

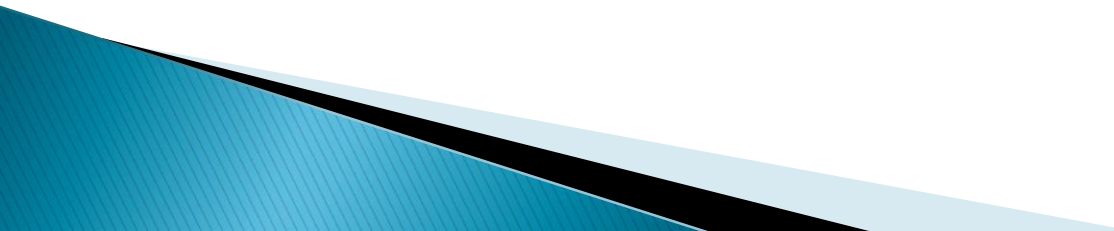
Veteran's Justice Outreach Program

Background

- ▶ The most recent US Department of Justice Statistics Survey of Inmates in local jails (2002) indicated that over 9% of incarcerated individuals are Veterans.

Background

- ▶ Of these incarcerated veterans....
 - Three out of five have substance abuse problems
 - Between 30%–35% suffer from a severe mental illness
 - One out of five has been homeless in the year prior to incarceration
 - 70% committed a nonviolent crime

- ▶ Veterans Justice programs were developed as a national initiative to provide outreach to Veterans involved in local justice systems and to link those eligible Veterans to appropriate services provided through the VHA.
 - ▶ This is a piece of the VA's five year plan to end homelessness among the Veteran population.
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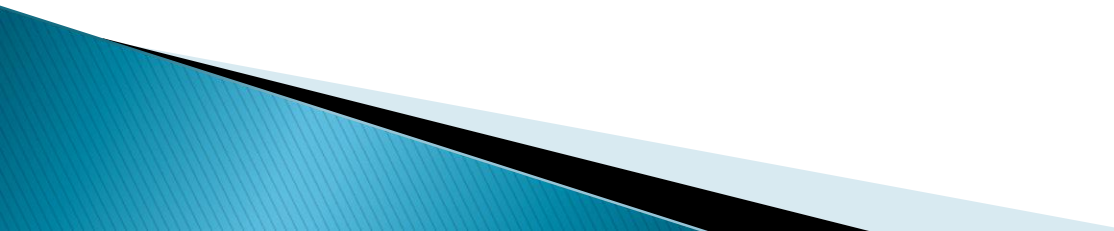
Background, cont.

- ▶ 2008 – SAMHSA funded state and local initiatives to connect justice involved Veterans with needed MH and SA services.
- ▶ This is being done using the **Sequential Intercept Model**

Sequential Intercept Model

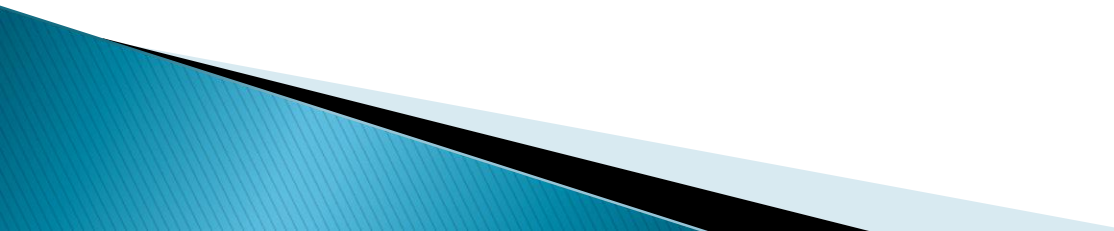
- ▶ Identifies particular points as opportunities to identify people and intercept or move them away from avoidable contact with the Justice System and into appropriate care.

Intercept Points

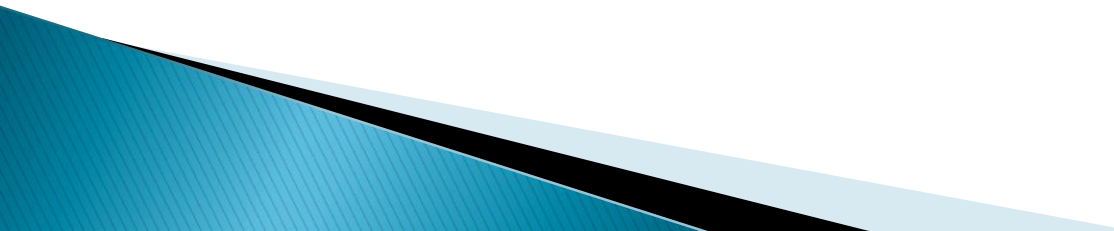
- ▶ Law enforcement and emergency services
 - ▶ Initial detention in jail and initial court hearings
 - Jails, courts, forensic evaluations, and forensic commitments
 - Community reentry from jails, prisons, and forensic hospitalizations
 - Community corrections and community support
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Purpose of VJO Initiative

- ▶ To avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans
- ▶ Ensure that ELIGIBLE Veterans in contact with local criminal justice systems have access to:
 - VHA MH and SA services when clinically indicated
 - Other VA services and benefits as appropriate

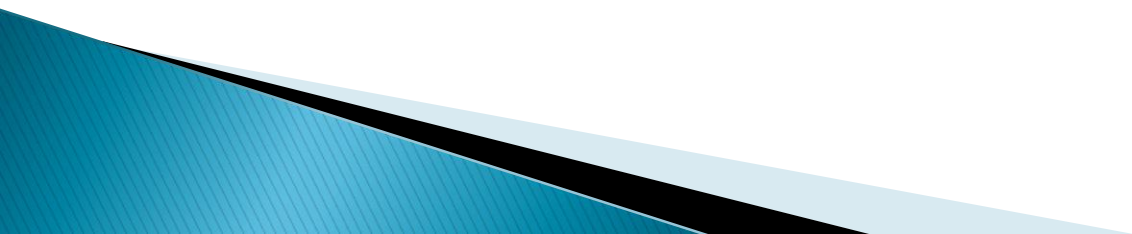
- ▶ Veterans charged with NON-VIOLENT crimes are considered a priority population with the initiative
 - ▶ The program will provide equal access to VAMC care regardless of legal involvement
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Justice Involved Veterans are....

- ▶ In contact with local law enforcement and can be appropriately diverted from arrest toward mental health treatment
 - ▶ In a local jail, either pre-trial or serving a sentence
 - ▶ Involved in adjudication or monitoring by the court
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The VJO Specialist

- ▶ What we do:
 - Serve as point of contact for assisting Veterans in determining eligibility for VA Healthcare
 - Educate Veterans about eligibility for other Veterans Benefits that they may qualify for
 - Assist Veterans in scheduling appointments for appropriate treatment
 - Liaison with local justice system stakeholders until treatment begins
 - Initial point of contact for community partners to access updates, progress in treatment and responding to inquiries.
 - Problem solving around barriers to treatment access



What it is NOT!

- ▶ This is NOT a GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD!