

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Veterans Services	(2) MEETING DATE 6/18/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Dana Cummings CVSO x5766	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution of support for the newly formed Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in San Luis Obispo County.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution endorsing the new-formed Veterans' Treatment Court in San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1,793	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$21,505	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Robert D. Cone			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Veterans Services / Dana Cummings CVSO x5768
DATE: 6/18/2013
SUBJECT: Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) implementation in San Luis County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution endorsing the new-formed Veterans' Treatment Court in San Luis Obispo County.

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 trying to reduce costs. The army alone recently said they would be doing a troop reduction of 50,000. These will not be the high performers; a large portion will be those who are 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. 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 receive 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 related to military service. The program is also designed to assist local agencies by having VA provided staff in courts, provide treatment, and use trained volunteer mentors in making sure the veterans complete the program. This will work to rehabilitate the veteran, reduce recidivism and reduce costs.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

There are several agencies involved in making a VTC possible; The Court, The Sherriff's Department, Probation, Mental Health, the District Attorney's Office, Veterans Services and the Public Defender's Office. These agencies collaborate currently, 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, gain admission into proper treatment programs, and complete his/her treatment plan. The mentors work with the veteran outside the court to assist them in making sure they attend all appointments, ensure they check in as required with Probation, and give the additional support that only a fellow veteran can provide.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

NA

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

With multiple agencies and departments involved with implementing this program there will be fees associated that each department will be impacted. It is estimated that if the court operates on a monthly basis the staff time required from each department will be 4 hours per month. This represents the equivalent of 2.3% of an FTE from each participating department.

RESULTS

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.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Resolution of Support