
OVERVIEW

The Rhode Island Alternatives to Sentencing and Trauma Recovery Program with Priority to Veterans (RIASTR) is a jail diversion program initially piloted in Kent County District Court. It has been funded through a grant provided by the Federal Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) in partnership with The Kent Center and the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH). This program is designed to direct defendants, both veterans and others diagnosed with trauma-related disorders, into a court program which integrates support and treatment plans with the judicial process. It is intended to provide treatment options that will result in potential jail diversion, possible reduction of charges, or alternatives in sentencing. The program offers offenders a treatment option that is judicially supervised. It is designed to divert the offenders away from incarceration while providing appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. The program gives preference to veterans and active military personnel, but also includes anyone who is diagnosed with trauma-related symptoms. Once the defendant has been screened, assessed, and approved for participation in the program, he or she will promptly begin a treatment regimen that is specific to his or her needs.



MISSION

Our mission is to successfully rehabilitate participants by providing the tools and skills necessary to address their unique challenges and to develop the insight to reintegrate successfully into society and maintain a productive and law abiding lifestyle within the community.

Our goals include:

- Reduce criminal recidivism.
- Recognize and treat unseen/invisible injuries resulting from combat or other trauma-related conditions.
- Facilitate productive reintegration into community.
- Increase compliance with court ordered conditions.
- Successfully address behavioral health issues.
- Promote accountability.
- Balance needs and expectations of maintaining a safe society with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

- Any individual with military service suffering from PTSD or other diagnosed trauma-related disorder.
- Any individual who becomes involved in the criminal justice system due to diagnosed trauma-related disorder.
- Current case must be presently pending in Kent County District Court. It is anticipated that this program will be expanded to include additional counties.

CHARGES

- The court and the review panel will review and assess each charge on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the charge, facts, criminal history, risk to public safety, and nature of diagnosis.

ACCESS AND CONDITIONS

- Appropriate proof of military service must be provided.
- Participant must waive thirty (30) day rule on driving under the influence (DUI) charges.
- Out-of-state violators, at this time, may not be accepted into the program.
- Participants must keep the peace and be of good behavior.
- Participants must remain in strict compliance with terms of contract, including compliance with all treatment programs, recommendations, and prescribed medications. Participants must strictly comply with discharge plan when discharged from any hospital or treatment program.

- Participants must agree to report to treatment provider as directed, execute appropriate releases, and return to court as ordered.
- Participants may be identified and referred to the program by the Judiciary, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, community agencies/providers, family/friends, or other sources.
- All cases are initially reviewed by a review panel, which will be comprised of representatives of the defense community, prosecutors, city solicitors, law enforcement, court clinicians, and others as the court may deem appropriate.
- Upon acceptance of a referral, a participation agreement will be executed by all parties and the matter will be scheduled for future reviews.
- The clinician will provide status reports to the court on a regular basis.
- In event of noncompliance the case shall be returned to the review panel for reassessment and recommendation to the court.
- The participants must personally appear at all court ordered review dates. These review dates shall initially be scheduled no less than two (2) times per month and may be more frequent. Eventually, if appropriate, reviews may be rescheduled at two (2) month intervals, but never longer. Mentors, to the extent able, should be present at review sessions.
- Upon successful completion, the review panel will prepare recommendation of disposition to court and disposition date will be scheduled accordingly.
- If contract is terminated for noncompliance, case will return to court docket for continued prosecution with a note to expedite when possible.
- All agreement or contracts will be entered pre-plea.



“NO SOLDIER LEFT BEHIND”

Corinna Roy

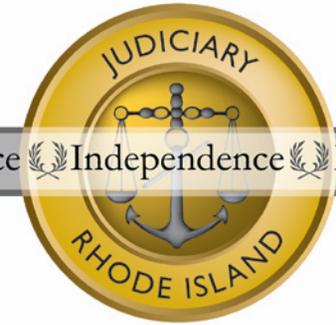
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Rhode Island District Court



***A Court Supervised Program for
 defendants who have served in the
 United States Armed Forces and for
 defendants who have been diagnosed
 with post-traumatic stress disorder
 (PTSD) or other trauma-related disorders.***



**The Honorable Jeanne E. LaFazia
 Chief Judge, District Court**