

**DAUPHIN COUNTY VETERANS' COURT**  
**MENTORING PROGRAM**

**I. Description and Purpose:**

The Dauphin County Veterans' Court Program is specifically designed for veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System. The intention is to place these individuals into an intensive drug, alcohol, and/or mental health treatment program coupled with court intervention as an alternative to incarceration to help them return to a productive lifestyle.

The key component of any successful Veterans Court is a Veterans' Mentor Program. In this program, a trained Veteran Mentor is paired with a veteran participant to provide support as he/she navigates through the court and treatment. Ideally, Mentors/Participants will be paired by service whenever possible.

The Mentor is present as an ally and friend to assist the veteran through this difficult time. Our belief is that the shared experiences of another veteran will be critical in assisting the participant in regaining control of his/her life and successfully connecting to – and maintaining – treatment, which will lead to successful completion of the Veterans' Court program.

**The Mentor is a resource to the veteran, not a counselor.**

The Mentoring Program offers support and encouragement for veterans in the court system by spending one-on-one time with the veteran participant on a regular basis to provide an opportunity to discuss concerns and receive feedback and support from another veteran. The Mentor will have a resource book at his/her disposal to refer veterans to a wide range of available services both within the veteran system and in the community at large. These include, but are not limited to: benefits, housing, spiritual needs, social/recreational needs, employment.

**II. Volunteer Veteran Mentor Role:**

The role of the volunteer Veteran Mentor is to act as a coach, guide, role model, advocate and a support for the individual(s) with whom he/she is working. A Mentor is intended to encourage, guide, and support the participant as he/she progresses through the court process. This will include listening to concerns and making general suggestions, assisting the participant with determining needs, and acting as a support in a way that only another veteran can be or understand.

**III. Volunteer Veteran Mentor Duties:**

- Attending a court session in person at least one time per month
- Contacting his/her mentees a minimum of once every two weeks. This contact may be by phone or in person and occurs outside of the court session. The level of contact will vary by mentee.
- Participating in and leading mentoring sessions with veterans who are participants in the Dauphin County Veterans' Court.
- Being supportive and understanding of the difficulties veterans face
- Assisting the participants as much as possible to resolve their concerns around the court procedures as well as interactions with the Veteran's Administration system.
- Being supportive and helpful to other Mentors in the program.

**IV. Volunteer Mentor Criteria:**

- Be a veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military, including the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserve or National Guard. The volunteer must have an Honorable Discharge and provide a DD-214 indicating this.
- Go through the Mentoring vetting process (background check)
- Be a willing listener
- Be encouraging and supportive
- Be tolerant and respectful of individual differences
- Adhere to all of the Dauphin County Veterans' Court Mentor Program policies and procedures
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of one year
- Participate in the initial training necessary to become a Veteran Mentor, and any additional trainings required during the program commitment.
- Be able to dedicate time to attend Veterans' Court sessions; additionally, at least one hour per week to the participant (mentee) of Veterans' Court.

**V. Mentor Coordinator Role:**

Essential to the coordination, maintenance and success of the mentoring program is the Mentor Coordinator. His role is to recruit, organize and schedule trainings, supervise, and coordinate Mentors within the Veterans Court Program. His contact information is the following:

Veterans' Court Mentor Coordinator  
Dave Roberts  
Cell: (717) 315 – 5421  
E-Mail: DAVEROBERTS1949@gmail.com

**VI. Training of Volunteers:**

All mentors must complete the required initial training procedures. This procedure will include:

- Observe another Dauphin County Problem Solving Court session
- Complete the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts Mentoring Training Program  
Online: <http://paveteranmentor.rmu.edu/>
- Shadow one-two mentoring sessions with the Mentor Coordinator.
- Lead a mentoring session while being observed by the Mentor Coordinator
- Discuss mentoring sessions and observation forms with the Mentor Coordinator

**VII. Remuneration:** The positions of Mentor and Mentor Coordinator are both strictly volunteer and are unpaid. Expenses related to the Veterans Court may be paid as authorized by the President Judge.

**\*\*For questions regarding the Mentoring program, please email [ckilgore@dauphinc.org](mailto:ckilgore@dauphinc.org)**