Sex Offender Evaluation	17.86%	32.14%	32.14%	17.86%	0.00%	28
Sex Offender Treatment	28.57%	25.00%	28.57%	14.29%	3.57%	28

The final set of resource availability looked at was regarding "Housing Resources." The survey asked about the availability of, temporary housing for the homeless as well as clean and sober housing. Very few of the respondents to the survey noted the availability of these resources.

Table 5. Housing Resource Perception

	Not available at all	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know	Total
Temporary Housing for Homeless	17.86%	42.86%	17.86%	14.29%	7.14%	28
Clean and Sober Housing	21.43%	32.14%	21.43%	3.57%	21.43%	28

The survey also inquired on the perception of barriers facing possible probationers in a veterans treatment court. Potential barriers included transportation barriers, distance barriers, economic barriers, motivational barriers, resource barriers. The answers here were varied. People in larger population communities thought there weren't many

issues with these barriers. People located in smaller communities felt the barriers were much more problematic.

Table 6. Perceptions of Barriers Facing Probationers

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Cost Prohibitive treatment services/lack of funding for treatment services	0.00%	10.71%	21.43%	39.29%	32.14%	28
Lack of Substance abuse treatment program options/providers	3.70%	33.33%	3.70%	40.74%	18.52%	27
Lack of mental health treatment program options/providers	3.57%	25.00%	7.14%	42.86%	21.43%	28
Waiting lists are too long	0.00%	10.71%	21.43%	39.29%	28.57%	28
Lack of flexible hours	3.57%	3.57%	28.57%	42.86%	21.43%	28
Lack of probationer motivation/interest	0.00%	25.00%	17.86%	57.14%	0.00%	28
Distance is too great for services	0.00%	21.43%	28.57%	32.14%	17.86%	28
Lack of transportation	0.00%	7.14%	21.43%	46.43%	25.00%	28
Lack of public transportation	0.00%	21.43%	25.00%	21.43%	32.14%	28
Lack of employment training/jobs in the community	7.41%	48.15%	14.81%	22.22%	7.41%	27
Ineffective drug/alcohol testing	14.29%	32.14%	28.57%	17.86%	7.14%	28
Ineffective supervision in community	3.57%	35.71%	28.57%	25.00%	7.14%	28
Not enough affordable housing in community	0.00%	10.71%	28.57%	42.86%	17.86%	28
Not enough clean and sober housing in community	0.00%	17.86%	21.43%	35.71%	25.00%	28
Not enough sentencing options	7.14%	21.43%	17.86%	35.71%	17.86%	28

The final questions of the survey tried to elicit the perceptions of veterans treatment courts, the knowledge about veterans treatment courts, the interest in a veterans treatment court and any local obstacles from various justice partners. The results indicate varying levels of knowledge about veterans treatment courts.

Table 7. Knowledge of Veterans Treatment Courts

	Not knowledgeable at all	Somewhat knowledgeable	Very knowledgeable	Total
How knowledgeable are you about Veterans Treatment Courts	25.00%	60.71%	14.29%	28

Further, the results indicate there is an interest in some type of a veterans treatment court for North Dakota.

Table 8. Interest in Establishing/Participating in Veterans Treatment Court

	Not interested at all	Somewhat disinterested	Neutral	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested	Total	
Please indicate your level of interest in establishing or participating in a Veterans Treatment Court	7.14%	3.57%	14.29%	32.14%	42.86%	28	

Data was collected by the Ramsey County Clerk of Court office for the months of September, October, November, and December of 2014 to look at how many criminal defendants appearing before the court were veterans. Data was taken from an Intake Sheet utilized by the clerk of court staff at initial appearances for criminal cases

(Appendix C). In the time frame noted, four out of 223 defendants with prior military service appeared in Ramsey County District Court.

Finally, as noted in Appendix D, data regarding the veteran population for the state's only prison indicate approximately 10% of all incarcerated persons are veterans (Engen, 2014).

Conclusions and Recommendations

A purpose of Courts noted by Ernie Friesen is “doing individual justice in individual cases.” (Friesen, 2015). North Dakota’s Court System, from top down has at its core a fundamental belief in this purpose. When exploring the readiness of the state to create a veterans treatment court or alternative process thereof, North Dakota will have to address numerous issues.

CONCLUSION 1: There is no consistent method of identifying and tracking veterans coming into contact with the criminal court system in North Dakota.

The systemic identification of veterans coming into the criminal court system is a critical part of a veterans treatment court process. In addition to identifying potential participants for a veterans treatment court in existence, an accurate method for identifying veterans coming into contact with the North Dakota criminal court system would provide a baseline number for determining the need for a veterans treatment court or alternative process in North Dakota. An accurate count of the number of veterans coming into contact with the criminal court system will also be necessary in securing funding, designing a program, as well as establishing future performance measures utilized by a veterans treatment court or other alternative process.

At the inception of this project, the first query made by this author was how many veterans are coming into contact with the North Dakota criminal court system. This author was unable to determine any consistent practice utilized across the state to glean reliable statistics on how many veterans are actually coming into contact with our court system and whether or not it would be feasible to implement a veterans court system or alternative process thereof.

RECOMMENDATION 1: A consistent method of data collection needs to be implemented in North Dakota to determine the number of veterans coming into contact with the criminal court system.

Currently in North Dakota, information about a defendant's military status is being collected by some clerk of court offices, some local jails, and the state's prison. The systematic identification of veterans is not occurring. One immediate change that could be implemented is a mandate for all clerk of court offices to track intake information of veterans coming into the criminal court system by utilizing an intake sheet that specifically asks a defendant if they have had military service. Clerk of court offices should track the information and provide the data to the Trial Court Administrators or designees on a quarterly basis and that information could be forwarded to the State Court Administrators office.

The above conclusion and recommendation are of nominal cost and could be implemented in a very short time. A standard defendant biographical data intake sheet could be utilized at initial appearances (including bond hearings). A simple spreadsheet could be created for each clerk of court office to enter the data and be forwarded to the Trial Court Administrator or designee for data entry to the State Court Administrators office.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The clerk of court in counties with jail facilities should reach an agreement with the county sheriff or jail administrator regarding a method to collect inmates' information regarding military service as well as how to track this information.

A standard jail intake or informational form should be created to solicit information about an individual's status as a veteran and disseminated to all jails and correctional

facilities. Communications should take place between clerks and sheriffs or local jail administrators to foster the need for collecting this information. The reason this recommendation is important is it provides another avenue of collecting veteran status on a defendant who may not utilize the court intake sheet on the initial appearance or allow for quicker identification of the potential veteran.

CONCLUSION 2: The case management system in North Dakota is not being utilized fully to collect party demographics reflecting veteran status.

The state court system utilizes a case flow management system that is capable of collecting military service information on parties. If this functionality was utilized, statistical reports could be created to highlight cases involving veterans' further statistical study, analysis in future discussions on the feasibility of implementing a veterans court or alternative process thereof. This would be a simple, no cost method of collecting data for use in further examination of this issue. Data gleaned from the case management system could be utilized to determine feasibility and possible locations of a veterans treatment court in North Dakota.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Clerk of court staff should immediately begin entering data collected on a party's military status into the state court case management system.

The mandate from the State Court Administrator to clerk of courts to utilize this functionality of the case management system would create an expectation of improved data collection in the clerk of court offices.

CONCLUSION 3: There is no clear list of resources available throughout the State of North Dakota for veterans.

Judges, prosecutors, defense counsel and veterans administrative staff are uncertain as to what extent resources are available in the communities they serve.

RECOMMENDATION 4 : An agency should be designated in each community to explore the resources available to veterans in the area of mental health treatment, counseling, substance abuse issues, housing issues, etc.

With the knowledge of what resources are available, a plan could be looked at for a veterans court unique to the resources and characteristics of North Dakota.

CONCLUSION 4: There is a need for education on what a veterans treatment court is and that it can be uniquely designed for each court situation.

The literature has shown veterans treatment courts can be designed to fit in with a courts particular culture, resource levels and needs. There is no right or wrong model.

RECOMMENDATION 5: A committee should be implemented to clearly define what a veterans treatment court is and informational meetings held in identified state courts to increase understanding of what a veterans treatment court is and could be.

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APPENDIX A: SURVEY FOR PERCEPTIONS OF RESOURCES

Veterans Treatment Court Survey

Veterans Treatment Court

The following survey is designed to gather data for the Fellowship Program through the National Center for State Courts. The project in question will explore the feasibility of a Veterans Treatment Court in North Dakota. Your answers will be kept anonymous and no identifying information will be collected. Thank you in advance for your time and willingness to answer the following survey questions.

1. Are you willing to complete the survey?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. Please indicate your current affiliation.

☐ District Court Judge

☐ State's Attorney Office

☐ Defense Counsel

☐ Parole/Probation

☐ Veterans Justice Outreach Staff

Veterans Treatment Court Survey

3. Please check the box that best indicates your perception of the availability of the following services or treatment interventions in your community.

	Not Available at all	Somewhat Available	Reasonably Available	Fully Available	Don't Know
Anger Management Classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Batterer's Intervention Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Electronic Monitoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temporary Housing for Homeless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clean and Sober Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job Skills Training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health Treatment-Inpatient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health Treatment-Outpatient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental Health Evaluations (to identify diagnosis)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatric Services (including access to psychotropic medications)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cognitive Behavioral Training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parenting Class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex Offender Evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sex Offender Treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Domestic Violence Treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trauma Treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Couple's Counseling/Family Therapy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Treatment-Residential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Treatment-Outpatient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Education Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Peer Support Groups (AA/NA, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g. Methadone, Suboxone, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Veterans Treatment Court Survey

4. Please identify any other services your locality has access to that you believe are critical for veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

5. Below is a list of common reasons why veterans involved in the criminal justice system might be unsuccessful in completing local probation supervision. Please indicate the degree to which you agree the following issues are barriers in your jurisdiction.

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
Cost prohibitive treatment services/lack of funding for treatment services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of substance abuse treatment program options/providers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of mental health treatment program options/providers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waiting lists for treatment services are too long	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of flexible hours for treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of interest/motivation of probationer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of skills of the probationer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distance is too great to access services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of public transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of employment training/jobs in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ineffective drug/alcohol testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ineffective supervision in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not enough affordable housing in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not enough clean and sober housing options in the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not enough sentencing options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Veterans Treatment Court Survey

6. Please rate your knowledge of Veterans Treatment Courts

	Not knowledgeable at all	Somewhat knowledgeable	Very knowledgeable
How knowledgeable are you about Veterans Treatment Courts?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Please rate your opinion on the below question.

	Not effective at all	Somewhat ineffective	Neutral	Somewhat effective	Very effective
How effective do you believe Veterans Treatment Courts are?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Please indicate your level of interest in establishing or participating in a Veterans Treatment Court in your locality.

Not interested at all	Somewhat disinterested	Neutral	Somewhat interested	Very interested
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please identify the extent to which the following is/are obstacles to establishing a Veterans Treatment Court in your locality.

	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Uncertain	Agree	Strongly Agree
Lack of need for a Veterans Treatment Court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from the VA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from local treatment providers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from the prosecutor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from the judiciary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from probation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support from the community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there obstacles others than those listed above?

APPENDIX B: CLERK OF COURT SURVEY

I am working on a project for the Fellowship program through the National Center for State Courts. The following survey is designed to gather data for this. The project I am working on will explore the feasibility of Veterans Treatment Courts in North Dakota. Your answers will be kept anonymous and no identifying information will be collected. Thank you in advance for your time and willingness to answer the following questions:

1. Do you currently utilize any method to track veterans/service members appearing in criminal court? (e.g., 'intake sheet') Indicate yes or no.
 - a. If yes, please briefly describe what you utilize:

2. If you answered yes to number 1, please indicate what you do with this information: (e.g., report to Trial Court Administrator, nothing, etc.)

Thank you for your time and response!!

Kari Landsem
Ramsey County Clerk of District Court
524 4th Ave. NE
Unit #4
Devils Lake, ND 58301

APPENDIX C: DEFENDANT BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

DISTRICT COURT INTAKE INFORMATION – INITIAL APPEARANCE

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

SS #: Required: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

EMPLOYER'S TELEPHONE #: _____

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES? ____ YES ____ NO; IF YES,

WHAT BRANCH? _____

APPENDIX D: PRISON STATISTICS

MILITARY STATUS

DOC NO	LAST	FIRST	LIVING UNIT	MILITARY BRANCH	GT REL DATE	PAROLE DATE
20617	BJARKO	JAMES	NDSP-INF-CHR-213	Army	03/03/2015	09/16/2014
21674	TROTTIER	COREY	MTPMIND-MDN	Marines	11/23/2016	09/17/2014
39679	CURRY	ALEXANDER	TRCC-TRCU	Army	05/27/2015	10/06/2014
39856	JONES	TERRANCE	MRCC-PEM-118	Army	05/21/2015	11/21/2014
18263	FIERGOLA	STEVEN	JRCC-3-L-3	National Guard	05/28/2017	03/02/2015
32026	ODOM	CHARLES	MTPFAR-FAR	Navy	10/16/2022	04/08/2015
35280	TRUEDSON	JAMIE	BTC-BTC	Navy	12/19/2016	05/06/2015
35932	TROGSTAD	WILLIAM	MRCC-PEM-121	Army	12/12/2015	06/02/2015
30529	FROHLICH	KELLY	MRCC-WIL-144	National Guard	07/27/2016	09/17/2015
35414	HALBERG	DUSTIN	NDSP-WU-2E-56	National Guard	01/07/2016	10/06/2015
21921	FREDERICK	DOUGLAS	BTC-BTC	National Guard	07/27/2017	01/07/2016
16139	TWEED	REGINALD	NDSP-WU-1W-27	Army		11/01/2016
39199	MOORE	JOHNNIE	JRCC-5-J-5	National Guard	09/10/2014	
39988	SLATER	RUBEN	NDSP-WU-3E-98	Air Force	09/27/2014	
39223	BILLINGS	JESSE	NDSP-EU-A-6A101	National Guard	09/29/2014	
39916	KOBOW	ROBERT	TRCC-CRRP	Navy	10/08/2014	
38762	VETTER	ALOIS	MRCC-KNI-37	National Guard	10/12/2014	
25692	KILE	WALTER	NDSP-SU-2-217	Air Force	10/15/2014	
20985	HAMRE	JOHN	MTPFAR-FAR	Army	10/28/2014	
40211	HAYES	GREGORY	NDSP-ORU-BOU-5E	Army	11/08/2014	
39314	BRANDT	CHRISTOPHER	MRCC-PEM-123	National Guard	11/29/2014	
22098	JONES	EDWARD	NDSP-INF-PAT-214	Army	12/06/2014	
36462	SCHWEITZER	JERRY	JRCC-6-M-3	Army	12/27/2014	
40000	REDDEN	AUSTIN	MTPFAR-FAR	National Guard	12/28/2014	
39477	GARRISON	CHRISTOPHER	JRCC-5-Q-3	National Guard	01/09/2015	
36027	DUMARCE	KERMIT	NDSP-NU-A-208T	National Guard	01/13/2015	
40134	KADOUN	STEVEN	NDSP-MTU-1E-2	Army	01/31/2015	
21458	SKARO	PETER	NDSP-MTU-1E-3	Army	02/04/2015	
35534	NELSON	DANNY	JRCC-2-H-2	National Guard	02/11/2015	
39934	CHARBONNEAU	KEITH	NDSP-AS-B-7B117	Army	02/14/2015	
39576	BENNETT	JOSEPH	NDSP-EU-A-6A213T	Marines	02/19/2015	
21671	BAY	JERRY	JRCC-2-K-2	Army	02/22/2015	
40212	GRESS	MICHAEL	NDSP-ORU-BOU-5E	National Guard	02/25/2015	
39551	NGUNJIRI	TIMOTHY	MRCC-PEM-125	Air Force	03/03/2015	
40048	STENSAKER	DAVID	MTPFAR-FAR	National Guard	04/02/2015	
38752	NELSON	NATHAN	NDSP-EU-B-6B203	Army	05/22/2015	
39708	HATCH	DENNIS	JRCC-2-N-2	Navy	06/19/2015	
36177	WETZEL	JOEL	MRCC-WIL-147	Army	06/26/2015	
39993	RIDLEY	KIPP	JRCC-3-N-1	Army	06/30/2015	
37712	HEIN	JOHN	NDSP-MTU-1E-12	National Guard	07/12/2015	
40148	RUSSELL	DANIEL	NDSP-AS-E-7E103	Air Force	08/10/2015	
40192	COBURN	CASEY	NDSP-ORU-B-5B10	Marines	08/16/2015	

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40073	VOLD	BRIAN	TRCC-TRCU	National Guard	08/16/2015	
32137	WILSON	DAVID	JRCC-6-F-1	National Guard	08/22/2015	
40124	CANADA	WILLIAM	BTC-8TC	Army	08/23/2015	
32204	CARLSON	STEVEN	MIRCC-MAP-71	Air Force	09/17/2015	
39700	WILLARD	RUSSELL	JRCC-5-J-6	Air Force	09/22/2015	
39987	STONEBOY	CHARLES	TRCC-TRCU	Navy	10/10/2015	
38474	DRUMGOLD	THOMAS	NDSP-ORU-BPW-5E	Marines	10/14/2015	
39122	GOULET	BRETT	MIRCC-MAP-74	Army	11/12/2015	
36675	DAY	GEORGE	NDSP-EU-8-BB210	Marines	11/21/2015	
39939	CROWLEY	IVORY	JRCC-3-J-2	Army	11/28/2015	
39380	FAIRCHILD	DONALD	NDSP-MTU-1W-9	Marines	12/06/2015	
35897	TOEPKE	TRAVIS	JRCC-2-O-7	Army	12/08/2015	
39878	FLEHARTY	BRYCE	NDSP-TLV-CRT	National Guard	12/27/2015	
40004	NIKLE	DARYL	MIRCC-SOU-131	Marines	01/13/2016	
38186	KASSIAN	JONATHAN	NDSP-AS-C-7C109	National Guard	01/19/2016	
39955	FRANKLIN	DANIELLE	DWCRH-HVN-6-9	Army	02/11/2016	
40160	JOHNSON	MARLIN	NDSP-MTU-2W-4	Navy	04/16/2016	
19070	AAMOLD	DANIEL	NDSP-AS-8-7B110	Marines	05/02/2016	
36476	PFAU	MITCHELL	NDSP-EU-A-6A223E	Navy	07/24/2016	
31693	TOFTE	JAMES	NDSP-SU-2-221	Army	09/02/2016	
37604	BARTRAM	MICAH	MIRCC-MAP-70	Army	10/22/2016	
36422	REISENAUER	MICHAEL	JRCC-6-E-1	Marines	11/01/2016	
35934	HOPP	ROBERT	NDSP-NU-A-211T	National Guard	11/13/2016	
33888	KJOS	JEFFREY	JRCC-2-L-3	Navy	11/27/2016	
23531	LUGER	CHAD	MIRCC-CAN-66	Navy	01/21/2017	
39259	CLIFFORD	DAVID	NDSP-MTU-2W-13	Army	02/11/2017	
38782	BINGHAM	JERRY	JRCC-2-M-2	Army	02/22/2017	
37856	MCCCLARY	MICHAEL	JRCC-2-O-3	Army	04/09/2017	
34123	MESCHKE	STUART	NDSP-AS-A-7A111	Army	04/09/2017	
37504	MILLNER	TORBIN	JRCC-6-N-5	Army	04/24/2017	
40005	BRANDSTROM	MICHAEL	JRCC-2-L-4	Air Force	06/13/2017	
39386	STRICKLAND	MATTHEW	MIRCC-MAP-83A	Army	05/27/2017	
36347	KITZAN	BRENT	JRCC-2-P-4	Army	07/09/2017	
38590	DAVENPORT	ANDREW	NDSP-WU-2W-68	Army	08/05/2017	
40153	SCHMITZ	JEFF	NDSP-MTU-1W-1	National Guard	09/07/2017	
24189	KROLL	DEAN	MIRCC-SHY-109	Army	11/14/2017	
21153	COX	JIMMIE	JRCC-5-B-4	Navy	01/28/2018	
30987	TIBOR	ART	NDSP-NU-A-205B	Marines	08/05/2018	
31157	HOOD	JAMES	NDSP-SU-2-218	Army	08/07/2018	
36507	LEHMAN	DUSTIN	JRCC-4-J-5	Marines	10/26/2018	
22565	DILGER	MARK	JRCC-4-M-6	Marines	02/09/2019	
39608	ETTER	RICHARD	NDSP-WU-3W-110	National Guard	02/11/2019	
16793	SMESTAD	PAUL	JRCC-2-J-6	National Guard	04/01/2019	
38685	GANT	DEMETRIUS	NDSP-SU-2-220	National Guard	04/08/2019	
40152	TUCKER	TIMOTHY	JRCC-4-O-7	National Guard	09/07/2019	

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25584	HUBER	JASON	NDSP-SU-1-130	National Guard	12/27/2019	
40167	CARPER	JONATHAN	JRCC-2-C-7	Air Force	03/28/2020	
26186	ASHLEY	VERNON	NDSP-EU-C-6C104	Navy	06/16/2020	
36527	SNYDER	JERRY	JRCC-2-D-5	Army	12/17/2020	
37562	PELTON	TYLER	JRCC-5-A-5	Coast Guard	04/14/2021	
37678	CLAWSON	CHRISTOPHER	JRCC-2-C-4	Army	08/21/2021	
31163	HAUGAN	OLAF	NDSP-EU-C-6C120	Navy	11/13/2021	
40204	CLAPPER	ARLEN	NDSP-ORU-B-5B10	National Guard	12/15/2021	
40175	DRAPER	VAL	NDSP-INF-CHR-213	Air Force	02/20/2022	
38980	BURESH	PAUL	JRCC-2-P-3	Marines	04/09/2022	
29402	ROGERS	MARC	NDSP-SU-1-114	National Guard	07/04/2022	
30344	BAUER	KEVIN	JRCC-3-G-1	Marines	09/12/2022	
18992	FROSTAD	LARRY	OOS-WY	Navy	05/28/2023	
17979	OSIER	MARK	JRCC-3-C-2	National Guard	10/23/2023	
37988	GLENDE	DUWAYNE	JRCC-2-K-1	Army	01/31/2024	
39109	OATMAN	JACK	NDSP-NU-A-109B	Air Force	11/05/2024	
39063	HOULE	MATTHEW	NDSP-SU-1-123	National Guard	02/18/2025	
19137	RIPLEY	GARY	NDSP-WU-2E-54	National Guard	03/28/2025	
24574	DAHL	DARIN	NDSP-EU-C-6C201	Marines	06/22/2025	
36452	PALMI	JACKIE	JRCC-2-E-1	Army	06/22/2026	
37042	STEINKE	JERRY	NDSP-INF-PAT-212	National Guard	06/28/2027	
24383	SAMBURSKY	PAUL	NDSP-EU-B-6B22E	Marines	10/06/2027	
36843	WHIPPLE	STEVEN	NDSP-SU-2-225	Navy	09/26/2028	
19269	DECENT	EDWARD	NDSP-ORU-BPW-5E	Army	11/05/2028	
22092	OTTO	WAYNE	JRCC-2-N-4	Marines	05/18/2029	
18699	SYVERTSON	CHARLES	NDSP-WU-3W-113	Army	04/08/2033	
30843	GOODMAN	DANNY	NDSP-NU-B-218	Navy	10/27/2034	
18211	LEMEN	HUGH	NDSP-EU-B-6B206	National Guard	11/05/2036	
24601	WATTERS	JAMES	NDSP-SU-2-206	Army	01/09/2037	
38595	HAMILTON	ADAM	NDSP-SU-1-125	Air Force	07/20/2037	
36545	ADAMS	OWEN	NDSP-SU-1-101	Army	03/08/2056	
37300	CHACANO	VICENTE	NDSP-EU-C-6C219E	Army	08/05/2061	
12328	OLSON	GARY	NDSP-WU-2E-42	Navy	08/01/2109	
36656	CROWE	THEO	NDSP-AS-A-7A108	Army		
30953	MUHLE	ANDREW	NDSP-WU-3W-108	Army		
33214	NICHOLS	ARON	NDSP-EU-A-6A113	Army		
17397	KUNKEL	WERNER	NDSP-EU-B-6B123	Army		
39922	LYONS	MATTHEW	NDSP-EU-C-6C111E	Air Force		
18948	BURKE	DALE	NDSP-WU-1E-2	Navy		
38220	WACHT	DANIEL	NDSP-AS-C-7C107	Marines		
18183	STEINBACH	MARK	NDSP-SU-1-105	Air Force		
13771	HUBER	JOHN	NDSP-SU-2-205	Navy		
24376	JANTZEN	DANIEL	NDSP-SU-1-106	Army		
21068	HELMENSTEIN	SHAWN	NDSP-SU-1-108	National Guard		
15025	MCAIR	RICHARD	OOS-FED	Air Force		

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15293	KELLEY	JAMES	OOS-NV	Army		
37520	KIRKPATRICK	GENE	OOS-SD	Marines		
32780	GIBBS	MOE	NDSP-SU-1-122	Navy		
36977	FURROW	BUFORD	NDSP-SU-1-117	Army		