

TITLE: Becoming a More Trauma-Responsive VTC

DESCRIPTION: Becoming a More Trauma Responsive Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) offers a concise, practical overview of how trauma affects justice involved veterans and how court practices can better support recovery. The session outlines key trauma responsive principles, common behavioral manifestations of trauma in court settings, and actionable strategies for creating safer, more predictable, and more supportive courtroom environments. Attendees will gain concrete tools—including validated screening approaches, trauma responsive communication techniques, and integration of peer support—to strengthen engagement, reduce re traumatization, and improve outcomes for veterans in treatment courts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Define trauma and its impact on justice-involved individuals
- Review key principles of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-informed Approach
- Identify and apply trauma-responsive principles within the structure of VTC.
- Develop practical strategies to enhance trauma-responsiveness within VTC.



Zachary Vicha is a project director with All Rise's Justice for Vets (JFV) division. With dual licenses as a mental health and substance use counselor, Zach has dedicated over ten years to working alongside diverse teams at the vital intersection of mental health and justice. He thrives on facilitating collaborative conversations, bringing together various viewpoints to create meaningful interactions across overlapping systems. In his previous role as a policy analyst for the Supreme Court of Ohio, Zach provided essential training and technical assistance to 260 treatment courts statewide. As the coordinator of a local veterans treatment court, he significantly advanced compliance with best practices

while fostering strong partnerships with the local VA. Additionally, he pioneered a specialized track for individuals dealing with domestic violence. With his expertise in dual addiction and trauma treatment, combined with pharmacological interventions, Zach's blend of hands-on experience and administrative insight truly benefits those he serves.