

ATTACHMENT A

Ten Key Components of the Montmorency County Veterans' Treatment Court (MCVTC)

Key Component #1: MCVTC integrates alcohol and drug treatment, mental health services along with justice system case processing.

MCVTC promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response to veterans' dependency on alcohol, drugs, and/or management of their mental illness. Realization of these goals requires a team-centered approach. This approach includes the cooperation and collaboration of the traditional partners found in drug and mental health treatment courts, with the addition of Veteran Administration Health Care Network, support organizations for veterans and their families, as well as volunteer veteran mentors.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting the defendant's due process rights.

To facilitate the veteran's progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel work together as a team. Once a veteran is accepted into the treatment court program, the team's focus is on the veteran's recovery and law abiding behavior, not on the merits of the pending case.

Key Component #3: Eligible defendants are identified early and promptly placed in the MCVTC program.

Early identification of veterans entering the criminal justice system is a vital part of the process of placement in the MCVTC. An arrest can be a traumatic event in a person's life, creating an immediate crisis. It can also force recognition of inappropriate behavior out into the open, making denial of the need for treatment more difficult for the veteran. This assists the veteran in realizing the necessity for treatment.

Key Component #4: The MCVTC provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

While primarily concerned with criminal activity, alcohol, other drug use, and mental illness, the MCVTC team also considers co-occurring issues such as medical problems, transmittable diseases, homelessness, basic educational deficiencies, unemployment, poor job preparation, spouse/family troubles, and the ongoing effects of war time trauma.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol, and other drug testing.

Frequent, court-ordered alcohol and other drug testing is essential to successful completion of a treatment program. An accurate testing program is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each defendant's progress.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs MCVTC responses to defendants' compliance.

A veteran's treatment progress through the treatment court is measured by his or her compliance with the treatment regimen. The MCVTC rewards cooperation as well as respond to noncompliance. The MCVTC establishes a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of graduated responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each defendant is essential.

The judge is the leader of the MCVTC team. This active, supervising relationship increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision also communicates to the veterans that someone in authority cares about them and is closely watching what they do.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measures the achievement of program goals and gauges effectiveness.

Management and monitoring systems provide timely and accurate information about program progress. Along with that, program monitoring provides oversight and measurements of the program's performance against its stated goals and objectives. Information and conclusions developed from the periodic monitoring reports, process evaluation activities, and longitudinal evaluation studies may then be used to modify the program.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective MCVTC panning, implementation, and operations.

All MCVTC staff should be involved in education and training. Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice officials to veteran treatment issues. In addition, The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment staff are exposed to criminal justice issues. It also develops shared understandings of the values, goals, and operating procedures of The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, treatment and the justice system components.

Education and training programs help to maintain a high level of professionalism and provide a forum for solidifying relationship among criminal justice, The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment personnel. A spirit of commitment and collaboration is also promoted.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among MCVTC, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community based organizations generates local support and enhances MCVTC's effectiveness.

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, the MCVTC is well suited to develop collaborations among community-based organizations, criminal justice agencies, The

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, support organizations for the veterans and their families, and alcohol or other drug and mental health treatment delivery systems. Forming such collaborations expands the continuum of services available to the MCVTC defendants and informs the community about veteran treatment court concepts.