



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Fourth Judicial District, Colorado Springs, El Paso County officials to introduce Veteran Trauma Court

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Judges, probation officials, legislators, representatives of the district attorney and public defender and state and El Paso County health and human services offices will gather for a news conference at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, at the El Paso County Judicial Building to announce the formal opening of the newly developed Veteran Trauma Court.

Several officials will be available to answer questions, including 4th Judicial District Judge Ronald Crowder, a retired Major General of the Army National Guard, who was instrumental in launching the effort to establish Colorado's first court specifically designed to meet the unique needs of military veterans with service-related trauma disorders who have entered the criminal justice system.

The grant-funded court is modeled after other problem solving courts such as drug and mental health courts. It will offer eligible offenders an alternative to incarceration through treatment and counseling and regular court appearances.

The Colorado Division of Behavioral Health estimates approximately 1,540 veterans will receive diversion and treatment services through the life of the five-year grant.

Those eligible for treatment and counseling services through the court are military veterans charged with a lower-level felony in the 4th Judicial District who experienced trauma related to military service and have been diagnosed with a trauma spectrum disorder and exhibit a willingness to actively participate in treatment and recovery and fully cooperate with the court.

The project is a collaborative effort among local, state and federal partners. The core of the team includes the 4th Judicial District and associated justice-related agencies, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, the Colorado Public Defenders Office, El Pomar Foundation, Mental Health America of Pikes Peak Region, Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group, Peak Research LLC, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, Give an Hour and the Colorado Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Services.

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