

**Attachment B:  
Volunteer Mentoring  
Program  
Information Sheet**



## **Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project Mentoring Program Information Sheet**

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Veteran's Mentoring Program is to support the veteran through their readjustment to civilian life, to assist the veteran navigate through the court, treatment, and VA systems, and to act as a friend and ally through this difficult time.

### **Vision Statement**

The Vision of the Veteran's Mentoring Program is that "No Veteran is left Behind."

Having veterans participate as mentors is an important part of the Buffalo Veteran's Treatment Court as there is a bond that occurs between veterans around the values that are shared and the sacrifices that have been made.

The Mentoring Program offers support and encouragement for veterans in the court system by spending one-on-one time with the veteran after they appear during the proceedings of the Veteran's Specialty Court. These mentoring sessions usually do not last longer than 10 minutes and give the veteran the opportunity to bring up concerns and get feedback and support from another veteran. The Mentor has a Resource book at his/her disposal to refer Veterans to a wide range of available services. These include Medicaid (for vets Family), Food Stamps, Civil Service agencies, employment, housing, legal, etc. etc. The Mentor is a resource to the Vet, NOT A COUNSELOR.

Trainings on how to lead a mentoring session, what to ask, how to ask, and how to listen to the answers, are offered as part of the orientation trainings. In addition, program specific trainings are also offered through the State OASAS Division, including information about the court system and the VA system.

The Buffalo Veteran's Treatment Court Mentoring Program also offers support and supervision to all of the mentors from the Team Leaders and the Mentor Coordinator as well as from the other mentors in the program. Support is the main component of the program, for the veterans involved with the court system as well as the mentors in the program.

The Mentoring Program is looking for a six month commitment from all volunteer mentors in order to maintain the program at a level that will be effective in supporting the veterans in the court system. All potential mentors are required to fill out an application and complete a short face-to-face interview with the Mentor Coordinator and each Team Leader before being accepted into the program. Observational activities, including observing the court proceedings and observing other mentors, will be completed prior to a new mentor leading a mentoring session.



## Volunteer Veteran Mentor Position Description

### **Main Function:**

The role of the Volunteer Veteran Mentor is to act as a coach, a guide, a role model, an advocate, and a support for the individuals s/he is working with. A mentor is intended to encourage, guide, and support the mentee as s/he progresses through the court process. This will include listening to the concerns of the mentee and making general suggestions, assisting the mentee determine what their needs are, and acting as a support for the mentee at a time when they may feel alone in a way that only another veteran can understand.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Attend at least one out of every four court sessions which occur on alternating Tuesdays.
- Participate in and lead mentoring sessions with veterans who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties veterans face.
- Assist the veterans as much as possible to resolve their concerns around the court procedures as well as interactions with the Veteran's Administration system.
- Be supportive and helpful to the other mentors within the program.

### **Requirements:**

- Be a veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military, including the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve or Guard branches. You must have a Honorable Discharge and provide a DD 214 stating such
- Adhere to all of the Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project policies and procedures.
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of six months.
- Participate in additional trainings throughout time of service.
- Go through our Vetting process (police background check)

### **Desirable Qualities:**

- Willing listener
- Encouraging and supportive
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences

For more information or an application, please contact the Buffalo Veteran's Court Diversion Project, Mentor Coordinator at 845-2789.