

**In the District Court of Garland County, Arkansas
Garland County District**

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Administrative Order No. 18

District Court Administrative Plan

Garland County District Court, Garland County, Arkansas

1. Judges: The Garland County District Court is served by two (2) district court judges. The judges serve in the designated departments of the court as follows:

a. David Switzer	Division I	Garland County, Arkansas
b. Ralph Ohm	Division II	Garland County, Arkansas
c. Gary Lax	Small Claims Magistrate	Garland County, Arkansas

2. Court: Sessions of court are generally scheduled on:

a. Division I	Monday-Friday	8:30 a.m.
b. Division II	Monday-Friday	1:00 p.m.
c. Small Claims	3 rd Friday of the Month	10:00 a.m.

3. Types of Cases: The following cases are heard at these locations:

a. Division I	traffic offenses, criminal offenses, civil cases
b. Division II	traffic offenses, criminal offenses, civil cases
c. Small Claims	Small Claim cases

4. Specialty Programs:

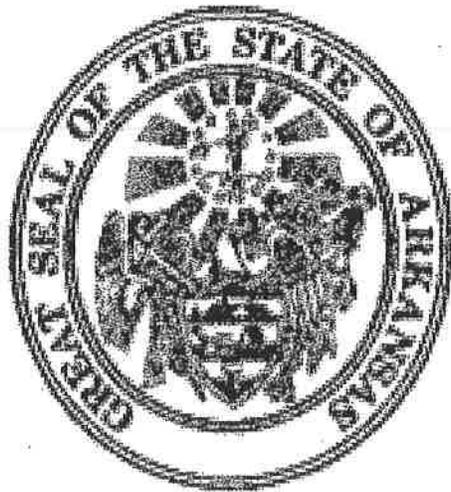
- a. D.W.I. Court 4th Friday of the month 10:00 a.m.
 - i. Works on reducing the recidivism rate of D.W.I. cases
 - ii. 5-65-103
 - iii. We are assessing the proper fines, fees, costs, etc. and that no unauthorized fines, fees or costs are being assessed and collected
 - iv. Court team: District Judge, probation department, court clerks, Chief Court Clerk, Director of Operation and Security, representatives from: MADD, Hot Springs Police Department, Arkansas State Police, Public Defender, City Attorney, Prosecuting Attorney, and Treatment Provider.
 - v. Funding: Grant from the Department of Highway and Administration
- b. Drug Court 1st Friday of the month 10:00 a.m.
 - i. Works on reducing the recidivism rate of Drug Cases

- ii. All related Drug/Alcohol/Criminal offenses
 - iii. We are assessing the proper fines, fees, costs, etc. and that no unauthorized fines, fees or costs are being assessed and collected
 - iv. Court team: District Judge, probation department, and court clerks
 - v. Funding: General budget
- c. Domestic Battery Court 4th Thursday of the month 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- i. Works on reducing the recidivism rate of Domestic Battery cases
 - ii. 5-26-305
 - iii. We are assessing the proper fines, fees, costs, etc. and that no unauthorized fines, fees or costs are being assessed and collected
 - iv. Court team: District Judge, probation department, and court clerks
 - v. Funding: General budget
- d. Veteran Treatment Court 4th Friday of the month 10:00 a.m.
- i. Works on reducing the recidivism rate of veterans
 - ii. All related Drug/Alcohol/Criminal offenses
 - iii. We are assessing the proper fines, fees, costs, etc. and that no unauthorized fines, fees or costs are being assessed and collected
 - iv. Court team: District Judge, probation department, and court clerks
 - v. Funding: General budget

Date: 10/2/13

Judge David Switzer, Division I

Ralph Ohm, Division II



**GARLAND COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
607 Ouachita Ave.
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901
(501) 321-6765**

**DWI COURT
OPERATIONS MANUAL**

INTRODUCTION

This operations manual provides an overview of the Garland County DWI Court. The Garland County DWI Court is designed to coordinate substance abuse intervention with judicial oversight through enhanced supervision and individual accountability.

In response to the serious drug and alcohol problem our community faces, the Garland County DWI Court Program was implemented by Judge David Switzer in March 2009. The Garland County DWI Court was one of two original pilot projects in the State of Arkansas. Currently this Court is one of three operational DWI Courts in the State of Arkansas, with seven more Courts in the development stages. In October, 2009 funding was received through a grant from the National Highway Safety Transportation administered by the Arkansas State Police Highway Safety Office.

The Garland County DWI Court is a post-conviction, voluntary program that utilizes a multi-faceted approach. Participant entry into the DWI Court is based on established eligibility criteria. This is not a diversion Court; the DWI charges will not be reduced or dismissed upon successful completion of the program. The fundamental goal of the Court is participant sobriety for the purpose of reducing the recidivism rate attributable to DWI. Such a goal is accomplished through substance abuse intervention coupled with continuing judicial supervision to reinforce participant compliance with Court conditions. A further goal of this Court is to make certain the participant meets all requirements for license reinstatement since, historically, many DWI offenders fail to complete the re-licensure process. Participation in the DWI Court meets all of the requirements for license reinstatement as established by the Arkansas Office of Driver's Services and serves as a motivational tool for participants to complete the reinstatement process. The Garland County DWI Court Probation Office will provide monitoring of each participant through all of the phases.

Since the Garland County DWI Court's inception, over 500 participants have entered into this Court. Of those, over 200 have successfully completed all of the requirements and have been recognized as graduates. Over 150 participants have been recognized for successfully participating in the program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Garland County DWI Court's mission is to reduce DWI recidivism, enhance community safety, and foster a healthier and safer life for the participants and their families, by increasing treatment, supervision and accountability of the high risk impaired driver. This opportunity for change is afforded through monthly Court interaction, monitoring of sobriety, probation supervision and participation in graduated levels of alcohol education and treatment.

We accomplish this by working with partnerships with the community to provide research based prevention and intervention services; assessing offenders' risk/needs in

order to help guide Court decisions and to apply the appropriate level of services; managing offender risk by enforcing Court orders, affording opportunities for pro-social change and expecting law-abiding behavior and personal accountability; facilitating victim involvement and restorative justice services; recognizing and rewarding staff performance and achievement; providing training to enhance our professional skill and build leadership.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF GARLAND COUNTY DWI COURT

- ◆ To provide effective case management and increased accountability based on a TEAM (i.e. "Together Each Achieve More") approach involving the judiciary, prosecutor, law enforcement, treatment, local bar, drug court coordinator and probation.

- Objectives:
1. Conduct a minimum of one meeting each month to identify eligible participants.
 2. Conduct a minimum of one meeting each month to review each participants progress.
 3. Seek independent evaluation of the overall Court goals to gauge the program's effectiveness.

- ◆ To provide effective court supervision.

- Objectives:
1. Provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
 2. Monitor participants by frequent alcohol and other drug testing utilizing current technologies that will help maintain abstinence.
 3. Schedule monthly court appearances for participants.

- ◆ To provide early screening, assessment and court intervention.

- Objectives:
1. Eligible offenders receiving substance abuse evaluations within 14 days of arrest.
 2. Eligible offenders receiving court intervention within 14 days of arrest.

- ◆ To establish coordination among the entities involved in developing, implementing and maintaining the functions of the DWI Court.

- Objectives:
1. Identify and establish ways of communicating with key agencies and individuals necessary to accomplish this goal.
 2. Develop partnerships among public agencies, and community-based organizations that generate local support and enhance overall Court effectiveness.

- ◆ To develop and finalize all forms and documents that will be needed during the day to day operation of the DWI Court.

Objectives: 1. Identify and implement forms needed to perform the functions necessary to move participants through DWI Court system.

- ◆ To have treatment services and case management services coordinated and operational.

Objectives: 1. The case management and treatment team will be prepared to provide screening services to the DWI participants within the courthouse.
2. The treatment providers will be in place to provide services to the DWI participants.

- ◆ To financially secure the Garland County DWI Court as a permanent fixture in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

Objectives: 1. To secure funding outside of the NHTS federal start-up money.
2. Identify and implement a self-sufficiency plan.

- ◆ To reduce recidivism and substance abuse amount participants admitted to the DWI Court.

Objectives: 1. Provide substance abuse treatment services to the participants for them to implement a long-term sobriety plan.
2. Provide case management services to the participants.
3. Conduct random urinalysis test and portable breath test on the program participants.
2. Measure the percentage of eligible participants completing the program.

- ◆ To promote public safety by establishing an effective program that will measure recidivism and substance abuse among those who complete the program.

Objectives: 1. To track participant arrest rates during the six months following discharge.
2. To compare the participant's level of functioning at the time of admission and at discharge. This will also provide data on the participant's level of substance abuse.



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Garland County District Court

GARLAND COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
607 OUACHITA, ROOM 150
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71901

DAVID B. SWITZER
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION I

RALPH OHM
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION II

JASON LAWRENCE
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

VICKIE ASHER
DISTRICT COURT CLERK

PHONE (501) 321-6765
FAX (501) 321-6764

December 13, 2010

Re: Garland County District Court Drug Court

To Whom it May Concern:

The District Court of Garland County is seeking a comprehensive approach to a serious problem, that being addiction, and to coordinate it from one central location. This will start by education and awareness which is currently being done in cooperation with Garland County C.A.R.E.S. thru advertising, town hall meetings, and promoting awareness of drug/alcohol related offenses and issues. Enforcement of drug/alcohol related laws has stepped up with additional patrol officer training and increased confidence in enforcement along with grant funding for DWI enforcement. This leads to the adjudication stage where the Court introduces some new and innovative concepts like supervised probation, staggered sentencing and minimum security detention for offenders in coordination with treatment. Additionally, monthly reviews of offenders to verify that they are performing as expected; this includes a meaningful public service program, the use of drug patches, random drug testing, and most importantly the flexibility to tailor an offender's sentence that will lead to recovery.

Additionally, the District Court of Garland County will seek any and all resources needed to sustain this program now and in the future for the continued operation of this program. The Court will create an interagency multi-faceted team approach for the pre and post adjudication of substance abuse cases and attempt to systematically change offender behavior. The Court will also cooperate and coordinate all members of the criminal justice system to ensure fair and just treatment for all offenders. The members of the Substance Abuse Team will be representatives from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Quapaw Treatment Center, the District Court (Judge, Court Administrator, Chief Court Clerk, and Probation Department), electronic monitoring company, a public liaison, and law enforcement. Each team member will attend all required trainings in their entirety. The team has read and will abide by the Federal and/or State Travel Regulations.

Members of the Team will refer possible candidates into the Drug Court. The probation department, the Court Administrator, and the Chief Court Clerk of the Garland County District Court will perform an initial screening of these candidates with any and all information to be provided to the Substance Abuse Team, who will then make a decision in regards to who will be allowed to enter the program. The Team will also work with the current participants to ensure that their treatment needs are met. This can include mental health services, housing, employment/vocational services, family counseling, parenting and life/social skills. Once an

individual has been allowed into the program they will be assessed by the representative of the Quapaw Treatment Center as to their level of treatment. The judge will then determine the individual's level in the program based upon the screenings by the Court staff and the treatment facility.

The 2011 DCPI application has been completed online. I want to thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ralph C. Ohm", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ralph C. Ohm
District Judge



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Garland County District Court

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Garland County District Court
Drug Court Program
Statement of Intent

The District Court of Garland County located in Hot Springs, Arkansas exercises jurisdiction over traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal cases, preliminary felony cases, civil cases, small claims cases, and violation of city and county ordinances within the 18th East Judicial District. The District Court had more than 600 drug offenses in 2007, more than 500 in 2008, more than 714 in 2009, and more than 700 through October 31, 2010. These statistics do not include offenses that were committed as a result of a drug or alcohol addiction. There have also been numerous drug related deaths in our community as well. The Garland County Drug Court will target substance abuse offenders and attempt to change their behavior of alcohol/drug dependency by enrolling them into the program.

It is the belief that the District Court of Garland County should intervene in drug offense cases to prevent these types of incidents or even rehabilitates offenders. District Court Judge Ralph C. Ohm is seeking to establish the Court to provide intensive supervision of offenders through direct supervision by the Court, random drug testing, substance abuse counseling, required employment, Court ordered community service, and any other preventive measures deemed necessary by the Court thereby making the offenders a productive member of Garland County.



STATE OF ARKANSAS

Garland County District Court

GARLAND COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
607 OUACHITA, ROOM 150
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS 71901

DAVID B. SWITZER
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION I

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1) The **OBJECTIVE** of the attached graphs, charts and outline are to provide evidence of the need for Mental Health Programs for Hot Springs and the central part of the State of Arkansas.

2) **INITIATIVES:** Surrounding state by state comparisons

- A) Arkansas
- B) Missouri
- C) Oklahoma
- D) Texas
- E) Louisiana
- F) Mississippi
- G) Tennessee

To include per each state:

- a) Total Grant Budget for Mental Health FY 2010/2011
- b) Military Bases/Total personnel as of 2010
- c) Medical Centers and number of Veterans Administrations locations as of 2009
- d) PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Programs and locations as of 2009
- e) Homeless population as of 2009
- f) Total state population as of 2009

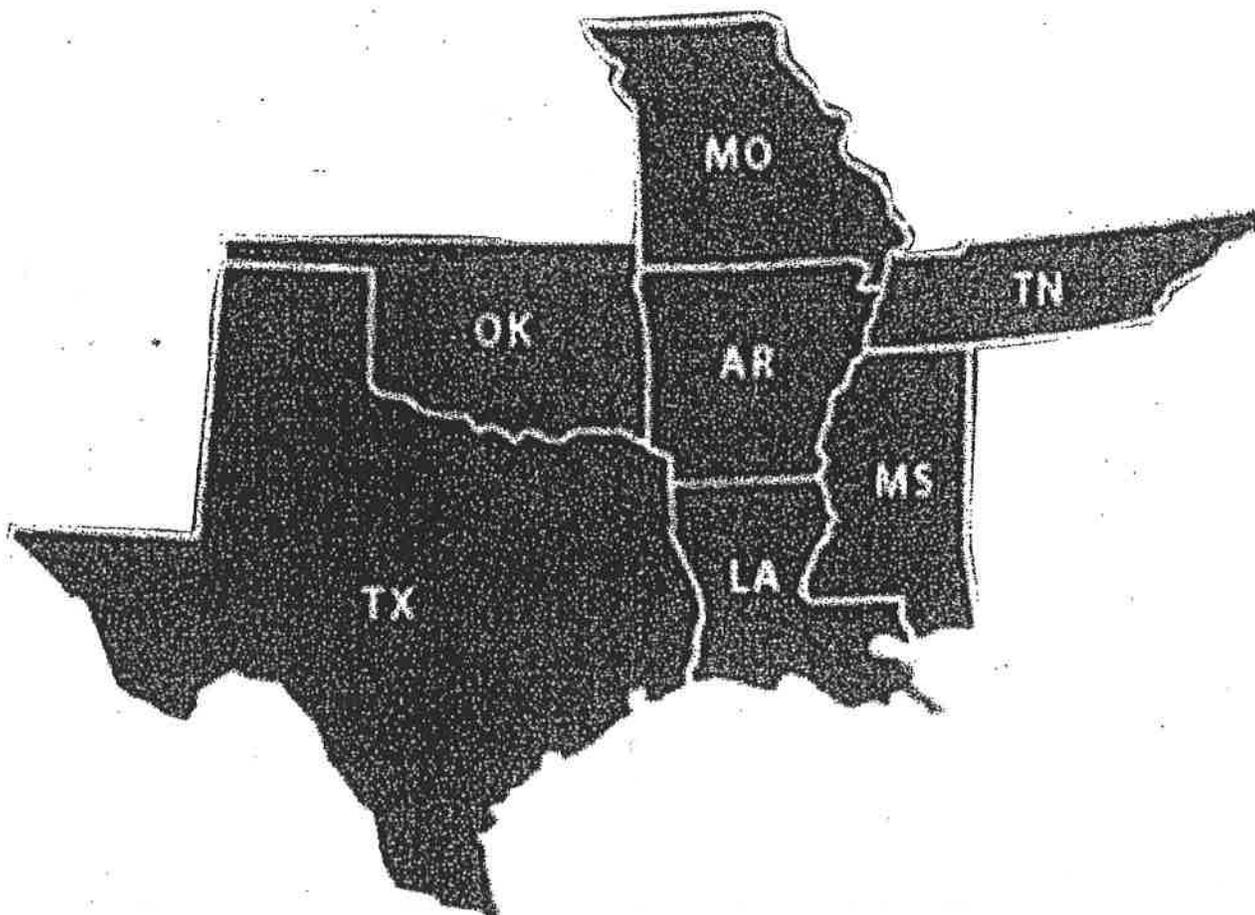
3) **SUPPORT:** Whether a person is born with a mental health problem due to a physical imperative or a person who just cannot cope with a job loss, the economy, or any other experience in life, Support is needed to help these people function correctly in life. There will always be the "haves" and the "have not's" but with the support of friends and professionals, these mental health issues can hopefully be minimized.

4) **RECOVERY:** With each passing year, there will be more and more mental health issues due to homelessness, military issues, loss of jobs etc. With proper professionals and facilities to help the mental health population function and live in society today, this growing issue should not escalate any further.

Mental Health Proposal

- 5) **SERVICE:** There are many unoccupied buildings located in Hot Springs that could be functional with just a small amount of upkeep that could house the Mental Health population. Some of these are hotels and apartment complexes' that already have rooms with bathroom facilities available, as well as kitchens, laundry services, etc. These could be started-up within a short amount of time to service the needs of the Mental Health population right away. These could also be equipped and function as does the current MIS facility for the drug and alcohol population within Garland County.
- 6) In **CONCLUSION:** Society will always have people who do not want to change themselves for a better life and want to continue to harm and hurt others but for the most part, people want to do the right thing but professionals and facilities are needed to help in this procedure. This is why the attached has been compiled and is being proposed for the people and community of Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- 7) **SOURCES:**
- a) SAMHSA.gov/Statesummarles
 - b) Usdoj.gov
 - c) Wikipedia.org/wiki
 - d) Factfinder.census.gov
 - e) City-data.com/Zips
 - f) Usmilitary.about.com/Library
 - g) Maps.google.com
 - h) 2.va.gov/directory/guide/state
 - i) Promoteacceptance.samhsa.gov/campaigns/default
 - j) Endhomelessness.org/contact/article/detail

STATE SUMMARIES



<u>STATE</u>	<u>TOTAL GRANT BUDGET</u> FY 2010/2011 <u>MENTAL HEALTH</u>	<u>MILITARY BASES</u> <u>TOTAL PERSONNEL</u> FY 2010	<u># VA LOCATIONS</u> <u>MEDICAL CENTERS</u> AS OF 2009	<u>PTSD PROGRAMS</u> <u>& LOCATIONS</u> AS OF 2009	<u>HOMELESS</u> <u>POPULATION</u> AS OF 2009	<u>TOTAL STATE</u> <u>POPULATION</u> AS OF 2009
Arkansas	\$5,447,636	22,539 1-Army 1-Air Force 1-Coast Guard	North Little Rock Little Rock Fayetteville (with 15 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1- No. Little Rock	2,852	2,889,450
Missouri	\$15,945,790	51,510 1-Army; 1-AFB; 1-Coast Guard; 1-Navy/Marine	Columbia; Kansas City Poplar Bluff; 2- St. Louis (with 22 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1-Columbia; 1-Poplar Bluff; 1-St Louis; 1-K. City	6,959	5,987,580
Oklahoma	\$13,530,376	47,174 2-Army; 3-AFB; 1-Coast Guard	Muskogee; Okla City (with 11 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1- Muskogee 1- Oklahoma City	4,838	3,687,050
Texas (Total State)	\$49,734,253	194,965 4-Army; 8-AFB; 2-Navy/Marine; 8-Coast Guard	12 Total VA locations - (with 48 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	7 from Dallas to El Paso to Houston	36,761	24,873,773
Louisiana	\$8,595,265	46,516 1-Army; 1-AFB 1-Navy/Marine 5-Coast Guard	Alexandria; New Orleans Shreveport (with 11 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1-Alexandria 1-Shreveport 1-New Orleans	12,504	4,492,076

<u>STATE</u>	<u>TOTAL GRANT BUDGET</u> FY 2010/2011 <u>MENTAL HEALTH</u>	<u>MILITARY BASES</u> <u>TOTAL PERSONNEL</u> FY 2010	<u># VA LOCATIONS</u> <u>MEDICAL CENTERS</u> AS OF 2009	<u>PTSD PROGRAMS</u> <u>& LOCATIONS</u> AS OF 2009	<u>HOMELESS</u> <u>POPULATION</u> AS OF 2009	<u>TOTAL STATE</u> <u>POPULATION</u> AS OF 2009
Mississippi	\$8,710,537	33,730 1-Army; 2- AFB 1-Coast Guard; 3-Navy/Marines	Biloxi, Jackson (with 9 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1-Jackson 1-Biloxi	2,797	2,951,996
Tennessee	\$16,674,191	30,819 2-Army; 1- AFB 1-Navy/Marine 2-Coast Guard	Memphis; Mountain Home Murfreesboro; Nashville (with 18 Extra Outpatient Based Community Clinics)	1-Memphis 1-Mountain Home 1-Murfreesboro 1-Nashville	10,532	6,296,254.

Additional Information for the State of Arkansas for

Mental Health Residents (Non institutionalized)

- 1) Percent of civilian Veterans in Hot Springs Village as of 2010= **2,560** or **32.4%** of total population of **12,807** (National average is **12.7%**)

- 2) Percent of civilian Veterans in Hot Springs as of 2009= **3,229** or **14.4%** of total population of **39,467** (National average is **12.7%**)

- 3) Percent of civilian Veterans in Garland County (18 and older) as of 2009= **11,548** or **15.2%** of total population of **96,285** (National average is **12.7%**)

**GARLAND COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT**

CENTER

FOR

COURT

INNOVATION

Intake Form: Jurisdictions Seeking DV/IDV Court Technical Assistance

1. Who is making the request (court, VA, DA, Taskforce, etc)? Are other stakeholders involved? If so, which programs? If you are from a court, what types of proceedings do you handle?

Request is being made by Garland County District Court, Hot Springs, Arkansas for assistance in starting a Domestic Violence Court. The court handles all misdemeanors and first appearance on felonies. Stakeholders involved will be judges, prosecutor, public defender, probation officers, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, court clerks, treatment center, Potters Clay Women's Shelter and victim assistance coordinator.

2. Demographic information: size of community, geographical location, etc.

Garland County and City of Hot Springs, Arkansas is an urban area with approximate population of 127,132. Hot Springs National Park, which is America's only national park located inside a city. The area is located in the Ouachita Mountains and surrounded by 3 lakes and forests in the heart of the nation. Hot Springs' exquisite natural beauty, natural resources, historical, cultural, recreational and family attractions make it a favorite vacation destination all year long. The median household income is \$34,947 for the Hot Springs Metro area. In June, 2011 the unemployment rate for City of Hot Springs/Garland County, Arkansas was 10.3%.

3. Are you a recipient of OVW grant funds? Which grant stream?

No.

4. What do you hope to achieve? (i.e. specialized court, docket, general information)
What kind of problem are you working to solve? Why is the community interested in creating or expanding a DV/IDV?

Garland County District Court is seeking to establish a specialized court for Domestic Violence in order to improve victim safety and enhance offender accountability. The Court hopes to provide intensive supervision of offenders through direct supervision by the Court, random drug testing, substance abuse counseling, domestic violence counseling, anger management classes, marriage counseling, parenting classes, required employment, Court ordered community service, and any other preventive measures deemed necessary by the Court. Through this joint effort we hope to increase the offender's quality of life by making them productive members of Garland County, and reduce the burden on local taxpayers. The local jail is overcrowded with felony offenders and has no room for misdemeanor offenders. See the chart of Domestic Battery Charges Filed in Garland County District Court from 2003-2010.

**GARLAND COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
DOMESTIC BATTERY CHARGES FILED**

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		% Inc. 10/09
	CITY	STATE															
Domestic Battery 1st Degree/Subs. Offense Class A Felony (52631)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100.00%
Domestic Battery 1st Degree Class B Felony (52630)	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	2	-100%
Domestic Battery 2nd Degree 1st Offense Class B Felony (52652)	2	1	3	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	1	4	1	3	5	9	200.00%
Domestic Battery 2nd Degree Class D Felony (52633)	1	5	2	5	3	7	1	4	0	0	4	1	4	2	3	8	50.00%
Domestic Battery 3rd/Subs. Off Class D Felony (13211)	8	4	8	7	16	3	8	1	2	4	4	0	8	3	9	1	13.00%
Domestic Battery 3rd Degree Class A Misd (12311)	143	110	148	146	147	106	159	117	156	97	150	120	170	76	129	131	-24.00%
TOTAL FILED PER DIVISION	CITY	STATE															
	154	124	161	160	168	118	168	122	161	104	160	127	185	92	150	147	-19.00%
GRAND TOTAL FILED	278		321		286		290		265		287		277		297		7.00%

**Garland County District Court
Veteran Treatment Court**

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Garland County District Court: Exercises jurisdiction over traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal cases, preliminary felony cases, civil cases, small claims cases, and violations of city/county ordinances within the 18th East Judicial District. The District Court had more than 700 drug offenses in 2009 and more than 800 in 2010. These statistics do not include offenses that were committed as a result of a substance abuse addiction, mental health disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Project Title and Description: Garland County Veteran Treatment Court. The Veteran Treatment Court will serve Veterans who are involved with the criminal justice system, are determined to be suffering from substance abuse, and alcoholism, and who, in many cases, suffer from combat-related mental disorders. The Veterans' Treatment Court will work in direct partnership with federal and state Veterans' offices, governmental and local community organizations to access the range of services needed to stabilize the Veteran and, ultimately, to reintegrate him or her into the community through viable employment, safe shelter and, when needed, reunification with their family.

Mission and Goals: The Veterans Treatment Court mission is to divert Veterans, who meet requirements, from the traditional criminal justice system and provide them with the tools to lead a productive and law-abiding life. The goal of Veterans Court is to divert Veterans away from jail and into rehabilitative programs, when they suffer with mental illness and are charged with misdemeanor crimes.

Target Audience: The Garland County Veterans Treatment Court services Garland County, Arkansas, a rural area with a population of 100,000 people and over 11,000 Veterans.

Expected number of participants: 75-100

Project Outcome: Funds will be used to hire a probation officer and a case manager to handle the specialized caseload of Veterans. The positions will provide service coordination and easier access to services such as employment, education, housing, and benefits counseling. Funds will be devoted to evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment. Taking the approach of the interactionist perspective, a theory that views changes as resulting from the interactions among the individual characteristics, the circumstances in society, and the history of social interaction patterns of the person, allows the court to identify and resolve personal issues that trigger recidivism and delinquency. In this process they and the family unit will be encouraged to engage in mandatory counseling sessions, support groups, mentorship through the veteran organization(which is established and functioning), and any other available resource that is in Southwest Arkansas.

PROJECTIVE NARRATIVE

In June 2011 it became apparent to Judge David Switzer, the presiding Judge of Garland County DWI Court, and Judge Ralph Ohm the presiding Judge of Garland County Drug Court, that Veterans faced a number of challenges when addressing their combat-related trauma. Approximately 1.6 million American troops have served in Afghanistan and/or in Iraq. Veterans have returned with mental illness and/or substance addictions. War-related illnesses may contribute to escalated suicide attempts, arrest, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, homelessness, and despair. Rather than being reactionary to the anticipated increase of Veterans appearing in our criminal justice system, we decided to take a pro-active approach, whereby the court embarked on a plan to develop a specialized treatment court to meet the particular needs of our Veterans. The Judges implemented the Garland County Veterans' Treatment Court, which currently has 39 participants in the program.

The purpose of the Veterans' Treatment Court is to combine accountability with rehabilitation of returning Veterans. The purpose is to address, not only the symptom of the problem such as alcohol, drugs or violence, but the underlying problem such as PTSD. The first step is assessment and qualification for VA benefits if any, if not, qualification for other services. Then periodic review of compliance with the court's orders whatever they may be: housing, education, counseling, or self-help rehabilitation. Each participant is on probation for additional or more in depth review. In this process, they and their families are encouraged to participate in the mentor and Veteran organization which is established and functioning.

Garland County Veterans Treatment Court engages in extensive collaboration with the Veteran's Health Care Network, community health care providers, Veterans service organizations, community-based agencies, and volunteer Veteran mentors. Garland County Veterans Treatment Court is handled on a specialized criminal court docket involving Veterans charged with misdemeanor criminal offense(s), by diverting eligible Veteran-defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness. The court substitutes a treatment problem solving model for traditional court processing. Veterans are identified through specialized screening and assessments, and voluntarily participate in a judicially-supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff, Veteran health care professionals, Veteran peer mentors, AOD health care professionals and mental health professionals develop. At regular status hearings treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness. Incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions, and sanctions for non-adherence are handed down. Completion of program is defined according to specific criteria. Upon admission to Veterans Treatment Court, the court staff and mentors assist the Veteran with an array of stabilization services, such as emergency financial assistance, mental health/trauma counseling, employment and skills training assistance, temporary housing, advocacy, and other referral services.

Garland County Veterans Treatment Court seeks to divert eligible Veteran-defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness who are charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses, to a specialized criminal court docket. The court substitutes a treatment problem solving model for traditional court processing. Veterans are identified through evidence-based screening and assessments. The Veterans voluntarily participate in a judicially-supervised

treatment plan that a team of court staff, Veteran health care professionals, Veteran peer mentors, AOD health care professionals and mental health professionals develop with the veteran. At regular status hearings treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness. Incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions, and sanctions for non-adherence are handed down. Completion of their program is defined according to specific criteria. Many will have their charges dismissed upon successful completions and others are assured of a non-incarceration sentence upon completion.

Many Veterans are known to have a warrior's mentality and often do not address their treatment needs for physical and psychological health care. Often those who are referred to the Veterans' Treatment Court are homeless, helpless, in despair, suffering from alcohol or drug addiction, and serious mental illnesses. Their lives have been spiraling out of control. Without the collaboration of the VA Health Care Network, "In The Company of Heroes" Veteran Mentor Program, the Veterans' Treatment Court, volunteer veteran mentors, and a coalition of community health care providers, many Veterans would continue suffering untreated, as well as suffering the consequences of the traditional criminal justice system of jail or prison. This collaboration of unique partners affords the opportunity for these Veterans to regain stability in their lives, to have their families strengthened, to have housing for the homeless, and to have employment for the employable. The treatment court team will find them, offer them assistance, assess their needs, manage their care and help them solve their problems.

Also, assisting the court is a team of rehabilitated and/or trouble-free volunteer Veteran mentors with whom they can relate. The mentors in Garland County created a non-profit organization "In the Company of Heroes". The pool of Veteran Mentors includes those who have served in Vietnam, Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in court, a mentor will be assigned to meet with a Veteran participant, discuss any ongoing problems or issues of interest. They work to problem solve existing issues and bring to the attention of the court any issues that the court can assist in resolving. This relationship promotes and fosters through encouragement a "can do" attitude in the Veterans, and that they can accomplish their goals in treatment, they are not alone, and their mentors are there for them. Before and since the court operation, the volunteer Veteran mentors have not wavered in their commitment, time, or dedication, despite the fact they are not monetarily compensated for their time or expertise. Faithfully they are present, ready to serve at every Veterans Treatment Court session - without reservation.

This grant would allow the Garland County Veterans' Treatment Court to provide better services with more oversight, implementation of new ideas, and approaches is limited by the available resources. This system is overburdened which causes lapses in problem identification, identifying available services, linking those services appropriately, and receiving compliance and delivery of the service. The more review there is of a participant and their compliance with the services available by the court, the mentors and the family, the greater the likelihood of success.

Over the years it has become apparent that the criminal justice system, among others, did a poor job in addressing the problems of Veterans returning from Vietnam, resulting in long-term social problems and continued involvement in the criminal justice system at a huge cost to the

individual, the family and society. The overall purpose of this grant is to make sure the same mistakes are not made, that the justice system through the formulation and operation of a specialized problem solving oriented court identifies and addresses not only the outwardly apparent criminal justice issue, (e.g., drugs, alcohol, and violence), but also identifying and addressing the underlying causes.

The Garland County Veterans Treatment Court has adopted the “Veterans Treatment Court Ten Key Components”.

Key Component #1: Veterans Treatment Court integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing.

Veterans Treatment Courts promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response to veteran’s dependency on alcohol, drugs, and/or management of their mental illness. Realization of these goals requires a team approach. This approach includes the cooperation and collaboration of the traditional partners found in drug treatment courts and mental health treatment courts with the addition of the Veteran Administration Health Care Network, veterans and veterans family support organizations, and veteran volunteer mentors.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

To facilitate the veterans’ progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel shed their traditional adversarial courtroom relationship and work together as a team. Once a veteran is accepted into the treatment court program, the team’s focus is on the veteran’s recovery and law-abiding behavior—not on the merits of the pending case.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program.

Early identification of veterans entering the criminal justice system is an integral part of the process of placement in the Veterans Treatment Court program. Arrest can be a traumatic event in a person’s life. It creates an immediate crisis and can compel recognition of inappropriate behavior into the open, making denial by the veteran for the need for treatment difficult.

Key Component #4: Veterans Treatment Court provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

While primarily concerned with criminal activity, AOD use, and mental illness, the Veterans Treatment Court team also consider co-occurring problems such as primary medical problems, transmittable diseases, homelessness; basic educational deficits, unemployment and poor job preparation; spouse and family troubles—especially domestic violence—and the ongoing effects of war time trauma. Veteran peer mentors are essential to the Veterans Treatment Court team. Ongoing veteran peer mentors interaction with the Veterans Treatment Court participants is essential. Their active, supportive relationship, maintained throughout treatment, increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Frequent court-ordered AOD testing is essential. An accurate testing program is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each participant's progress.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.

A veteran's progress through the treatment court experience is measured by his or her compliance with the treatment regimen. Veterans Treatment Court reward cooperation as well as respond to noncompliance. Veterans Treatment Court establishes a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of graduated responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential.

The Judge is the leader of the Veterans Treatment Court team. This active, supervising relationship, maintained throughout treatment, increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision also communicates to veterans that someone in authority cares about them and is closely watching what they do.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Management and monitoring systems provide timely and accurate information about program progress. Program monitoring provides oversight and periodic measurements of the program's performance against its stated goals and objectives. Information and conclusions developed from periodic monitoring reports, process evaluation activities, and longitudinal evaluation studies may be used to modify program.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.

All Veterans Treatment Court staff should be involved in education and training. Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice officials to veteran treatment issues, and Veteran Administration, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment staff to criminal justice issues. It also develops shared understandings of the values, goals, and operating procedures of both the veteran administration, treatment and the justice system components. Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism, provide a forum for solidifying relationships among criminal justice, Veteran Administration, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment personnel, and promote a spirit of commitment and collaboration.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness.

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, Veterans Treatment Court is well suited to develop coalitions among private community-based organizations, public criminal justice agencies, the Veteran Administration, veterans and veterans families support organizations, and AOD and mental health treatment delivery systems. Forming such coalitions expands the continuum of services available to Veterans Treatment Court participants and informs the community about Veterans Treatment Court

concepts. The Veterans Treatment Court fosters system wide involvement through its commitment to share responsibility and participation of program partners.
