



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH

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Crisis mitigation through timely outreach.



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The VJO Mission

- To avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible *justice-involved* Veterans have timely access to VHA services as clinically indicated.
- VJO Specialists are responsible for direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails, and liaison with local justice system partners.



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Who we serve

- *Justice-Involved Veterans*
 - A Veteran in contact with local law enforcement.
 - A Veteran in a local jail
 - A Veteran in adjudication



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History

- 1995 - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) partnered with the Center for Mental Health Services' National GAINS Center.
 - Began an implementation and evaluation program of jail diversion initiatives.
 - Early identification and outreach found to be key.



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History

- 2003 - The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health called for mental health treatment to be readily available in Communities so that mental health consumers no longer faced unemployment, homelessness, or *incarceration* because of untreated mental illness.
 - Identified policies to maximize the utility of existing resources.
 - Improve coordination of treatments and services.
 - Promote successful community integration of Veterans.



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History

- 2008 – SAMHSA and the National GAINS Center funded state and local pilot initiatives to connect justice-involved Veterans with needed mental health and substance abuse services.



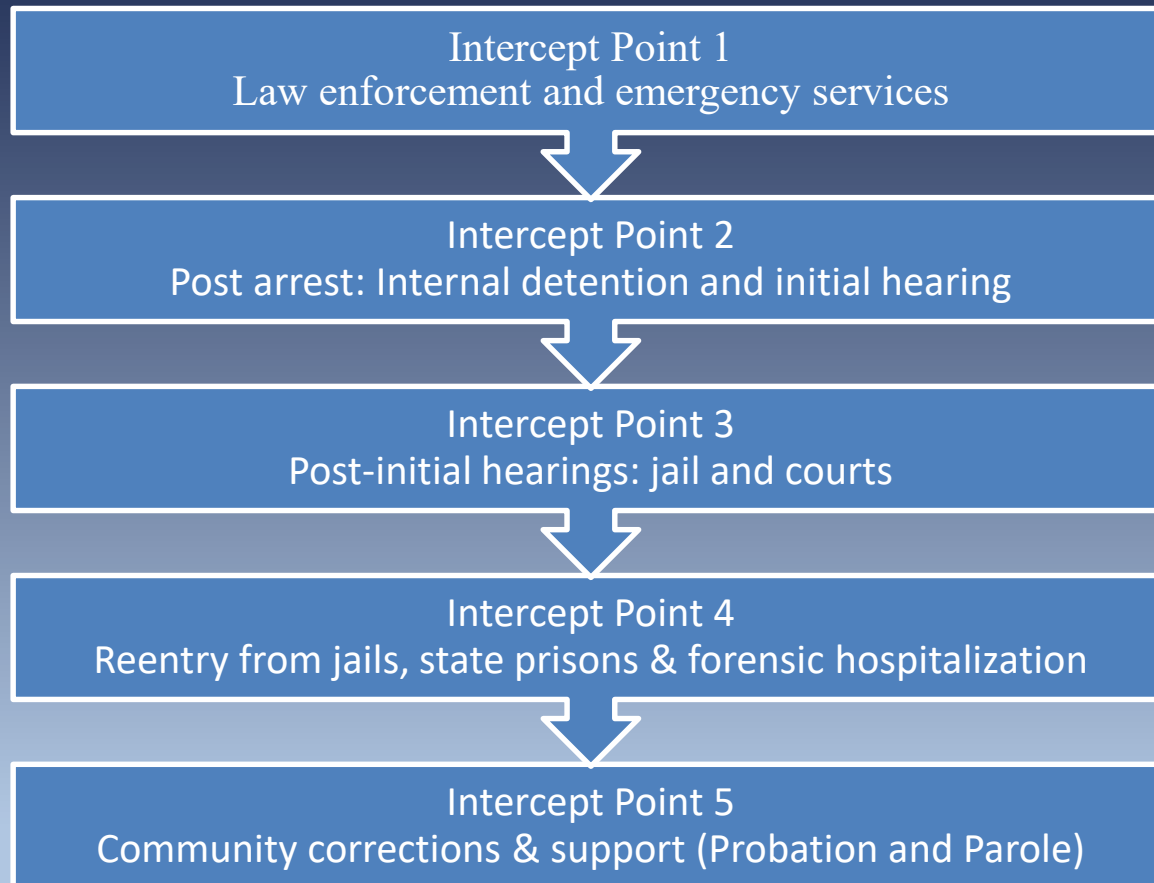
Sequential Intercept Model

- Used as a roadmap by the VJO
- Indicates that people move through the justice system in predictable ways.
- Allows for multiple opportunities of intercept.
- Looks to identify Veterans in need and move them away from avoidable contact with the justice system and into the appropriate treatment.



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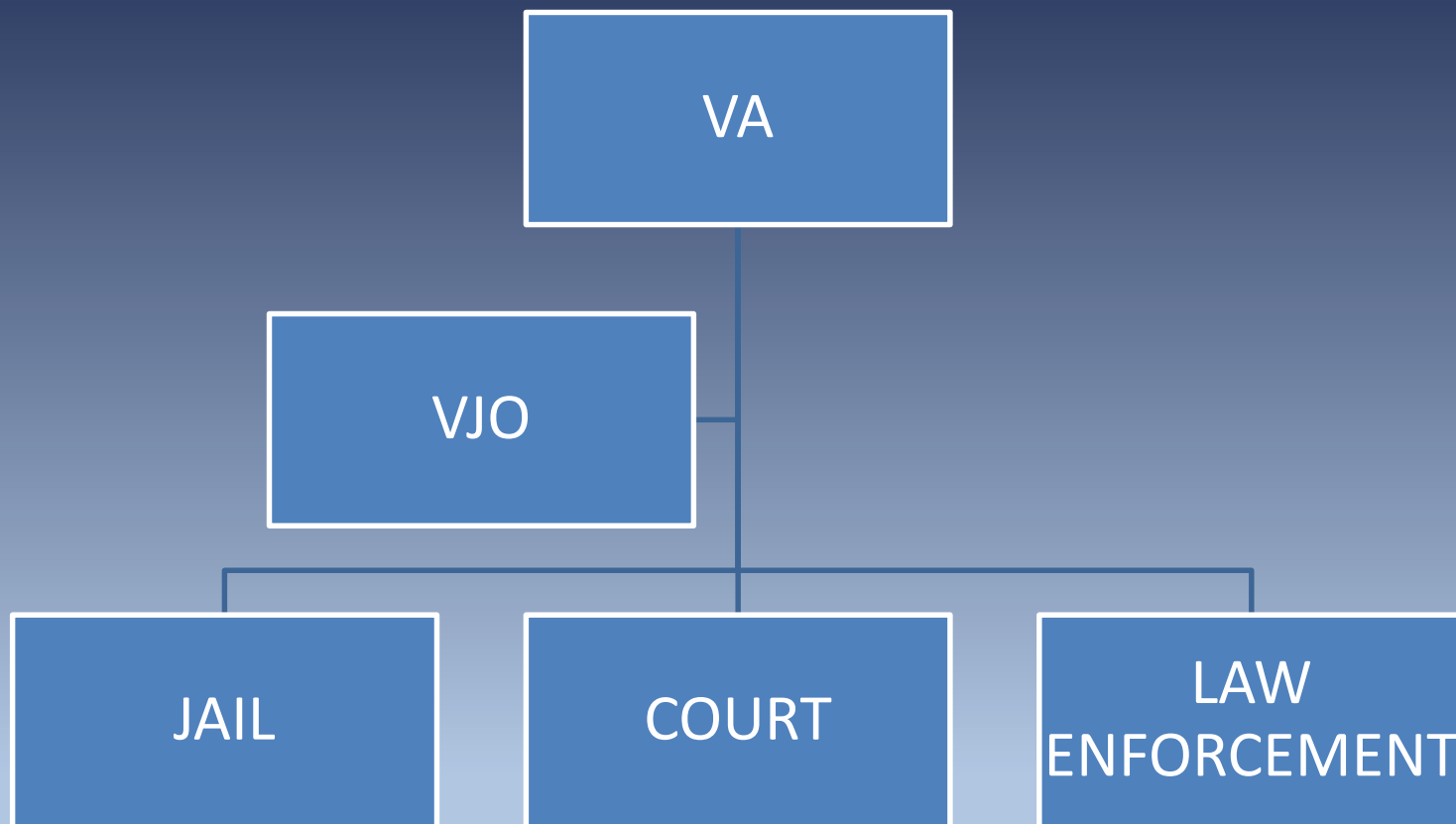
Sequential Intercept Model - Intercepts





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Sequential Intercept Model





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What the VJO Can and Cannot do.

Can...

- Reach out to law enforcement, jails, and courts;
- Provide comprehensive healthcare services;
- With Veteran consent, communicate essentials (attendance, progress, tx testing, d/c plan);
- Serve all veteran eras;
- Function as court team member;
- Assess veteran's healthcare needs, identify appropriate VA and non-VA services;
- Refer and link veteran to services;
- Provide EBT for court-monitored veterans.

Cannot...

- Accept Custody
- Guarantee program acceptance
- Advocate for legislation
- Perform forensic psychiatric or psychological evaluation for the court;
- Do Diversion Programming, accept custody;
- Serve VHA ineligible Veterans.



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Questions?