19th DISTRICT COURT NEWS RELEASE

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19th District Dearborn Veterans Treatment Court (VTC)
Awarded $67,742 Grant

All RISE/Justice For Vets has awarded its Creative Arts Innovation Grant to Dearborn VTC

Dearborn, Michigan, July 25, 2024 – Justice for Vets (JFV), in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has developed a Veterans Treatment Court Innovations Program.

The applicable objectives of the JFV Innovations Program are to assist veterans treatment court programs to ensure the provision of community reintegration services to achieve long-term recovery and assist in collecting and reporting on performance measures and identifying and explaining trends. The supportive presence of families and other social support networks factor significantly into the recovery process. This Social Connectedness category encourages family, peers, and mentors to support education, training, and programming that will contribute to the participant's overall success in the VTC and post-program completion. Practices that support prosocial family involvement, including veteran family-centered programs and innovations in peer support, are encouraged.

The Dearborn Veterans Treatment Court is partnering with the **Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP)** to provide **No-Cost** auxiliary treatment options for veteran participants and graduates of the following **Wayne County VTCs**: **3rd Circuit Court, 17th District Court, 19th District Court, 28th District Court, and the 36th District Court**. The free creative arts workshops and classes include: **Acting, Storytelling, Comedy, Improv, Writing, and Visual Arts** Workshops begin in August, 2024 and may continue through May 2025.

Clinical research findings indicate that creative arts therapies can:

- Enable recovery from traumatic experiences.
- Reduce symptoms associated with PTSD.
- Foster the ability to experience hope and gratification.
- Reduce isolation and stigma associated with traumatic brain injuries and associated psychological health issues.

Theses add to the current benefits of VTCs:

- Graduates of veterans treatment courts (VTCs) were **nearly 2 times less likely** to reoffend within three years of admission to a program.
- Unemployment dropped by **82 percent** among VTC graduates.
- Michigan remains a national leader with 28 VTCs.

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