



Virginia Board of Veteran Services
Point of Contact Report
Justice-Involved Veterans

December 17, 2020



VVFS Justice Involved Services (JIS) Mission

The VVFS JIS provides services and resource connections for justice-involved veterans (JIVs) across the continuum of the criminal justice system from diversion to incarceration to re-entry and community supervision.



VVFS Justice Involved Services (JIS)

- Criminal justice continuum- diversion, incarceration, supervision
- Formalized referral process
- Dedicated VVFS Veteran Justice Specialist (VJS)



VVFS Veteran Justice Specialists Role

Direct client services-

- Veteran docket team member (diversion)
- One-on-one meetings with JIV pre-release, post release, and on supervision (incarceration, re-entry); virtual meetings due to COVID-19 pandemic
- Identifying, referring, and connecting to services and resources
- Monitoring progress
- Timely documentation

Outreach services (pivoted to virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic)-

- Conduct information sessions and provide training to jail and prison staff
- Collaborate and network with community partners
- Participate on re-entry councils, workgroups, veteran docket teams
- Attend jail and prison resource fairs as time allows

Other duties-

- Participate in individual, regional, statewide VVFS supervision/team meetings
- Participate in and complete required position training



COVID-19 Impacts and Challenges

- **Incarcerated veterans outreach (jail and prison)**
 - Virtual intakes and appointments due to in-person visit suspensions
 - Referral gaps due to lack of staff in local and regional jails
- **Early releases due to COVID-19**
 - Short timeframe for re-entry preparation; gaps in discharge planning
 - Lack of notice from local and regional jails
- **C&P in-person exams suspended for incarcerated veterans**
- **Re-entry gaps/challenges-**
 - **Housing barriers**-biggest challenge for this population
 - Securing identification upon release from incarceration (DMV driver's license, IDs, etc.)
 - Lack of veteran identification in local and regional jails



Future Strategic Opportunities and Re-entry Collaboration Efforts

- Continue engagement with local, state, and federal partners to coordinate housing for JIVs
- Collaborate with the VA Justice Outreach program to promote the VA's *Veterans Re-entry Search Service (VRSS)*; provide VRSS training to local jails to increase veteran identification
- Engage with VA-contracted vendors and VADOC to coordinate virtual C&P exams for incarcerated veterans
- Continue partnership with the VA and VADOC on the JIVs with Special Needs workgroup to address the needs of veterans with serious medical and mental health needs
- Conduct statewide collaborative meetings between VA Justice Outreach staff and VVFS VJS



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