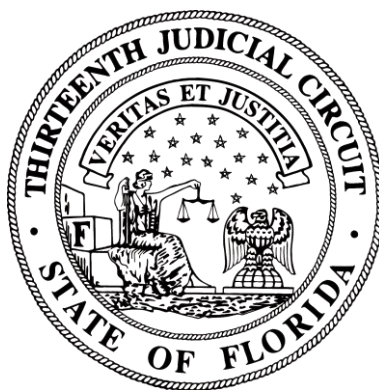


State of Florida
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



Problem-Solving Courts
Policy and Procedure Manual
2020

Veterans Treatment Court

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I. FORWARD.

Welcome to the State of Florida’s Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). This Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual is intended to answer questions, address concerns, and summarize the VTC program. VTC represents a non-traditional, rehabilitative approach for individuals, who suffer from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem. VTC addresses not only the problems that led to an individual’s entry into the criminal justice system, but also the barriers that impede his or her treatment and recovery. VTC is committed to working collaboratively in developing treatment plans that are tailored to meet the individual’s needs - providing stability, wellness, and long-term care.

– The Veterans Treatment Court Team

Motto: “Leave No Veteran Behind”

II. OVERVIEW.

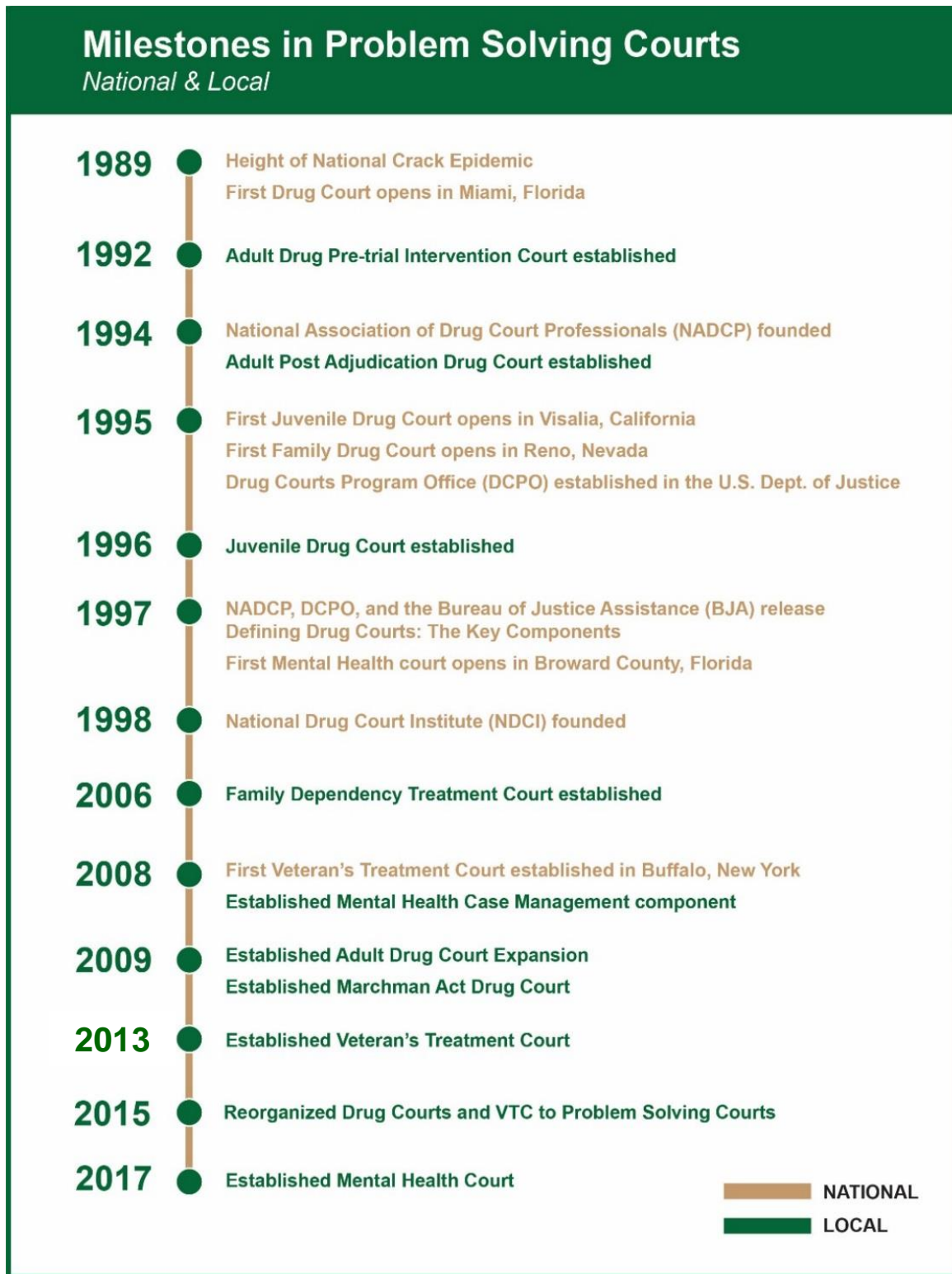
The concept of problem-solving courts began in the early 1990's in response to significant backlogs and over-crowding in the criminal justice system related to drug offenders and to the ineffectiveness in preventing the rapid cycling of this population through the system. These programs attempt to address underlying problems of addiction and have incorporated a range of evidence-based treatment principles into the criminal justice system. Problem-solving courts combine community treatment services with court supervision. In 2017, the *Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards* incorporated professionalism and fidelity into the drug court model. Please see the following link:

http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/539/urlt/Florida_Adult_Drug_Court_Standards_Full_Document.pdf

These standards are based largely on the research and analysis conducted by National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). The State of Florida's Thirteenth Judicial Circuit utilizes these standards across all seven problem-solving courts: (1) Adult Drug Court; (2) Juvenile Drug Court; (3) Adult Mental Health Court; (4) Juvenile Mental Health Court; (5) Marchman Act Drug Treatment Court; (6) Family Dependency Treatment Court; and (7) Veterans Treatment Court. In some problem-solving courts, these standards are still in development but are of critical importance to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's established goals and objectives for these courts.

This Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedures Manual provides structure to decision-making for all key stakeholders who make-up the Oversight Committee. The Chief Judge and presiding Judges of Problem-Solving Courts reserve the right, in each individual case, to make discretionary decisions consistent with the law and public policy. As seen below, Figure 1 depicts a timeline for problem-solving court milestones at the national and local level.

Figure 1. National and Local Milestones in Problem-Solving Courts.



III. OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The policies and procedures for the operation of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit’s problem-solving courts shall be established through the Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedures Manual and any change or amendment to this manual shall be made by the Problem-Solving Courts Oversight Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Oversight Committee”). The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to obtain input and foster collaborative involvement from committee members for each problem-solving court. The Oversight Committee is charged with recommending strategies to maintain the quality and effectiveness of each problem-solving court and to ensure viable treatment options. The Oversight Committee is comprised of the following individuals and representatives from the following offices, agencies and/or departments:

- Chief Judge
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Presiding Judges of Problem-Solving Courts
- Public Defender’s Office
- State Attorney’s Office
- Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office
- Florida Department of Corrections’ Community Corrections Office

IV. DEFINING ELEMENTS.

Problem-solving courts address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets utilizing as a multi-disciplinary, non-adversarial team approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, coupled with judicial supervision and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process. Problem-solving courts offer a specialized court docket that includes, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- A. Problem-Solving Team. A problem-solving team is a broad-based team of justice system stakeholders, which includes, but is not limited to, judges, assistant state

attorneys, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, supervision officers, court case managers, veterans justice outreach coordinators and military mentors,¹ and treatment providers.

- B. Non-Adversarial Approach. A non-adversarial approach is defined as a commitment to offering alternatives to the traditional adversarial litigation process.
- C. Continuum of Individualized Treatment Services. A continuum of individualized treatment services includes an array of evidence-based services designed to identify and meet the unique needs of each participant.
- D. Judicial Leadership and Interaction. Judicial leadership and interaction require a judge who is willing and able to lead the problem-solving team and monitor court case progress, while overseeing a collaborative approach in monitoring participant compliance and progress.
- E. Responses to Participant Compliance. Responses to participant compliance is defined as the use of graduated, individualized, and coordinated responses, both for incentives and sanctions, to promote both public safety and participant success.

V. TEN KEY COMPONENTS.

In 2000 and again in 2009, the national Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the national Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) issued joint resolutions concluding that drug courts and other problem-solving courts are the most effective strategy to reduce drug abuse, prevent crime, and restore families. In recognition of this fact, CCJ and COSCA called upon the justice system to extend the reach of problem-solving courts to every citizen in need, and further, to infuse the principles and practices of these proven programs throughout our system of justice. A national consensus panel, convened by the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), in January 1997, developed the Ten Key Components.

Their conclusions echo more than two decades of scientific research establishing the effectiveness of drug courts and other problem-solving courts and that fidelity to the Ten Key Components is essential for achieving successful, cost-effective outcomes. In 2008,

¹ The Veterans Treatment Court problem-solving team includes veterans justice outreach coordinators and military mentors.

the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court adopted, with slight modifications, the essential tenements of the U.S. Department of Justice Publication entitled “*Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*” (Jan.1997). The essential elements of Mental Health Court are culled from a variety of sources, including interviews with former Bureau of Judicial Assistance (BJA) Mental Health Courts Program (MHCP) grantees, on-site visits to grantee and non-grantee mental health courts and a review of the scholarly literature. An original draft of the elements document was prepared for the 2004 BJA MHCP conference that served as source material for the *Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation*. There are key differences between Drug Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and Mental Health Courts. Tables 1 through 3 define the *Key Components* that provide the foundation for the successful operation of these courts.

Table 1. Ten Key Components of Drug Court.

Key Component 1	Drug Courts integrate alcohol and drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
Key Component 2	Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
Key Component 3	Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Drug Court program.
Key Component 4	Drug Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and related treatment and rehabilitation services.
Key Component 5	Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and illicit drug testing.
Key Component 6	A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
Key Component 7	Ongoing judicial interaction with each Drug Court participant is essential.
Key Component 8	Monitoring and evaluating achievement of program goals is necessary to gauge effectiveness.
Key Component 9	Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Court planning, implementation, and operations.
Key Component 10	Forging partnerships among Drug Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Drug Court program effectiveness.

Table 2. Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Court.

Key Component 1	Veterans Treatment Courts integrate alcohol and drug treatment and mental health services with justice system case processing.
Key Component 2	Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
Key Component 3	Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program.
Key Component 4	Veterans Treatment Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
Key Component 5	Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
Key Component 6	A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.
Key Component 7	Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.
Key Component 8	Monitoring and evaluating measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
Key Component 9	Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.
Key Component 10	Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Courts, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veterans Treatment Court effectiveness.

Table 3. Ten Key Components of Mental Health Court.

<p>Key Component 1</p>	<p>Planning and Administration Broad-based group of stakeholders representing criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and related systems and the community guides the planning and administration of court.</p>
<p>Key Component 2</p>	<p>Target Population Eligibility criteria address public safety and consider community’s treatment capacity, as well as availability of alternatives to pretrial detention for defendants with mental illnesses. It also assesses relationship between mental illness and defendant’s offenses, while allowing individual circumstances to be considered.</p>
<p>Key Component 3</p>	<p>Timely Participant Identification and Linkage to Services Participants are identified, referred, and accepted into mental health courts, then linked to community-based service providers as quickly as possible.</p>
<p>Key Component 4</p>	<p>Terms of Participation Terms of participation are clear, promote public safety, facilitate defendant’s engagement in treatment, individualized to correspond to level of risk that defendant presents to community, and provide for positive legal outcomes for those individuals who successfully complete the program.</p>
<p>Key Component 5</p>	<p>Informed Choice Defendants understand program requirements before agreeing to participate in mental health court. They are provided legal counsel to inform this decision and subsequent decisions about program involvement. Procedures exist in mental health court to address concerns about a defendant’s competency whenever they arise.</p>
<p>Key Component 6</p>	<p>Treatment Supports and Services Mental health courts connect participants to comprehensive and individualized treatment services in community. They strive to use and increase availability of treatment and services that are evidence-based.</p>
<p>Key Component 7</p>	<p>Confidentiality Health and legal information should be shared so it protects potential participants’ confidentiality rights as mental health consumers and constitutional rights as defendants. Information gathered as part of participants’ court-ordered treatment should be safeguarded in case participants go back to traditional court processing.</p>
<p>Key Component 8</p>	<p>Court Team Team of criminal justice and mental health staff and treatment providers receives special, ongoing training and helps mental health court participants achieve treatment and criminal justice goals by reviewing and revising court process.</p>
<p>Key Component 9</p>	<p>Monitoring Adherence to Court Requirements Criminal justice and mental health staff collaboratively monitor participants’ adherence to court conditions, offer individualized graduated incentives and sanctions, and modify treatment to promote public safety and participants’ recovery.</p>
<p>Key Component 10</p>	<p>Sustainability Data are collected and analyzed to demonstrate the impact of mental health court, its performance is assessed periodically, court processes are institutionalized, and support for court in the community is cultivated and expanded.</p>

VI. VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.

In October 2013, pursuant to the implementing provisions found in the “T. Patt Maney Veterans’ Treatment Intervention Act”,² former Chief Judge Manuel Menendez, Jr. established by Administrative Order (AO) the first Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County, Florida).³ An entire criminal division, Division V, commonly referred to as the VTC Division, was formed and dedicated exclusively for this problem-solving court.

In the beginning, an individual’s participation in VTC was limited to those who had been charged with a city ordinance violation, county ordinance violation, or misdemeanor offense;⁴ however, in January 2015, Chief Judge Ronald N. Ficarrota expanded VTC by AO in accordance with Florida law, allowing individuals who had been charged with a felony offense, other than a felony listed in section 948.06(8)(c), Florida Statutes.⁵

² See Sections 16-20 of Chapter 2012-159, Laws of Florida (2019).

³ Administrative Order (AO) S-2013-054 (October 1, 2013).

⁴ See Section 948.16, Florida Statutes (2019).

⁵ For purposes of Section 948.06(8)(c), Florida Statutes (2019), the term “qualifying offense” means any of the following:

1. Kidnapping or attempted kidnapping under s. 787.01, false imprisonment of a child under the age of 13 under s. 787.02(3), or luring or enticing a child under s. 787.025(2)(b) or (c).
2. Murder or attempted murder under s. 782.04, attempted felony murder under s. 782.051, or manslaughter under s. 782.07.
3. Aggravated battery or attempted aggravated battery under s. 784.045.
4. Sexual battery or attempted sexual battery under s. 794.011(2), (3), (4), or (8)(b) or (c).
5. Lewd or lascivious battery or attempted lewd or lascivious battery under s. 800.04(4), lewd or lascivious molestation under s. 800.04(5)(b) or (c)2., lewd or lascivious conduct under s. 800.04(6)(b), lewd or lascivious exhibition under s. 800.04(7)(b), or lewd or lascivious exhibition on computer under s. 847.0135(5)(b).
6. Robbery or attempted robbery under s. 812.13, carjacking or attempted carjacking under s. 812.133, or home invasion robbery or attempted home invasion robbery under s. 812.135.
7. Lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person or attempted lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person under s. 825.1025.
8. Sexual performance by a child or attempted sexual performance by a child under s. 827.071.
9. Computer pornography under s. 847.0135(2) or (3), transmission of child pornography under s. 847.0137, or selling or buying of minors under s. 847.0145.
10. Poisoning food or water under s. 859.01.
11. Abuse of a dead human body under s. 872.06.
12. Any burglary offense or attempted burglary offense that is either a first degree felony or second degree felony under s. 810.02(2) or (3).
13. Arson or attempted arson under s. 806.01(1).
14. Aggravated assault under s. 784.021.
15. Aggravated stalking under s. 784.048(3), (4), (5), or (7).
16. Aircraft piracy under s. 860.16.
17. Unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb under s. 790.161(2), (3), or (4).
18. Treason under s. 876.32.

In accordance with current Florida law, VTC is intended to address the needs of an individual identified as a veteran, as defined in section 1.01, Florida Statutes, a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition, a servicemember, as defined in section 250.01, Florida Statutes, an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor, or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country, who is charged or convicted of a qualifying criminal offense, and who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem.⁶

It is important to note that the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, through AO S-2016-032, which superseded AO S-2015-012, consolidated the separate misdemeanor (county-level) and felony (circuit-level) courts into one VTC in order to facilitate continued effective and efficient operation of the problem-solving court. The relevant statutes are sections 948.16, 948.08, 948.21, and 394.47891 Florida Statutes.

Additional information regarding VTC can be found on the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's official website by following the link below:

<http://www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/DrugCourtPrograms/VeteransTreatmentCourt.aspx>

A. VTC MISSION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES.

The VTC Mission is to promote public safety and reduce recidivism through a non-adversarial, problem-solving approach that provides a continuum of treatment and rehabilitative services for VTC participants struggling with military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem.

1. VTC Goals.

- Develop treatment plans to meet the individual needs of VTC participants;

19. Any offense committed in another jurisdiction which would be an offense listed in this paragraph if that offense had been committed in this state.

⁶ See Section 948.08, Florida Statutes (2019).

- Rehabilitate VTC participants to foster their reintegration back into society; and
- Lower crime rates by reducing VTC participant recidivism.

2. VTC Objectives.

- Identify mental health and substance abuse risk factors;
- Implement therapeutic measures and incentives to encourage treatment; and
- Develop problem-solving skills for long-term care and recovery.

B. VTC ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSIBILITY,

In accordance with sections 948.08(7), 948.16 and 948.21 Florida Statutes, the VTC Judge shall first determine whether an individual is “eligible” for admission into VTC.⁷ An individual is eligible if he or she meets the following statutory criteria:

1. The individual is a veteran, as defined in section 1.01, Florida Statutes, a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition, a servicemember, as defined in section 250.01, Florida Statutes, an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor, or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country;
2. The individual suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem;
3. The individual is charged with a qualifying offense:
 - a. city ordinance violation, a county ordinance violation, or a misdemeanor offense,⁸ and/or

⁷ See also Simeone v. State, 276 So. 3d 797 (Fla. 4th DCA 2019), *cert. denied*, 2019 WL 6249335 (November 22, 2019).

⁸ See Section 948.16, Florida Statutes (2019).

- b. felony offense, other than a felony listed in section 948.06(8)(c), Florida Statutes;⁹
4. The individual voluntarily agrees to participate in VTC for a period of time based on the program's requirements and treatment plan established for the individual.

If an individual is deemed eligible for admission into VTC, the VTC Judge then shall determine whether to "admit" the individual into VTC.¹⁰ While the statutes allow for any trial judge to make a determination regarding the eligibility for admission into VTC, the jurisdictional practice gives preference to the VTC Judge to make this determination due to the specialization in this area.

C. VTC APPLICATION PROCESS.

In the VTC program, concerted efforts are made to identify potentially eligible individuals as early as possible upon their entry into the criminal justice system. The task of initial identification is the responsibility of all entities involved to include, but not limited to, judges, assistant state attorneys, and defense attorneys.

In order to enter VTC, potentially eligible individuals must first complete a VTC application, which can be found on the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's official website by following the link below:

<http://www.fljud13.org/courtprograms/drugcourtprograms/veteranstreatmentcour/forms.aspx>

The VTC applicant shall, with the assistance of his or her defense attorney, include in his or her application all relevant information and any supporting documentation regarding his or her military service and, as applicable, his or her military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem.

⁹ See Section 948.08, Florida Statutes (2019).

¹⁰ See Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes (2019); See also Simeone, 276 So. 3d at 804-805.

1. Discovery.

The rules of discovery apply to the VTC application process, including prior disclosure of witnesses intending to testify and evidence intended to be introduced by either party at the VTC pre-admission hearing.¹¹

2. Speedy Trial.

Acceptance into VTC requires a waiver of speedy trial. The submission of the VTC application, alone, does not constitute a waiver of speedy trial. However, a waiver of speedy trial can be made at any time during the process, based on the rule of speedy trial and applicable case law.¹²

Once the VTC application and any supporting documentation have been timely submitted to the State Attorney's Office and the VTC Case Manager, the assigned VTC Assistant State Attorney (ASA) shall conduct a preliminary, non-determinative assessment of the applicant's case and the VTC Case Manager shall schedule the applicant's case on the VTC docket for a pre-admission hearing.

It is important to note that all VTC applicants shall have their cases scheduled on the VTC docket for a pre-admission hearing as soon as practicable, unless the VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, has provided notice of a temporary suspension of any future eligible cases.

D. VTC ENROLLMENT PROCESS.

When the VTC Judge determines that the veteran is admitted to the VTC program, a base-line drug test will be given in court, and the participant will be scheduled for a veteran questionnaire (VETQ) session. The VETQ is a risk-need-responsivity tool which conforms with specialty court best practices. The answers given in response

¹¹ See generally Rule 3.220, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure (2019).

¹² See generally Rule 3.191, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure (2019).

to the VETQ are confidential to the VTC participant, but the results of the assessment are shared with the treatment court team and providers, upon request, for determination of risk level and case planning. In accordance with best practices, the risk level and needs flags will determine the appropriate conditions of the agreement.

Following the VETQ, the VTC participant's case will be set on the VTC docket for a status conference. In conjunction with the results of the VETQ, the State will prepare a VTC Agreement to be signed by all parties prior to the next court date. The VTC participant should begin treatment at the earliest possible time and can request to begin drug testing prior to signing the VTC Agreement. The VTC Judge will determine on a case by case basis whether credit for participation between acceptance and signing of the agreement will be awarded.

E. VTC TEAM.

The VTC Team is comprised of a presiding judge, attorneys representing the prosecution and defense, court case managers, supervision officers, veterans justice outreach coordinators and military mentors, as well as the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and community based treatment providers (specializing in a variety of mental health and substance abuse related disorders), who work collaboratively and incorporate a non-adversarial, problem-solving approach to assist VTC participants by:

- Identifying eligible participants early and promptly placing them in treatment.
- Providing access to continuum of treatment and rehabilitative services for drug, alcohol, and mental health issues.
- Developing and implementing treatment plans designed to meet individual needs through coordinated efforts of legal and medical professionals.
- Monitoring progress by setting standards and holding participants accountable through frequent drug and alcohol testing, consistent counseling, and regular court appearances.

- Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective planning, implementation, and operations.
1. Presiding Judge. The presiding Judge (otherwise referred to as the “VTC Judge”) serves as the leader of the VTC Team and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a non-adversarial, problem-solving approach for the VTC program. The focus and direction of the VTC is provided primarily through the effective leadership of the VTC Judge. The VTC Judge is responsible for maintaining his or her understanding of current law and best practices in specialty courts, participating regularly in case staffings, and giving due consideration to team member input. The final determination of an individual’s eligibility for and admissibility into VTC, treatment and rehabilitation plan (and any modifications thereto), imposition of program incentives or sanctions, progress or regress through program phases, and graduation or discharge (or termination) from the program rests exclusively within the discretion of the VTC Judge.
 2. Assistant State Attorney. The Assistant State Attorney (ASA) is responsible for ensuring the protection of the public, advocating for VTC participants’ treatment without compromising public safety and holding VTC participants accountable to their obligations in the program. The ASA’s duties and responsibilities include: (1) advocating for treatment, while protecting and enforcing public safety; (2) advocating for incentives and sanctions when appropriate; (3) monitoring the VTC participant’s compliance with program rules and requirements; and (4) protecting the VTC participant’s confidential information from persons outside of the VTC Team and Defense Team.
 3. Defense Attorney. The Defense Attorney is responsible for representing VTC participants by protecting their due process rights and advocating for case resolutions that are in the participants’ best interest. The Defense Attorney’s duties and responsibilities include: (1) advocating for treatment, while ensuring the VTC participant’s constitutional and statutory rights are protected; (2) ensuring the VTC participant’s due process rights are not infringed upon; (3) advocating for incentives and ensuring sanctions are

applied appropriately; (4) monitoring the VTC participant's compliance with program rules and requirements; (5) requesting and advocating for the VTC participant's graduation; (6) sharing information, while protecting attorney-client privilege, with the VTC Team as appropriate; and (7) protecting the VTC participant's confidential information from persons outside of the VTC Team and Defense Team.

4. Court Case Manager. The Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) is responsible for VTC case management, which is provided by a specialty court case manager (otherwise referred to as the "VTC Case Manager"), who is assigned to VTC and works under the direction of the Chief Judge or his or her designee, e.g., the VTC Judge. The VTC Case Manager assists the team in managing all VTC participant cases from application to the successful completion of the program. The VTC Case Manager is responsible for obtaining and maintaining all relevant information and data from team members, treatment providers, and supervising departments and agencies. The VTC Case Manager conducts the veteran questionnaire (VETQ) session and provides treatment options and resources to the team to assist VTC participants as they progress through each program phase.

5. Supervision Officer. The Supervision Officer, representing either the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) or the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), is responsible for the community supervision of VTC participants by reinforcing court-ordered terms and conditions of VTC participant agreements and providing updates to the VTC Team.

6. Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator. The Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (otherwise referred to as the "VJO") is an integral member of the VTC Team and provides guidance and liaison services for VTC participants as well as assists them with accessing other community-based treatment certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VJO, as defined by the VA, is to partner with the criminal justice system to identify veterans who would benefit from treatment as an alternative to

incarceration. The VJO ensures access to exceptional care, tailored to the individual needs, for justice-involved veterans by linking each veteran to VA and community services. The goal is to prevent homelessness, improve social and clinical outcomes, facilitate recovery and end veterans' cyclical contact with the criminal justice system. The VJO's duties and responsibilities include: (1) jail outreach; (2) linkage with and coverage of treatment court and other courts; (3) support of ancillary needs of the veteran; (4) documentation and clinical record keeping; (5) data tracking, monitoring and reporting; (6) liaison between the VA, the court, and community providers; and (7) maintain confidentiality and protect confidential information.

7. Military Mentor. The Military Mentor (otherwise referred to as the "VTC Mentor") provides a unique role in the VTC program, which does not include supervising or monitoring compliance of VTC participants; rather, the VTC Mentor volunteers his or her time to serve as a "battle buddy" to VTC participants. Through a shared military service-related bond, the VTC Mentor is able to provide support, guidance, and encouragement better enabling VTC participants to successfully complete the program. A VTC Mentor must: (1) be an active, reserve or former member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces; (2) be currently serving in good standing or discharged from service under honorable conditions; (3) pass a criminal background check; and (4) successfully complete the VTC Mentor Training Program¹³. The VTC Mentor shall develop a confidential relationship with VTC participants and is responsible for protecting any sensitive information shared by participants.
8. Treatment Providers. There are numerous approved treatment providers, both within the VA and in the community, who provide treatment to VTC participants for mental health and substance abuse related disorders. Treatment providers are educated and trained to provide treatment for mental health and substance abuse related disorders, consistent with evidence-based best practices in VTC. Treatment providers' duties and responsibilities include: (1) meeting with VTC participants to conduct assessments and

¹³ See Appendix C, VTC Mentor Training Program Manual.

evaluations; (2) developing treatment plans and adjusting as needed; and (3) providing the VTC Team with relevant treatment-related updates.

F. VTC TEAM RULES.

The following list of rules shall be adhered to by all members of the VTC Team:

1. VTC team members shall recognize, respect, and value the distinct roles of each individual member of the team.
2. VTC team members shall apply a non-adversarial, problem-solving approach to each case and promote a collaborative working environment that relies upon each team member's professional judgment, input, and advice on how best to meet treatment objectives and goals.
3. VTC team members shall display professionalism and courtesy to all VTC participants and each individual member of the team.
4. VTC team members shall discourage unprofessional or unethical advances from VTC participants and/or participant family members and should report the same to the VTC Judge, e.g., receiving gifts, services, etc.
5. VTC team members shall hold in confidence the information discussed during case staffings, status conference meetings, and court hearings regarding a VTC participant. Any sensitive information pertaining to a VTC participant shall be presented confidentially to the VTC Judge and, if during a court hearing, at the bench to minimize exposure in open court.
6. VTC team members shall abide by all state and federal confidentiality laws, except with the consent of the VTC participant, or when information is exchanged at case staffings or during court hearings. The exchange of information at case staffings and court hearings is limited to compliance or non-compliance with the requirements of the VTC Agreement.
7. VTC team members shall not share personal information with outside parties without the VTC participant's consent.
8. VTC team members, except as applicable to the VJO, shall not transport an active VTC participant to/from scheduled court appearances or to/from court-ordered treatment.

9. VTC team members shall maintain a professional relationship and appropriate boundaries with an active VTC participant.
10. VTC team members, except as applicable to the VJO and VTC Mentors, shall not attend any non-treatment related functions with an active VTC participant, e.g., social outings, vacations, family events, birthday parties, etc. (Note: medical, mental health, dental, and financial appointments shall not apply.)

G. VTC GENERAL RULES.

The following list of rules shall be adhered to by all VTC participants:

1. Sign all agreements and releases necessary for entrance into the program.
2. Report to court as required.
3. Report to supervision as required.
4. Appear on time for all court dates, treatment appointments, and other scheduled appointments as ordered by the VTC Judge.
5. Participate in any and all evaluations or assessments needed to develop a treatment plan.
6. Fully cooperate and actively participate in treatment, counseling, support groups, and any other court-ordered elements of a treatment plan.
7. Answer truthfully any question posed by the VTC Judge, attorneys, court case managers, supervision officers, VJOs, VTC Mentors, treatment providers, or any other member of the VTC Team.
8. Take any and all medications prescribed, in the manner prescribed. Disclose participation in a treatment program to any medical care provider.
9. Do not use or actually or constructively possess intoxicants, e.g., drugs, alcohol, or any dangerous substances including, but not limited to Spice, Kratom, K2, or any other synthetic herbal mixture labeled “not for human consumption.”¹⁴

¹⁴ See also Table 4. Examples of Prohibited Substances and Medications, Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual (2020).

10. Do not enter any establishment whose primary source of income is the sale of alcohol to include, but not limited to bars, liquor stores, pool halls, or nightclubs.
11. Submit to random urine, breath, hair, and other drug and/or alcohol testing throughout program participation as ordered by the VTC Judge or as required by treatment providers or supervision officers.
12. Do not commit or get arrested for a new criminal offense while participating in the VTC program.
13. Maintain employment or participate in a job-training program or enroll full-time in school, unless excused or modified by the VTC Judge. Upon request by the VTC Judge, attorneys, court case managers, supervision officers, or any other member of the VTC Team, produce verification of said employment, training or schooling and permit supervising officers to visit and/or contact representatives of said places of employment, training or schooling.
14. Do not leave the county of residence overnight without the permission of the VTC Judge. Requests to leave the county of residence should be made through the VTC participant's defense attorney either in court or via email through the court case manager. Requests for travel overnight outside the county of residence should be made, at a minimum, one (1) week in advance whenever possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for emergency situations. Denial or approval of travel with instructions regarding requirements for travel will be provided to the VTC participant's defense attorney.
15. Do not change place of residence without consent of the VTC Judge
16. Do not actively or constructively possess or attempt to possess any firearm, ammunition, or weapon while participating in the VTC program.
17. Do not actively or constructively possess or attempt to possess any alcohol, drug, or drug paraphernalia while participating in the VTC program.¹⁵
18. Allow visitation to place of residence and consent to random searches of your person, possessions, residence, and vehicle by the Florida Department of Corrections, law enforcement, or any other official authorized to conduct a

¹⁵ See also Table 4. Examples of Prohibited Substances and Medications, Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual (2020).

search by the VTC Judge for purposes of determining compliance with the terms and conditions of the program.

19. Behave and dress appropriately for court and treatment sessions.
20. Pay all required court costs and fees, costs of supervision, and any court-ordered restitution.
21. Do not share information relating to another participant's medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. Direct any questions regarding confidentiality to the defense attorney. (Note: State and Federal laws require strict confidentiality regarding issues relating to medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. The VTC Team may not share personal information with outside parties without your consent.)

H. VTC PHASES.

The *Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards* indicate that problem-solving courts have significantly better outcomes when they have a clearly defined phase structure and concrete behavioral requirements for advancement through the phases. The purpose of phase progression is to reward participants for their accomplishments and identify behavior expectations at each phase. Therefore, phase advancement should be predicated on the achievement of clinically important milestones, marking substantial progress towards recovery. *It is critically important to note that phase advancement should not be based simply on the length of time that participants have been enrolled in the program.* [Emphasis added].

VTC subscribes to a phase process listed below with each phase consisting of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities, and specific requirements for advancement to the next phase. VTC participants sign an agreement in which court phases are included as an Appendix. See below.

Phase I: Stabilization, Assessment, and Engagement

- Obtain clinical assessment
- Develop individualized case plan
- Comply with recommended treatment plan
- Address housing and transportation needs
- Consult with legal counsel

- Engage with veterans justice outreach
- Communicate with mentor, if assigned
- Comply with all supervision requirements
- Submit to random drug and/or alcohol testing
- Remain clean and sober for at least 30 days
- Appear in court on bi-weekly basis or as directed
- Remain in Phase I for minimum of 30 days
- Apply for advancement to Phase II

Phase II: Individualized Treatment and Participation

- Review and modify individualized case plan
- Comply with recommended treatment plan
- Secure stable housing and transportation
- Address finances, employment, education and/or job training
- Consult with legal counsel
- Engage with veterans justice outreach
- Communicate with mentor, if assigned
- Comply with all supervision requirements
- Submit to random drug and/or alcohol testing
- Remain clean and sober for at least 60 days
- Appear in court on monthly basis or as directed
- Remain in Phase II for minimum of 60 days
- Apply for advancement to Phase III

Phase III: Treatment Compliance and Social Habilitation

- Comply with recommended after-care plan
- Attend peer recovery groups
- Participate in pro-social activities
- Maintain stable housing and transportation
- Maintain stable finances, employment, education and/or job training
- Consult with legal counsel
- Engage with veterans justice outreach
- Communicate with mentor, if assigned
- Comply with all supervision requirements
- Submit to random drug and/or alcohol testing
- Remain clean and sober for at least 60 days
- Appear in court on monthly basis or as directed
- Remain in Phase III for minimum of 60 days
- Apply for advancement to Phase IV

Phase IV: Personal Maintenance and Relapse Prevention

- Comply with recommended after-care plan
- Attend peer recovery groups
- Participate in pro-social activities
- Establish independent living
- Address ancillary issues
- Consult with legal counsel
- Engage with veterans justice outreach
- Communicate with mentor, if assigned
- Comply with all supervision requirements
- Submit to random drug and/or alcohol testing
- Remain clean and sober for at least 60 days
- Appear in court on monthly basis or as directed
- Remain in Phase IV for minimum of 60 days
- Apply for advancement to Phase V

Phase V: Consistent Compliance and Transition to Graduation

- Adhere to after-care plan
- Attend peer recovery groups
- Participate in pro-social activities
- Consult with legal counsel
- Engage with veterans justice outreach
- Communicate with mentor, if assigned
- Satisfy all supervision requirements
- Submit to random drug and/or alcohol testing
- Remain clean and sober for at least 60 days
- Appear in court on monthly basis or as directed
- Remain in Phase V for minimum of 60 days
- Apply for graduation from adult post-adjudication court
- Terminate supervision and dismiss criminal case

Note: Accountability to meet program requirements during each phase will be addressed through appropriate incentives and sanctions.

I. VTC SUPERVISION.

All VTC participants are under a form of court-ordered supervision, supervised by either the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) for misdemeanor offenses or the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) for felony offenses. There are two

(2) types of supervision in VTC, one for pre-trial intervention case(s) and the other for post-adjudication case(s). Both types of supervision require that VTC participants meet with supervision officers at least one time per month. A VTC participant's supervision officer is periodically required to verify a participant's housing by conducting in-person home visits as well as a participant's employment by conducting either in-person employment visits or requiring the submission of pay stubs.

While participating in the VTC program, VTC participants are not permitted to travel outside Hillsborough County, Florida overnight without first receiving permission from the VTC Judge. Additionally, VTC participants must notify their defense attorney, court clerk, supervision officer, court case manager, VJO and VTC mentor, if applicable, if they change their residential and/or mailing address of record.

Once accepted into the VTC program, participants will receive detailed instructions on how to register with the supervising office or department. After registering, VTC participants will obtain specific supervision guidelines and be assigned a supervision officer based on their residential address of record.

For supervision related questions, please contact:

- Florida Department of Corrections – Felony Probation
Phone: (813) 233-3450

- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office – Misdemeanor Probation
Phone: (813) 318-5361

J. VTC INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS.

1. VTC Incentives.

Incentives for a VTC participant's compliant behavior may be recommended

by members of the VTC Team and granted at the VTC Judge's discretion to reinforce compliant behavior and encourage positive participation in the program. These incentives may include, but are not limited to:

- Less frequent court appearances
- Early docket call
- Judicial recognition and/or encouragement
- Permit travel (out of county or out of state)
- Decrease or waive community service hours
- Decrease or waive supervision costs and fees
- Convert court cost into community service hours
(rate: \$10.00 per hour)
- Credit community service hours with General Educational Diploma (GED)/college courses/vocational training
- Decrease drug and/or alcohol testing
- Decrease term of probation/supervision
- Formal graduation and certificate of completion/challenge coin
- Other incentives as the VTC Judge deems appropriate

2. VTC Sanctions.

Sanctions for a VTC participant's non-compliant behavior may be recommended by members of the VTC Team and granted at the VTC Judge's discretion to discourage non-compliant behavior and encourage positive participation in the program. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- More frequent court appearances
- Late docket call
- Judicial admonishment and/or reprimand
- Deny travel (out of county or out of state)
- Increase community service hours

- Impose written assignment/letter of apology
- Impose fine
- Impose curfew
- Impose no contact order
- Increase drug and/or alcohol testing
- Extend term of probation/supervision
- Impose period of incarceration (jail)
- Terminate from program court/reinstate criminal proceedings
- Other sanctions as the VTC Judge deems appropriate

K. VTC DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING.

All VTC participants are expected to remain drug and alcohol free. The VTC Judge monitors compliance with this requirement by frequent, random observed drug and alcohol tests. Testing for illegal drug and alcohol use are essential to all problem-solving court programs, particularly VTC, by providing a framework for accountability to gauge treatment progress. Drug and alcohol tests confirm abstinence and demonstrate compliance, serving as the foundation for incentives and sanctions along the path to graduation.

VTC participants must follow all court-ordered drug and alcohol testing requirements, which are typically conducted at designated VTC program locations, e.g., the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), Tampa Crossroads, or Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office (DACCO). VTC participants are placed on a “color-based call-in” system in which the participant calls a drug test phone line daily to determine if a urine drug screen (UDS) is required that day. VTC participants will receive the call-in instructions at the time of formal admission into the VTC program.

If a VTC participant is found to be non-compliant, i.e., tests “positive” for illegal drugs and/or alcohol via a presumptive UDS, the VTC Judge may order a lab confirmation test. The VTC participant may be responsible for the payment of any

lab confirmation costs and fees, if the lab confirmation test is positive for illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

Table 4 (below) provides a non-exhaustive list of prohibited substances and medications. A VTC or drug court specialist should be consulted for further clarification. In addition to illegal drugs and alcohol (in any form), VTC participants are prohibited from using certain prescription drugs and are required to have all prescriptions disclosed prior to purchasing or ingesting.

Any and all “designer drugs” that can be purchased legally or illegally are strictly prohibited. Any and all “smoking mixtures” (other than adult-only products specifically designated to contain only tobacco) are strictly prohibited. Any and all products sold or marketed under false pretenses with the warning “not for human consumption” are strictly prohibited. In addition, using and/or being in possession of any alternative or “replacement” drugs such as Methadone and/or Suboxone, as well as any substance intended to replace an otherwise illegal substance, is strictly prohibited unless prescribed by a state licensed medical provider.

All VTC participants should note the following:

1. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be performed frequently and on a random basis throughout VTC enrollment.
2. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be performed by a laboratory or program approved by VTC.
3. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be conducted on the first day of VTC to capture baseline information related to substance use.
4. You must arrive at the testing facility as soon as possible, after being notified that a test has been scheduled.
5. A testing facility staff member will directly observe the collection of test specimens. A same gender staff member will be the observer, unless the VTC participant, the defense attorney, or therapist requests otherwise.

6. Failure to provide a specimen of your own urine or sufficient volume of your urine for analysis is an infraction of the VTC rules; participants may receive sanctions accordingly. Sufficient time (up to one hour) and ability to drink water in the presence of staff is allotted to deliver a urine specimen.
7. You may not drink any fluid excessively before testing and must avoid environmental contaminants, over-the-counter medications, or foods that can reduce the accuracy of the tests (please refer to the prohibited substance list).
8. You may be subjected to immediate spot testing if the VTC Judge has reason to suspect recent use or during high-risk times, such as weekends or holidays.
9. You have the right to challenge the results of a screening test and to request proof that an adequate chain of custody was established for a specimen. The VTC Judge will rely on the results of an instrumented or laboratory-based test in confirming whether substance use has occurred. You may be charged the cost of the confirmation test if a screening test is confirmed as positive.
10. You may be sanctioned for providing diluted, adulterated, or substituted test specimens. Urine specimens below 90° F, above 100° F, or that have a creatinine level below 20 mg/dL will be presumed to be diluted or fraudulent. Participants bear the burden of establishing a convincing alternative explanation for such results.
11. You may be sanctioned for using synthetic substances such as Spice, Kratom, K2, or any other substance designed to avoid detection by standard drug and/or alcohol tests. Switching to a new substance of abuse (for example, switching from heroin to an unauthorized prescription opioid) will be presumed to be an effort to defraud the drug and/or alcohol test. You may be sanctioned in such circumstances.
12. You may be sanctioned for associating with people who are engaged in illegal drug and/or alcohol use or for being exposed to passive inhalation or secondhand smoke.

Table 4. Examples of Prohibited Substances and Medications.

**Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court
Prohibited Substances and Medications**

The list below provides examples of substances and medications that are prohibited in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). Please note this is not a complete list. Please contact the VTC case managers for the further clarification of any substance and/or medication not listed below.

Maintaining a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle is essential to your recovery. In addition to alcohol (in any form) and illegal substances, you are prohibited from using certain prescription medications and are required to have all prescriptions or over-the-counter medications approved by the VTC Judge prior to purchasing or ingesting any prescribed or over-the-counter medication.

Any and all “designer drugs” that can be purchased legally or illegally are strictly prohibited. Any and all “smoking mixtures” (other than products specifically designated to contain only tobacco – for adults only) are strictly prohibited. Any and all products sold or marketed under false pretenses with the warning “not for human consumption” are strictly prohibited. In addition, using and/or being in possession of any alternative or “replacement” drugs such as Methadone and/or Suboxone as well as any substance intended to replace an otherwise illegal substance is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate expulsion from the VTC program.

Examples of Prohibited Substances and Medication Classifications	Examples of substances prohibited in all Problem-Solving Court Programs are listed below. For medications, the brand name of the medication is referenced in “()” if the generic name is also listed. Many over-the-counter medications are also listed. Examples of “street” names are also included below.
Alcohol (In Any Form)	Alcoholic beverages, alcohol based medications (e.g., cough syrups, Nyquil, Robitussin), alcohol based mouthwash (e.g., Colgate, Crest, Listerine), alcohol based energy drinks.
Amphetamine	Adderall, Adipost, Benzedrine, Dexedrine, Dexatrim, Didrex, Phentermine (Adipex), Preludin, Ritalin, , Speed, Vyvanse, White, All medications containing Pseudoephedrine (Alka-Seltzer Cold, Claritin-D, Comtrex Acute, Contac Cold Maximum, Dayquil / Nyquil, Dristan Maximum, Kolephrin, Maxiflu, Robitussin, Sinarest, Sudafed, Tavist Allergy, Tylenol Cold or Allergy. <i>Note: There are non-pseudoephedrine “D” versions available for most of these.</i>
Barbiturate	Allobarbitol, Barbitol, Butalbital (Fiorinal), Phenobarbital (Luminal).
Benzodiazepine	Alprazolam (Xanax, Niravam), Clonazepam (Clonopin), Chlordiazepoxide (Librium), Diazepam (Valium), Flunirazepam (Rohypnol), Lorazepam (Ativan), Oxaprozin (Daypro), Oxazepam (Serax).
Cocaine	Examples of “street” names include, but are not limited to: Big C, Crack, Powder, Rock, Snow.
Dextromethorphan “DM”	Cold medications such as Alka Seltzer Cold, Coricidin, Dayquil, Dimetapp, Nyquil, Robitussin, Sudafed, Triaminic, Tylenol Cold, Vicks 44. <i>Note: There are non-dextromethorphan “DM” versions available for most of these.</i>
Hallucinogens	Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), Ecstasy, Ketamine, LSD, Mushrooms, PCP, Tryptamine.
Methamphetamine	Examples of “street” names include, but are not limited to Black Beauties, Chalk, Crank, Crystal, Glass, Ice, Meth, Tweak, Uppers.
Miscellaneous Substances	Appetite Suppressants (most are prohibited), Buprenorphine (Buprenex, Subutex, Suboxone), Caffeine Pills, Meperidine (Demerol), Fentanyl (Actiq, Duragesic), Inhalants, Kratom, Methadone, Steroids, Soma, Propoxyphene (Darvocet, Darvon), all Synthetic Substances, Xyrem (GHB), Poppy Seeds. <i>Note: This list includes anything labeled “Not for Human Consumption”.</i>
Opiate	Codeine (Cough meds, Tylenol 3), Heroin, Hydrocodone (Lortab, Loracet, Norco, Vicodin, Vicoprofen), Hydromorphone (Dilaudid), Morphine.
Oxycodone	Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet, Roxicet, Roxycodone).
THC (Cannabis)	Examples of “street” names include, but are not limited to Blunt, Bud, Dope, Grass, Herb, Joint, Marijuana, Mary Jane, Pot, Reefer, Roach, Weed.

L. VTC PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

1. Prescription Medication.

While enrolled in the VTC program, participants must disclose to their treatment provider all medications that they are currently prescribed. VTC participants will be asked to sign a Release of Information (ROI), giving the VTC Team the ability to communicate with any and all treating physicians and/or treatment providers. VTC participants are permitted to receive medication assisted treatment, e.g., Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Vivitrol, while participating in the VTC program; however, the decision to receive such treatment shall be left up to the participant and their treating physician and/or treatment provider. VTC participants shall inform a treatment provider of any other treatment provider they may be seeing simultaneously.

VTC participants who receive medical care for a health-related condition while in the program are required to inform their attending physician, nurse, and/or healthcare provider that they are participating in a mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment program. Additionally, VTC participants are required to notify their mental health and substance abuse disorder treating physicians and/or treatment providers, and all other members of the VTC Team when prescribed medication while in the program. VTC participants must present valid proof of any and all prescriptions issued by their attending physician, nurse, and/or healthcare provider.

2. Medical Marijuana.¹⁶

In June 2014, the State of Florida legalized access to medical marijuana when the “Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act” was signed into law. The Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act¹⁷ allowed patients suffering from

¹⁶ See <https://www.cannamd.com/what-are-floridas-medical-marijuana-laws/>.

¹⁷ See Florida Senate Bill 1030 (2014).

cancer, epilepsy, chronic seizure, or muscle spasms to use low-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) cannabis products prescribed by a Florida licensed physician. Physicians and patients had to register on the Compassionate Use Registry, an online database maintained by the Florida Department of Health.

In March 2016, following the passage of the Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act, state legislation passed expanding access to medical marijuana for eligible patients who had “a terminal condition, which, without the administration of life-sustaining procedures, will result in death within one year if the condition runs its normal course.” Later, in November 2016, “The Florida Medical Marijuana Legalization Initiative,” also known as “Amendment 2,” was placed on the ballot and was passed by Florida voters.¹⁸ Several months later, state legislation passed outlining rules for the use and administration of low THC cannabis or medical marijuana.¹⁹ Following the passage of Senate Bill 8A, the Florida Department of Health established the Office of Medical Marijuana Use to implement these rules and changed the name of the Compassionate Use Registry to the “Medical Marijuana Use Registry.”²⁰

a. VTC General Policy.

In accordance with Florida law, VTC participants may use low THC cannabis or medical marijuana if they comply with the rules for such use as provided by applicable statute and the Florida Department of Health, Office of Medical Marijuana Use. The VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, may approve the use, deny the use, suspend the use, or

¹⁸ Florida Amendment 2 gives patients the right to use medical marijuana if they have been diagnosed with any of the following conditions: ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease), Cancer, Crohn’s Disease, Epilepsy, Glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson’s Disease, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)*, Any Terminal Condition, and Chronic Nonmalignant Pain** (*This condition requires psychiatric diagnosis; **Pain that is caused by or that originates from a qualifying medical condition and persists beyond the usual course of that condition).

See <https://www.cannamd.com/what-are-floridas-medical-marijuana-laws/>.

¹⁹ See Senate Bill 8A (2017).

²⁰ See <https://www.cannamd.com/what-are-floridas-medical-marijuana-laws/>.

reinstate the use (after suspension) of low THC cannabis or medical marijuana by VTC participants.

Moreover, before VTC participants are permitted to use low THC cannabis or medical marijuana, VTC participants must comply with the following conditions: 1) VTC participants must possess a valid “Medical Marijuana Use Registry Identification Card” (hereinafter referred to as “medical marijuana card”); 2) the medical marijuana card must be issued by The Office of Medical Marijuana Use, who is certified by the State of Florida to issue such medical marijuana card; 3) the low THC cannabis or medical marijuana must be legally purchased, acquired, or obtained from a Florida licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MMTC); 4) the low THC cannabis or medical marijuana cannot be issued for more than three (3) seventy-day periods of supply;²¹ and 5) the low THC cannabis or medical marijuana must be purchased, acquired, or obtained and used during the period of time indicated on the medical marijuana card.

b. VTC Participant Obligations.

- i. VTC participants, who decide to use low THC cannabis or medical marijuana while in the program, must provide a copy of the State of Florida issued Medical Marijuana Card to the State Attorney’s Office through the VTC participant’s defense attorney for verification of the license and orders.
- ii. VTC participants, who decide to use low THC cannabis or medical marijuana while in the program, must report to the physician who orders the low THC and/or medical marijuana that the VTC participant is participating in a substance abuse and mental health

²¹ Low THC and Medical Marijuana orders may vary pursuant to the law and doctor recommendations. VTC participants should consult with his or her defense attorney and Florida Statute 381.986 for details regarding compliance with the law.

problem solving court and is in treatment. Verification of the same must be provided to the Court through the VTC participant's defense attorney.

- iii. VTC participants are only permitted to use the low THC and/or medical marijuana as ordered and legally obtained through State of Florida licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Center.

M. VTC SESSIONS AND ATTENDANCE.

The VTC Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is Judge Michael J. Scionti, who conducts VTC once a week in the George Edgecomb (Hillsborough County) Courthouse, Criminal Annex, Fifth Floor in Courtroom 52, unless stated otherwise. All VTC hearings are open to the public, except case staffings, which are closed proceedings, where VTC team members share relevant, confidential information as well as discuss treatment and compliance or non-compliance related information regarding each VTC participant.

VTC participants are required to attend all scheduled court hearings and supervision, and treatment sessions, unless their presence is waived, or absence is pre-approved, by the VTC Judge. VTC participants must make every effort to be prompt for all scheduled court hearings and supervision and treatment sessions, avoid late appearances or unexcused absences, and maintain regular communication with their defense attorney, supervision officer, VJO, VTC mentor, and treatment providers. Late appearances or unexcused absences to a scheduled supervision or treatment session may result in a sanction, as set forth more specifically herein, being imposed by the VTC Judge. Failure to appear to a scheduled court session may result in an arrest warrant being issued by the VTC Judge.

VTC participants should immediately notify the applicable party, e.g., defense attorney, supervision officer, VJO, VTC mentor, and/or treatment provider, if an unexpected or emergency matter arises that conflicts with a scheduled court,

supervision, or treatment session. VTC participants shall reschedule any missed court, supervision, or treatment session as soon as possible.

VTC participants are expected to dress appropriately for all scheduled court, supervision, and treatment sessions, whether appearing in person or on video teleconference, arrive at or before the scheduled time, and remain for the duration of their session. It should be noted that the VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, will spend all the time necessary to adequately address the VTC participant's needs and issues during the court session.

N. VTC TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION.

While participating in the VTC program, VTC participants are not permitted to travel outside Hillsborough County, Florida overnight without first receiving permission from the VTC Judge. VTC participants, who are granted permission to travel outside Hillsborough County, Florida, shall comply with all terms and conditions of the VTC program, specifically all court-ordered drug and alcohol testing requirements, while in travel status. VTC participants are required to locate a licensed and certified drug testing facility, in advance of their travel, and make arrangement to submit to a urine drug screen (UDS), should the need arise while in travel status in accordance with their court-ordered drug and alcohol testing requirements.

VTC participants are responsible for securing their own transportation to all scheduled court, supervision, and treatment sessions. The VTC Judge or treatment providers, however, may provide bus passes to assist with a participant's local transportation needs, upon availability and as appropriate.

Other transportation resources that may be able to assist VTC participants:

- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)
Phone: (813) 384-6301

- Hillsborough County Sunshine Line
Phone: (813) 272-7272

O. VTC COSTS, FEES, AND FINES.

There are expenses associated with participating in the VTC program. These expenses include, but are not limited to, court costs and fees, supervision costs and fees, treatment costs and fees, drug and alcohol testing costs and fees, and restitution. VTC participants may be required to pay for all or some of these expenses in order to meet their financial obligations and graduate from the VTC program.

The expenses associated with participating in the VTC program shall be outlined in each VTC participant's agreement. Participants should address all VTC related expenses with their defense attorney prior to signing the VTC participant's agreement and formally entering the VTC program.

1. Treatment Costs and Fees.

Several factors can determine treatment costs and fees, including grant eligibility, VA benefits, health insurance coverage, and personal income. VTC participants should contact their treatment and health insurance providers directly to get more information about associated costs and fees, applicable coverage, and/or eligible benefits.

2. Supervision Costs and Fees.

VTC participants, who have been determined indigent and are unable to pay supervision costs and fees, may request to have these expenses waived by the VTC Judge. The decision whether to waive these expenses rests exclusively within the discretion of the VTC Judge. (Note: DOC has the discretion to waive its own supervision costs.)

3. Court Costs and Fees.

VTC participants, who have been determined indigent and are unable to pay court costs and fees, may request to have these expenses converted to community service hours (at a rate of \$10.00 per hour) by the VTC Judge. The decision whether to convert these expenses to community service hours rests exclusively within the discretion of the VTC Judge.

4. Drug and Alcohol Testing Costs and Fees.

VTC participants, who are subject to court-ordered drug and alcohol testing requirements, will not be required to pay for such testing, provided the testing is performed in Hillsborough County, Florida. (Note: VTC participants under DOC supervision will be charged a one-time fee for drug testing.) VTC participants, who elect to perform court-ordered drug and alcohol testing outside of Hillsborough County, Florida, will be required to pay for such testing. Additionally, if a VTC participant tests “positive” for illegal drugs and/or alcohol via a presumptive UDS, the VTC Judge may order a lab confirmation test. The VTC participant may be responsible for the payment of any lab confirmation costs and fees, if the lab confirmation test is positive for illegal drugs and/or alcohol.

5. Restitution.

Depending on the facts and circumstance associated with a case(s), the VTC Judge may order the VTC participant to pay restitution to the victim(s). If restitution is ordered, the VTC participant may not graduate from the VTC program until restitution is paid in full.

6. Fines.

No statutory fine, as applicable, shall be imposed on VTC participants, who enter the VTC program under a pre-trial intervention agreement and

successfully complete the program; however, VTC participants, who are unsuccessfully or administratively discharged from the program, will remain subject to a statutory fine, as applicable.

VTC participants, who enter the VTC program under a post-adjudication agreement, may be subject to a statutory fine, as applicable.

P. VTC CASE STAFFINGS.

According to the *Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards*, VTC case staffings are necessary to review participant progress, develop plans to improve outcomes, and prepare for court sessions. Case staffings occur prior to, but as close as possible to the scheduled court session to ensure the most accurate and current information is presented to the VTC Judge. Case staffings are closed proceedings and involve the participation of the entire VTC Team to include, but not limited to, the VTC Judge, defense attorneys, assistant state attorneys, court case managers, supervision officers, VJOs, VTC mentors, and treatment providers. During case staffings, VTC team members share relevant, confidential information as well as discuss treatment and compliance or non-compliance related information regarding each VTC participant to include, but not limited to:

- Assessment results pertaining to an individual’s eligibility, treatment, and supervision needs;
- Attendance at scheduled appointments, meetings, and testings;
- Drug and/or alcohol test results, including efforts to defraud or invalidate tests;
- Attainment of treatment plan goals, such as completion of required counseling;
- Evidence of symptom resolution, such as reductions in drug and/or alcohol cravings or withdrawal symptoms;

- Evidence of treatment-related attitudinal improvements, such as increased insight or motivation for change;
- Attainment of court phase requirements, such as obtaining and maintaining employment or enrolling in an educational program;
- Compliance with electronic monitoring, home curfews, travel limitations, and geographic or association restrictions;
- Adherence to legally prescribed and authorized medically assisted treatments;
- Procurement of unauthorized prescriptions for addictive or intoxicating medications;
- Commission of or arrests for a new criminal offense(s);
- Menacing, threatening, or disruptive behavior directed at staff members, veterans, or other persons; and
- Barriers to success such as housing, transportation, education, employment, health, or other issues.

Depending on the VTC participant's compliance with the VTC program's terms and conditions, specifically his or her compliance with mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment and counseling, compliance with drug and/or alcohol monitoring, compliance with court-ordered sanctions and restrictions, and compliance with the law, i.e., not getting arrested for a new law violation or criminal offense, the VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, may grant incentives or impose sanctions on participants, advance, repeat or return participants to a designated phase, or terminate or graduate participants from the VTC program.

Case staffings are conducted as necessary to ensure adequate monitoring and supervision of the VTC participant and to ensure treatment is meeting their individual needs. Consistent VTC team member attendance at case staffings is associated with significantly better outcomes for VTC participants. By receiving input from all team members, the VTC Judge is better able to decide what treatment

plan, and any modification thereto, is in the best interest of the VTC participant. In the event that time constraints do not permit all cases to be timely staffed, the VTC Judge may determine that a participant's case can be staffed on the day of court, either prior to court, during a court recess, or during a bench conference. In all cases, the VTC Team gives the necessary attention to adhere to best practices.

Case staffings are presumptively closed and discussions are not transcribed or recorded. To ensure confidentiality of information provided, case staffings are not open to the public or to the VTC participant, unless the VTC Judge determines that the participant's presence is necessary to address a specific matter. The VTC Team must take all necessary precautions to protect VTC participants from harm that could result from the public disclosure of highly sensitive personal, clinical, or treatment related information. Should a VTC participant attend a case staffing, the VTC Team shall ensure that no other case is discussed in the presence of the attending participant.

It is important to note that the VTC Judge shall make no final decision on any disputed fact(s) or legal issue(s) regarding a VTC participant's case during staffing. The VTC Judge, in turn, shall reserve ruling on the matter, and once in open court on the record, conduct a hearing with all parties represented before rendering a decision.

Q. VTC TREATMENT REPORTING PROCEDURES.

The VTC Case Manager will provide a list of VTC participants to each treatment provider (or the assigned treatment counselor) in advance of case staffings to allow timely Treatment Status Review preparation. Prior to each case staffing, the treatment counselor will prepare and submit a Treatment Status Review report electronically to the VTC Case Manager relating to each participant who is scheduled to appear on the VTC docket. The Treatment Status Review shall address, at a minimum, the following questions:

1. What is the VTC participant's attendance status?

2. How do you describe the VTC participant's level of participation?
3. Describe the VTC participant's progress in terms of individual treatment plan goal accomplishments such as "stages of change".
4. Describe urine drug screen (UDS) test results including dates of positive or missed screens.
5. What special issues, if any, does the VTC Judge need to address with the VTC participant?
6. What is projected discharge date and aftercare plan for the VTC participant?

R. VTC DISCHARGE PROCEDURES.

1. Successful Discharge.

A VTC participant is eligible for successful discharge (or graduation) from the VTC program if the VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, and after considering the recommendation of the treatment program and the recommendation of the state attorney, determines that the VTC participant has successfully completed all of the terms and conditions of the VTC program, and that discharge (or graduation) from the program is appropriate.

Once a VTC participant appears eligible for successful discharge (or graduation), the defense attorney representing the VTC participant may request a successful discharge (or graduation) date. Upon the defense attorney's request, the VTC team shall address the VTC participant's eligibility for successful discharge (or graduation) with the VTC Judge. The VTC Judge shall, after full consideration, determine whether all program terms and conditions have been completed and that successful discharge (or graduation) from the program is appropriate.

On the day of successful discharge (or graduation), the VTC Judge shall conduct a graduation ceremony, conditions permitting,²² during which the VTC Judge will present the participant with a certificate of completion and commemorative “challenge” coin, as well as on the record, find that the VTC participant has successfully completed all of the terms and conditions of the VTC program, and dismiss the participant’s case(s) in the pre-trial intervention program or successfully terminate the participant’s case(s) in post-adjudication program. If the participant successfully completes the pre-trial intervention program, the defense attorney will make a motion to dismiss all charges and prepare the standard Order of Dismissal Due to Defendant’s successful Completion of Terms and Conditions of Veterans Treatment Court for the judge’s signature. A sample of this order can be found on the VTC information page of the 13th Judicial Website.

2. Unsuccessful Discharge.

A VTC participant is subject to an unsuccessful discharge (or termination) from the VTC program if he or she has not complied with any term or condition of the program or violates the court’s order. The VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, may determine that unsuccessful discharge (or termination) from the program is appropriate. The VTC participant shall be informed of the basis for his or her potential unsuccessful discharge from VTC and be afforded the right to a hearing, with the assistance of his or her defense attorney, to present any mitigation on his or her behalf at an unsuccessful discharge (or termination) hearing.

a. Pre-Trial Diversion Cases.

If the VTC participant elects to have a discharge (or termination)

²² In response to Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order (AO) SC-20-13 “COVID-19 Emergency Procedures in the Florida State Courts,” dated March 13, 2020, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit issued AO S-2020-019, dated March 18, 2020, taking affirmative action to mitigate the effects of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the courts and court participants, and temporarily suspended all court proceedings, except for essential court functions and proceedings. This AO has since been superseded by public health conditions-based AOs, which direct the implementation of safety measures and adherence to safety protocols and procedures under a phased approach.

hearing, the VTC Judge shall, after full consideration, enter an order on the record either discharging the participant from the VTC program or allowing the participant to continue in the program. If the VTC participant is discharged (or terminated) from the VTC program, the VTC Judge shall transfer the participant's case(s) back to the criminal division where the case(s) originated; otherwise, the participant's case(s) shall be assigned and transferred to a criminal division by the VTC Clerk. Additionally, if the State Attorney's Office reduced a criminal charge(s) for the purposes of entering VTC, the criminal charge(s) will revert to the offense originally charged.

b. Post-Adjudication Cases.

Upon the filing of a Violation of Probation (VOP) affidavit, in accordance with law, the VTC participant is entitled to a VOP hearing and all of the rights afforded for a VOP hearing. If the VTC participant is found to be in violation of probation, the participant is entitled to a sentencing hearing in accordance with Chapter 921 of the Florida Statutes. The VTC Judge may find it appropriate to unsuccessfully discharge the participant from VTC as part of the sentence. The VTC Judge shall, after full consideration, enter an order on the record either discharging the participant from the VTC program or allowing the participant to continue in the program.

3. Administrative Discharge.

If a VTC participant cannot complete the VTC program, through no fault of his or her own, the participant may request to have his or her criminal case(s) administratively discharged. Examples include, but are not limited to, mental illness, medical necessity, or death. The VTC Judge, acting within his or her discretion, may enter an order administratively discharging the participant from the VTC program. Additionally, the VTC Judge shall transfer the participant's case(s) back to the criminal division where the case(s)

originated; otherwise, the participant's case(s) shall be assigned and transferred to a criminal division by the VTC Clerk.

VII. INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL.

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit makes every attempt to prevent the spread of infectious disease in the George Edgecomb (Hillsborough County) Courthouse complex. There are infectious disease control measures used for decreasing the risk of transmission of diseases, e.g., Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19).

Universal precautions are used during interaction with all VTC participants regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Please know that VTC team members are required to report instances of infectious disease that pose a threat to the public to the Hillsborough County Health Department.

VIII. RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

The identity and privacy of all VTC participants shall be protected, consistent with Florida law. Pursuant to these regulations, VTC policies and procedures have been developed to safeguard information and ensure confidentiality for all participants.

VTC participants will be required to sign release of information forms, allowing the transfer of information among all participating court, supervision, and treatment offices, agencies and departments.

VTC participants are expected to respect and maintain the confidentiality of other program participants and will be held accountable by the VTC Judge for any breach of confidentiality.

IX. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

1. What happens if participants relapse or violate the terms and conditions of the VTC program?

ANSWER: While the relapse or violation of any term and/or condition of the VTC program may result in the unsuccessful discharge (or termination) from the program, the VTC Team is mindful of the difficulties associated with mental health and substance abuse disorders and will work with VTC participants who are committed to their sobriety, treatment, and long-term recovery. Relapse or violations typically result in treatment modifications and/or sanctions to discourage non-compliant behavior and encourage positive participation in the program.

2. Do participants give up their legal rights by entering VTC?

ANSWER: No. VTC is a voluntary mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment program where participants have the right to legal representation at every stage of the process. VTC participants have the right to a hearing and legal representation at that hearing in the event of an alleged violation of the VTC program terms and conditions. However, if a VTC participant decides to contest or litigate the criminal case(s), the VTC Judge will administratively discharge the participant from VTC and transfer his or her case(s) back to its original division.

3. Can participants drink alcohol while in VTC?

ANSWER: No. The drinking, ingestion and/or consumption of alcohol (in any form) is prohibited and strictly enforced in VTC.

4. If participants have been using illegal drugs and/or alcohol (in any form) up until their entry into VTC, will participants be violated for a positive urine drug screen (UDS)?

ANSWER: No. If participants report recent drug and/or alcohol use to the VTC Judge, they will be allowed a reasonable period of time to screen negative; however, a participant's continued use after entering the program may result in treatment modifications, sanctions, or unsuccessful discharge (or termination) from the VTC program.

5. Does the VTC program successfully address mental health and substance abuse disorders?

ANSWER: Yes. Many national studies have demonstrated that when following evidence-based practices, the combination of drug treatment, case management, drug and alcohol testing, and vigorous judicial oversight effectively assists individuals who struggle with mental health and substance abuse disorders, and serves as an efficient method for reducing the costs of drug-related crimes.

6. If VTC participants successfully complete the program, can they have their charge(s) sealed and/or expunged?

ANSWER: VTC participants should consult with their defense attorney for legal advice as not all charges are eligible to be sealed and/or expunged. Please visit the Clerk of the Court's website at www.hillsclerk.com or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) website at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Seal-and-Expunge-Process/Seal-and-Expunge-Home.aspx> for instructions and eligible charges.

Appendix A: Problem-Solving Court Treatment Providers.

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT TREATMENT PROVIDERS			
AGENCY	PHONE NUMBER / ADDRESS	SERVICES PROVIDED	REFERRAL PROCESS / CONTACTS
ACTS	<p>4612 N. 56th St. Tampa, FL 33610 Phone: 813-246-4899 Fax: 813-246-5119</p> <p>Tarpon Springs 3575 Old Keystone Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 Phone: 727-935-0295 Fax: 727-934-0123</p> <p>Juvenile Addictions Receiving Facility (JARF) Phone: 813-933-4446 Detox: 813-367-2317 Fax: 813-239-8261</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outpatient detox - Outpatient - Residential - Drug Screening - Adult detox services - Juvenile detox services - Medication Assisted Treatment - Recovery Support - Aftercare 	<p>Ryan Ingram for Medical Records Phone: 813-246-4899 Fax: 813-246-5119 Email: ringram@actsfl.org</p> <p>Clinical Director: Pamela Troutman Phone: 813-239-8568, Ext. 439</p> <p>Intake Specialist: Tyra Davis Phone: 813-239-8568</p> <p>Pinellas / Tarpon Springs Clinical Supervisor: Nicole Brenneman Email: nbrenneman@actsfl.org</p> <p>JARF: Richard Gibbons Phone: 813-933-4446 Email: rgibbons@actsfl.org</p>
Baycare Behavioral Health	<p>Outpatient: 2727 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 640 Phone: 813-872-7582 Fax: 813-873-9591</p> <p>Community Recovery Center: 6040 Indiana Avenue New Port Richey, Florida 34653 Phone: 727-841-4475 Fax: 727-841-4478</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outpatient treatment - Residential treatment 	<p>Outpatient: (for Behavioral Health Registration) Phone: 813-428-6181</p> <p>CRC: Diane Linder Phone: 727-841-4475, Ext. 36 Email: diane.linder@baycare.org</p>
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay	<p>One Crisis Center Plaza Tampa, FL 33613 Main: 813-964-1964 Fax: 813-868-3996</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 211 Contact Center/ Veterans Support Line - Trauma Therapy - Strengthening Families Program 	<p>Veterans Hotline: Mordecai Dixon Phone: 813-964-1964, Ext 3418 Email: mdixon@crisiscenter.com</p> <p>Trauma Therapy, fill out referral form in JOIN and fax to 813-868-3996</p> <p>Strengthening Families: Trina Kucera Phone: 813-530-6017 Email: tkucera@crisiscenter.com</p>
DACCO	<p>Main Campus: 4422 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL 33605</p> <p>Outpatient: 1463 Oakfield Dr. Suite 113 Brandon, FL 33511 Phone: 813-384-4000 Fax: 813-612-9373</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention Services - Specialty Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS • Vocational • Day Care • Acupuncture • Supportive Housing - Outpatient / IOP Services - Residential Services - Day Treatment - Supportive Recovery 	<p>Assessment & Referrals Program Manager: Debra Thomas Phone: 813-384-4115 Cell: 813-254-2771 Fax: 813-740-0823 Email: debrat@dacco.org</p>

AGENCY	PHONE NUMBER / ADDRESS	SERVICES PROVIDED	REFERRAL PROCESS / CONTACTS
Florida Center / Avon Park	100 W. College Dr. Avon Park, FL 3858 Phone: 863-452-3858 Fax: 813-452-3863	- Residential co-occurring mental health and substance abuse treatment	Twila Titus Phone: 863-452-3858, Ext. 150 Email: ttitus@TCHSonline.org
Gracepoint	Main Campus: 2212 E. Henry Ave. Tampa, FL 33610 Phone: 813-272-2882		Website: GracePointWellness.org
MacDill Air Force Base			Mental Health Clinic: Phone: 813-827-9170 Fax: 813-828-6868 SOCOM Clinic: Phone: 813-827-9870 Fax: 813-828-4436
Operation Par	Administration: 6655 66th Street North Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Phone: 727-545-7564 Fax: 727-545-7584 Outpatient: 13800 66th St. North Largo, FL 33774 PAR Academy 6720 54th Ave. N St. Petersburg, FL 33709	- Residential services - Outpatient: services - Juvenile residential services - Medication Assisted treatment - Detoxification	Access Center: Phone: 1-888-727-6398
Phoenix House	Residential: 15681 US Hwy 301 Citra, FL 32113 Phone: 352-595-5000 Outpatient: 510 Vonderburg Dr., Suite #301 Brandon, FL 33511 Phone: 813-881-1000	- Residential Services Outpatient Services	Welcome Center: Phone: 813-881-1000, Ext. 1
Salvation Army	Tampa Adult Rehabilitation Center 13815 Salvation Army Ln. Tampa, FL 33602 Phone: 813-972-0471 Fax: 813-971-0792	- Residential treatment services for males	Intake Coordinator: Todd Quick Phone: 813-972-047, Ext. 59074 Email: todd.quick@uss.salvationarmy.org
Tampa Crossroads	Administration and Non-Residential: 5109 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL 33603 Phone: 813-238-8557, Ext. 200 Residential: 202 W. Columbus Dr. Tampa, FL 33602 Phone: 813-238-8557, Ext. 400	- Residential Treatment for Women - Intensive Outpatient Treatment - Transitional Housing - Permanent Housing - Housing for Veterans - Job Development and coaching	Residential: 813-238-8557, Ext. 400 Non-Residential: 813-238-8557, Ext. 200 Veterans: 813-238-8557, Ext. 300 Clinical Director: Gwen Green Phone: 813-238-8557, Ext. 202 Email: ggreen@tampacrossroads.com

AGENCY	PHONE NUMBER / ADDRESS	SERVICES PROVIDED	REFERRAL PROCESS / CONTACTS
VA: James A. Haley SUDS Program	10770 N. 46th Street, Suite E-160 Tampa, FL 33617 Phone: 813-631-7123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive Outpatient - Standard Outpatient - Referral to Choice 	Walk-in SUDS evaluations available at 8:00 am. Questions or concerns please contact VJO Erika Lucas or VJO Tito Wilgo Tito Wilgo 813-442-9355 tito.williams@va.gov Erika Lucas 813-450-7219 erika.lucas@va.gov
Westcare	1735 Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Street S. St. Petersburg, FL 8800 49th St. N., Suite 403 St. Petersburg, FL Phone: 727-502-0188 Pinellas Park, FL 33782 Phone: 727-490-6762 Fax: 727-541-3993 1801 5th Ave. N St. Petersburg, FL 33713 Phone: 727-823-7811 Fax: 727-823-7717 Intake office: Ext. 221 or 233 1735 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33705 Phone: 727-502-0188 Fax: 727-502-9380 Intake: Ext. 243 2510 Central Ave St. Petersburg, FL 33712 Phone: 727-490-6769 Fax: 727-321-7968 PTT Program Phone: 727-560-8649	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential treatment for women and men - Non-secure (short-term) - 7 to 8 months Secure (long-term) - 13 to 18 months - Outpatient - A Turning Point - Mustard Seed - Mustard Seed - Veterans Community Living 	Veronica Almy Wright Phone: 727-502-0188, Ext. 237 Fax: 727-802-0805 Email: veronica.wright@westcare.com Elizabeth Darby Email: elizabeth.darby@westcare.com Katrina Tucker Email: katrina.tucker@westcare.com Angela Drayton Email: angela.drayton@westcare.com Angela Drayton Email: angela.drayton@westcare.com

Appendix B: Veterans Treatment Court Administrative Orders (AOs).

For reference to the following VTC AOs, please visit the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit VTC website at:

<https://www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/DrugCourtPrograms/VeteransTreatmentCourt/RelatedAdministrativeOrders.aspx>

1. AO S-2013-054 (October 1, 2013)
2. AO S-2014-060 (February 1, 2015)
3. AO S-2014-065 (February 1, 2015)
4. AO S-2015-012 (February 1, 2015)
5. AO S-2016-032 (October 1, 2016)

Appendix C: VTC Mentor Training Program Manual.

For reference to the VTC Mentor Training Program Manual, please visit the Mentors of Hillsborough County Veterans website at:

<https://www.hillsboroughcountymentors.org/>