

VETERAN COURTS

Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference
March 26, 2015

Introduction

- Approximately 24 million veterans in United States
- 1,000,000 in Pennsylvania
 - Allegheny County has the largest total population
 - Warren County the densest at 14⁰%

Veterans and Mental Illness

- 25% of the 103,788 veterans who visited VAs between 2001 and 2005 received mental health diagnoses
- VA reports depression and PTSD are most common mental health problems facing returning troops
- 20% of our military suffer from PTSD, compared to 8% of general population

Treatment and Veterans

- 60% of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans screened positive for PTSD did not seek treatment
- February 2008 study of US Army – 55% soldiers surveyed felt that their unit would treat them differently
- Study by American Psychiatric Association – 6 in 10 thought it would be harmful to career

What is Happening?

- ⦿ Rates of divorce are twice as high among veterans with PTSD
- ⦿ 10-15% of homeless population is veterans
- ⦿ 2008 suicide rate is highest since started keeping records in 1980
- ⦿ Self medicating with drugs and alcohol

Substance Abuse Among Veterans

- ▣ Veterans diagnosed with PTSD
 - 31% reported abuse or dependency on drugs
 - 40% reported abuse or dependency on alcohol

- ▣ 12%-15% of returning service members screened positive for alcohol misuse

Criminal Justice Involvement

- In United States, 11.7% of jail population and 9.4% of prison population are veterans
- Approximately 3,000 male and female military veterans are currently incarcerated in Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
- Comparable numbers not readily available for jails

Who are they?

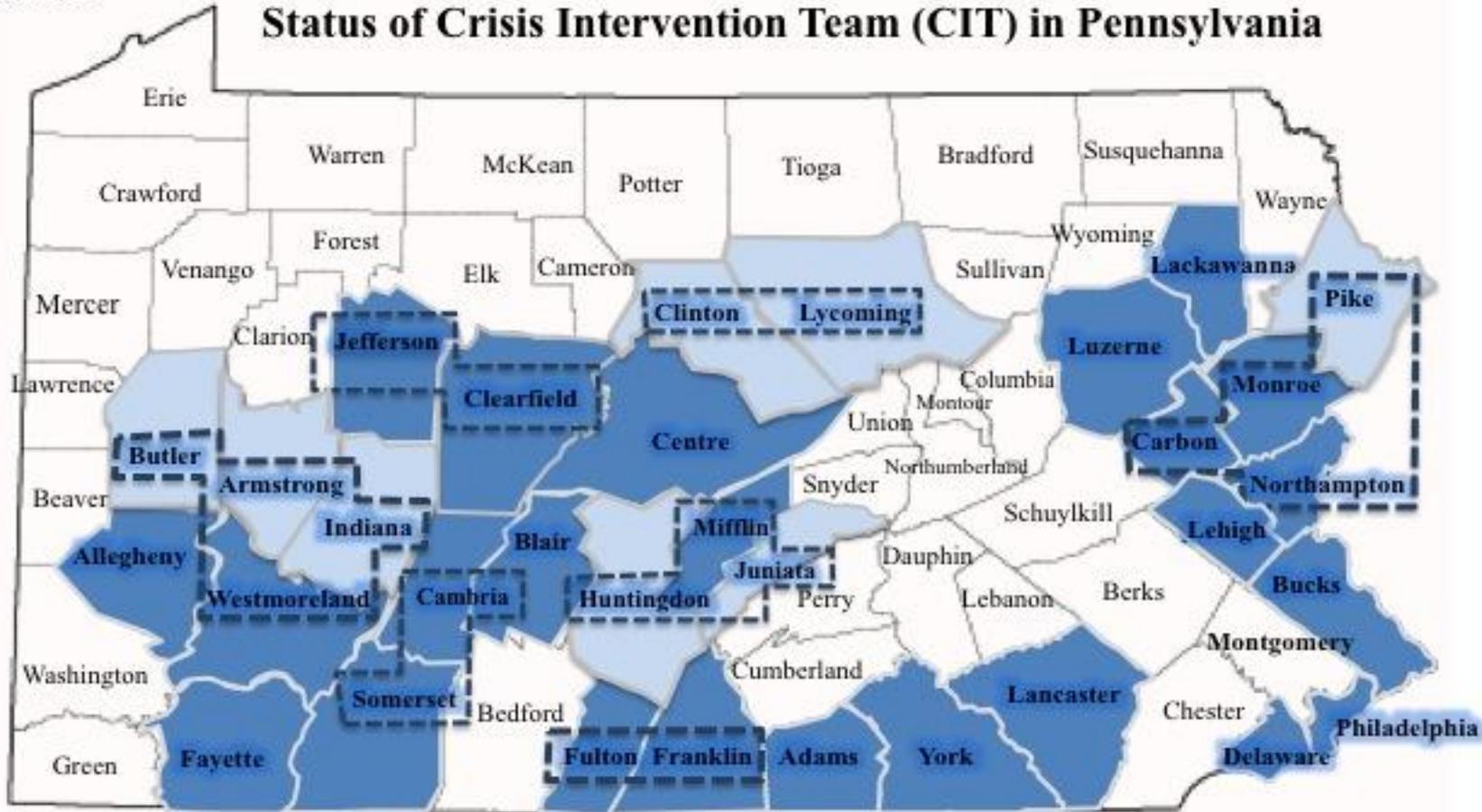
- ▣ 70% for non-violent crime
- ▣ 5% had prior arrests
- ▣ 20 % were in combat
- ▣ 1 in 5 was homeless
- ▣ 1 in 3 has serious mental illness
- ▣ 3 in 5 have substance dependence

Department of Veterans Affairs
Fact Sheet – February, 2009

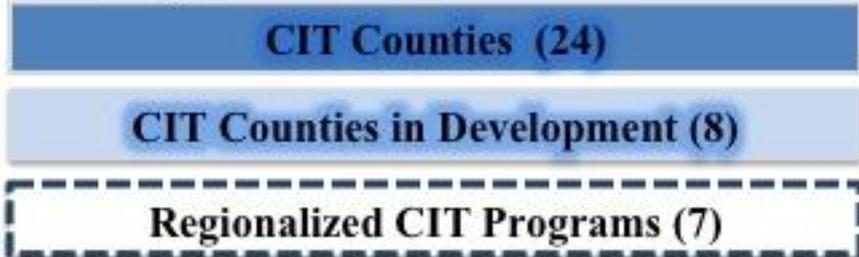
VETERANS and PENNSYLVANIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Task Force formed in September, 2010
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- Mental Health and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Status of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in Pennsylvania



Key:



*Note- Montgomery County Emergency Services provides Police School and Crisis Intervention Specialists Training
 ** Note - Family Training and Advocacy Center (FTAC) provides relevant trainings

Pennsylvania Driver's License

- ACT 176 2012



Identifying the Veteran

- Non -Traffic Citation

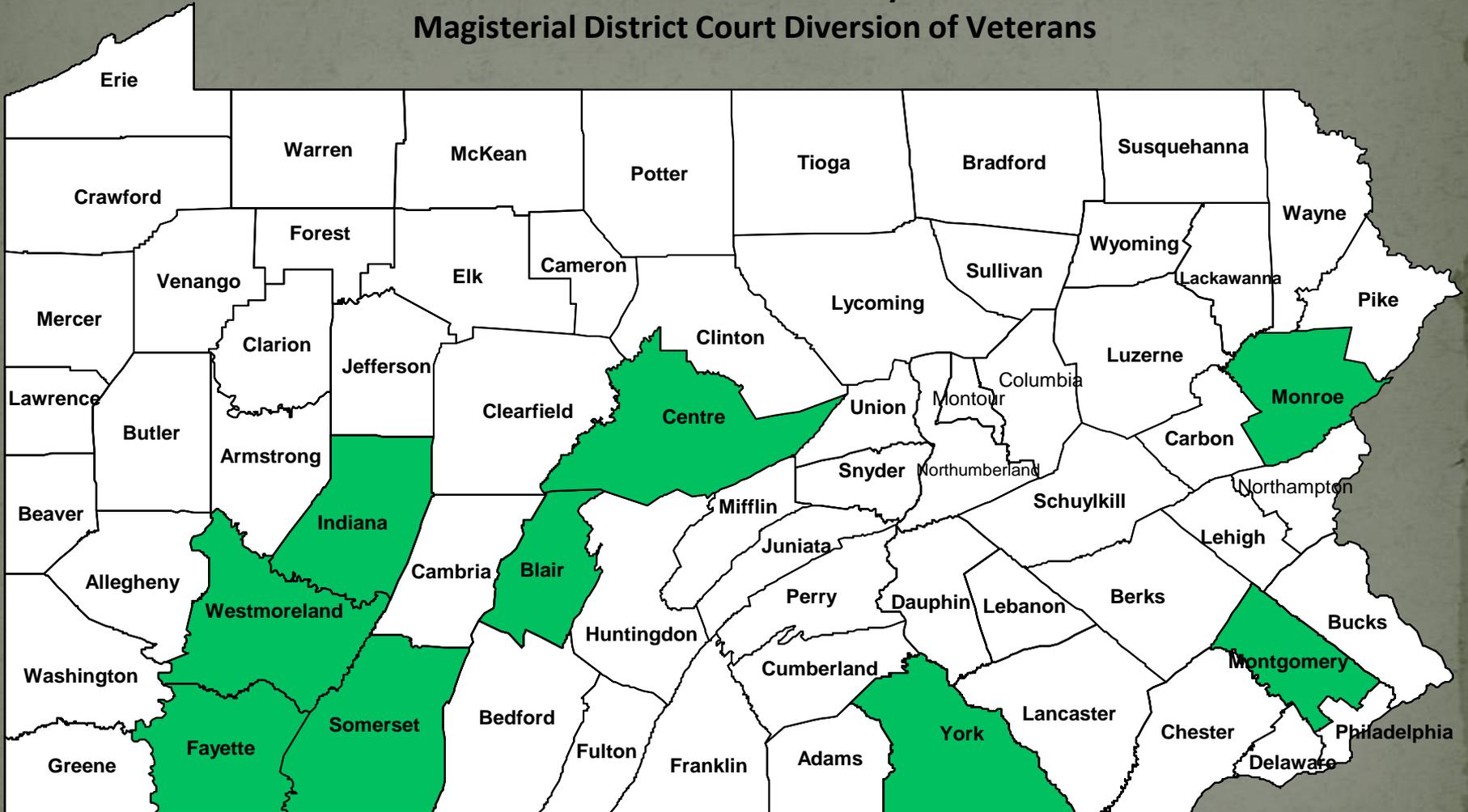
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA		CITATION NO.	
NON-TRAFFIC CITATION		PXXXXXXXX-X	
1. Magisterial District Number		2. Docket Number	
3. Social Security Number		6. State <input type="checkbox"/> PA	
4. Address of Magisterial District Office		5. Driver's Number	
7. Defendant's Name - First Middle Last			
8. Defendant's Address (Street-City-State-Zip Code)			
9. Race/Ethnicity (W) <input type="checkbox"/> White (A) <input type="checkbox"/> Asian (B) <input type="checkbox"/> Black (H) <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic (I) <input type="checkbox"/> Native American (U) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		10. Sex (M) <input type="checkbox"/> Male (F) <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
11. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)		12. Resident Status (R) <input type="checkbox"/> Resident (N) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Resident (U) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
13. Case Instituted by (O) <input type="checkbox"/> On-View Arrest (C) <input type="checkbox"/> Citation/Summons			
14. JUVENILE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		15. Parents Notified <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
16. Parent's Name		17. Date Notified	
18. Time			
19. Charge <input type="checkbox"/> Disorderly Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Trespass <input type="checkbox"/> Theft of Services <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Mischief <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Public Drunkenness <input type="checkbox"/> Scattering Rubbish <input type="checkbox"/> Consumption, Possession or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages			
21. Pa. Code		22. <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMES CODE TITLE 18 <input type="checkbox"/>	
23. SECTION		24. SUB SEC.	
25. FINE			
26. COSTS			
27. J.C.P./A.T.J./C.J.E.A.		23.50	
28. TOTAL DUE \$			
29. <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran		30. <input type="checkbox"/> Lab Services Requested	
31. Date		32. Time	
33. Day		34. City-Twp-Boro	
35. Code		36. Zone	
37. Location		38. County	
39. County Code			
40. Defendant's Signature - Acknowledges Receipt of Citation X		41. Date <input type="checkbox"/> Issued <input type="checkbox"/> Filed <input type="checkbox"/> Filed on Info. received	

29.
 Veteran



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Magisterial District Court Diversion of Veterans



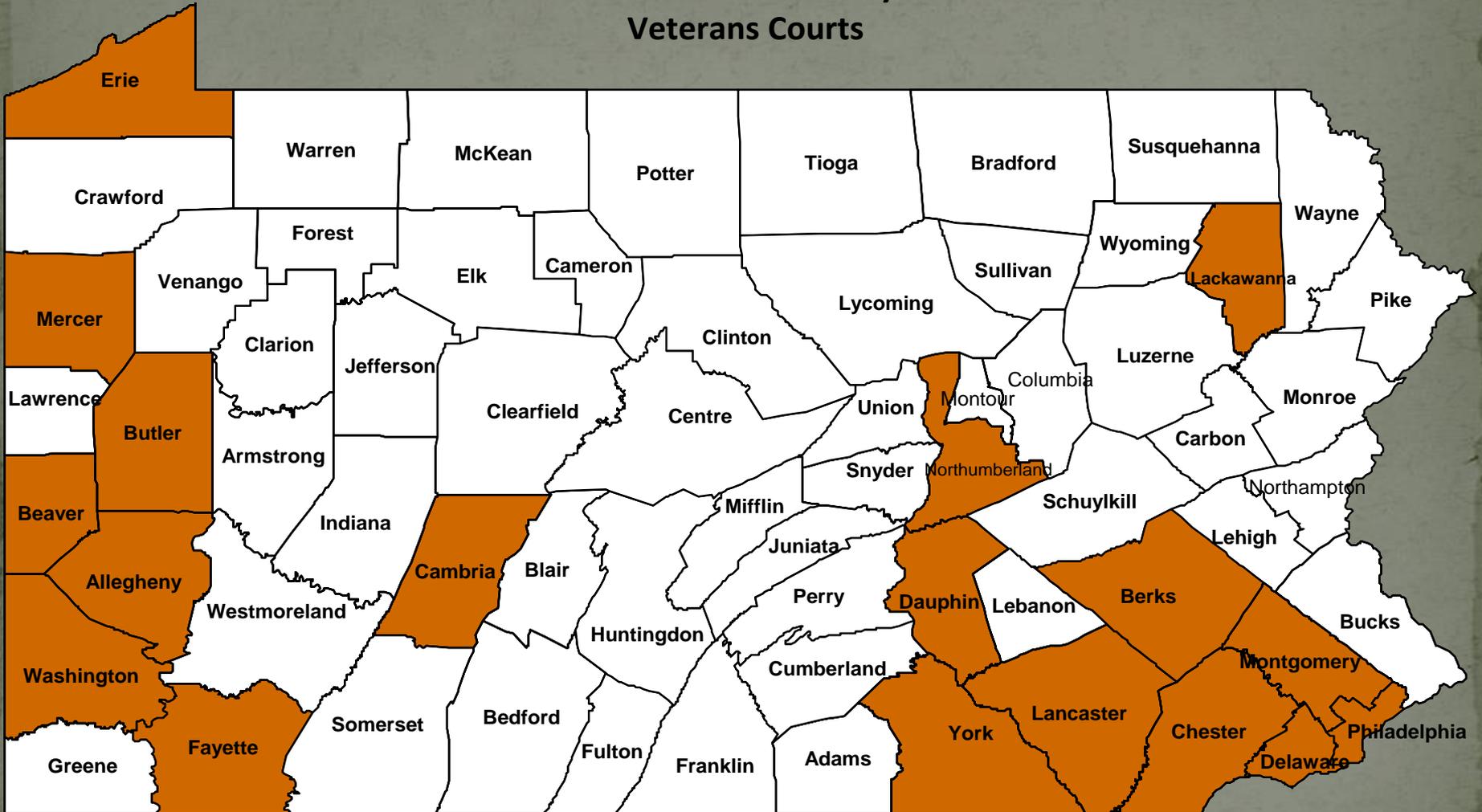
 Operational

January 2015

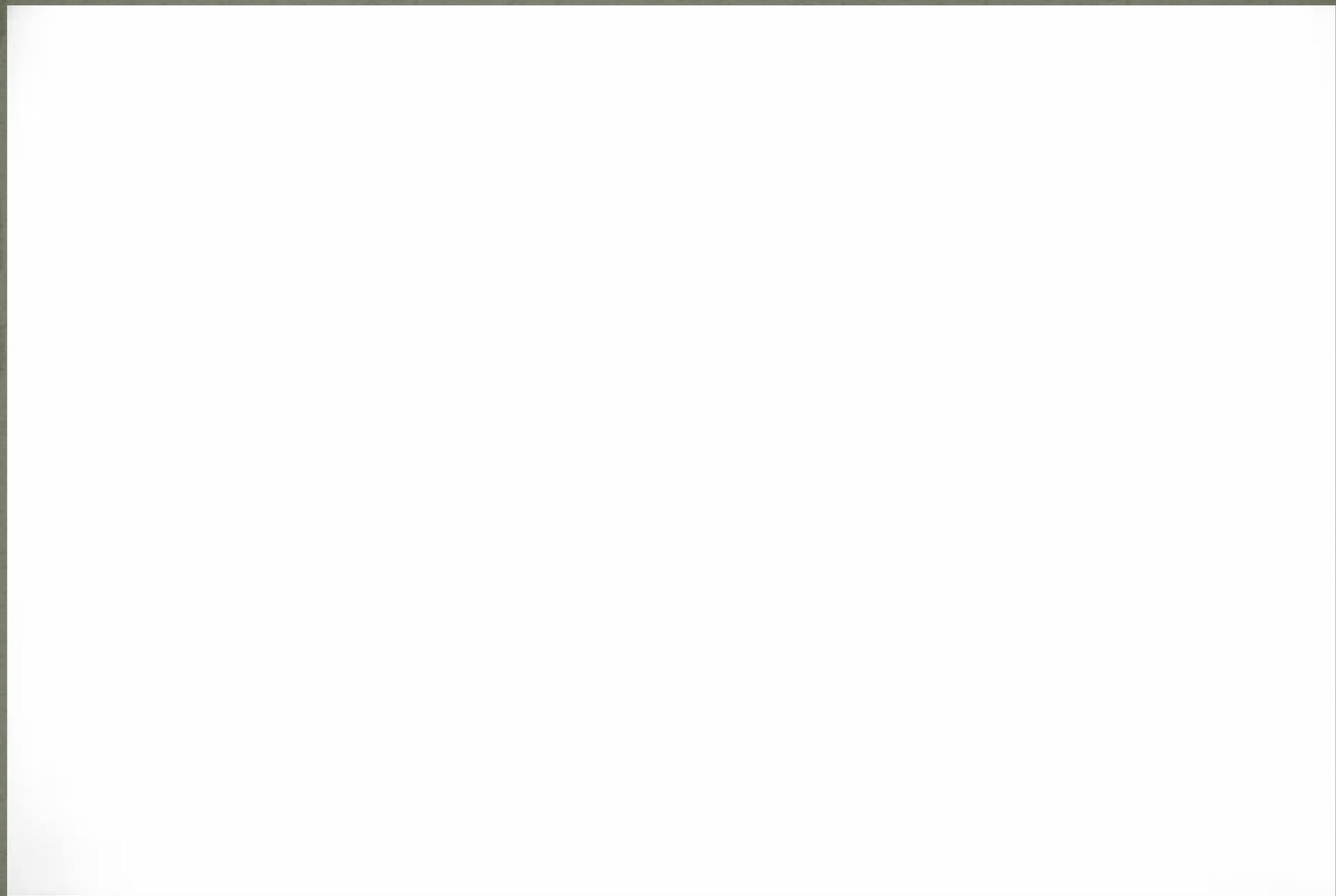
VETERANS COURTS

- Model of Adult Drug Court
- First One – Lackawanna County 2009
- Today 18
- Team Approach

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Veterans Courts



 Operational



Panel of Experts

- **Judge Michael Barrasse**, Lackawanna County
- **John T. Adams**, District Attorney, Berks County
- **Angela Fox-Holtzapple**, York County Public Defender's Office
- **Stephan Todd**, U.S.Army Reserve Colonel, JAGC (Retired), Mentor Coordinator, Butler County
- **Kim Sapolis-Lacey**, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, Wilkes-Barre VA
- **Robert O'Brien**, Adult Probation, Allegheny County
- **Stephanie Landes**, Veterans Court Coordinator, Montgomery County

Help Veterans Find
Their Way Home