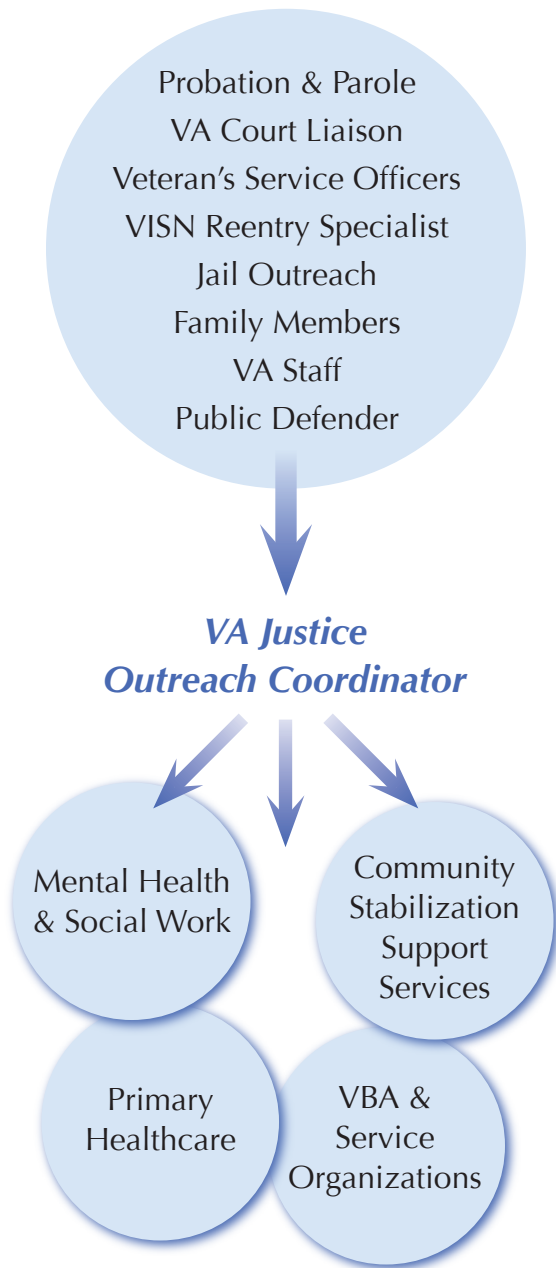


## VA Justice Outreach Process



**The Veterans Justice Outreach Program works with Justice Involved Veterans. A Justice Involved Veteran is any Veteran who has contact with the Judicial System, Law Enforcement or the Jail System.**

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## Veterans' Justice Outreach Program

**VA Medical Center  
Portland, Oregon**



# Veteran's Justice Outreach



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has committed to preventing incarceration and reducing recidivism among Veterans through the development of the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program.

## VJO Initiative

"The purpose of the VJO initiative is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible Veterans in contact with the criminal justice system have access to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) mental health and substance services."

*Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, April 30, 2009. Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter.*

The Veteran's Justice Outreach Program has three focus areas:

### ***Courts and Attorneys***

Provide information and education about Veterans' issues to include PTSD and TBI and services available. Develop and implement Veterans' Courts.

### ***Law Enforcement***

Provide training to local law enforcement on Veterans' issues and strategies to help work with Veterans.

### ***Jails***

Develop communication with jails to identify Veterans who are incarcerated and engage Veterans in available services upon their release.

## **What a VJO Can Do:**

- » Serve Veterans of all eras
- » Assess Veteran's health care needs, identify appropriate VA and non-VA services
- » Refer and link Veteran to comprehensive health care services
- » With Veteran consent, communicate essentials (attendance, progress, treatment testing, discharge plan)

- » Function as a court team member
- » Provide Evidence Based Treatment for court-monitored Veterans

## **What a VJO Can't Do:**

- » Perform forensic psychiatric/psychological evaluations for the court
- » Accept custody
- » Guarantee program acceptance
- » Write lengthy court report, complete Diversion paperwork
- » Advocate for legislation
- » Serve VHA ineligible Veterans
- » Decide criminal justice criteria for Veteran Court participation or decide who gains admission to specialty treatment court

