

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Veterans Services	(2) MEETING DATE 1/29/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Dana Cummings CVSO x5768	
(4) SUBJECT Presentation on Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) implementation in San Luis Obispo County.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board receive a Veterans Treatment Court informational update and provide direction as appropriate.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. _____) {X} Board Business (Time Est. 30 min.)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { x } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5th's Vote Required { x } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { X } N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Veterans Services / Dana Cummings CVSO x5768
DATE: 1/29/2013
SUBJECT: Presentation on Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) implementation in San Luis County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board receive a Veterans Treatment Court informational update and provide direction as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

There are currently over 2.2 Million Post 9/11 combat theatre Veterans in America, with over 65% estimated to be dealing with some level of Post-Traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). These injuries affect 1:5 Veterans who have served one tour in combat and 1:3 who have served 3 or more. The military is in the process of downsizing every branch of service to reduce costs. The army alone recently said they would be doing a troop reduction of 50,000. A large portion of these will be returned to civilian life while still struggling with the effects of over 10 years of war.

Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC) were first started in Buffalo, New York in 2008. VTCs have since spread across the country, and California has over a dozen VTC programs currently operating. These courts are designed to address the growing number of returning Veterans entering the criminal justice system as a result of traumatic experiences they endured while in the military, making it difficult for these veterans to cope in civilian life. VTC's assist Veterans who have entered the criminal justice system by providing treatment and rehabilitation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) if the criminal activity is attributed to conditions like PTSD, TBI, Sexual Trauma and other triggers as a result of their military service. The program is designed to assist local agencies by having VA provided staff in courts, provide specialized treatment and use trained volunteer mentors to assist the Veterans with completing the program. The three main objectives of the VTC are to rehabilitate the Veteran, reduce recidivism and reduce costs.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

There are several agencies involved in making a VTC possible; the California Superior Court, the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department, Mental Health Services, the District Attorney's Office, Veterans Services and the Public Defender's Office. These agencies currently coordinate their efforts, but with a VTC they have the added resources of a VA provided Veterans Justice Coordinator (VJC) and trained volunteer Veteran mentors. The VJC is on the team to ensure that Veterans meet program criteria and works in the court room to ensure the Veteran gets into proper treatment program and ensures that the Veteran completes their treatment plan. The mentors work with the Veteran outside the court to assist them in fulfilling their commitments to treatment and counseling, checking in as required with probation and providing other support from a fellow veteran as necessary.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Financial impact has not yet been fully established, but will be projected prior to returning to the Board of Supervisors for an official resolution of support.

RESULTS

Moving forward with a Veterans Treatment Court will contribute to our County's vision to provide a Safe, Healthy, Livable, Prosperous, and well governed community for all of the county's residence.