

TITLE: The Multiple Medical Needs of the Veteran Population

DESCRIPTION: This session provides an overview of the complex medical, mental health, and substance use comorbidities commonly seen among justice involved Veterans. Participants will learn how chronic medical conditions, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, sleep disorders, pain, and layered trauma histories affect cognitive functioning, behavior, compliance, and engagement in Veterans Treatment Courts. The presentation highlights practical, trauma responsive strategies for identifying health-related barriers, coordinating care across systems, and improving outcomes through integrated, collaborative approaches

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Understand common medical, mental health, and substance use comorbidities among Veterans in justice-involved settings.
- 2) Describe how chronic medical conditions, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), sleep disorders, and pain affect functioning, compliance, and court participation.
- 3) Recognize the role of trauma and its neurobiological impact on behavior, cognition, and decision-making.
- 4) Identify how integrated, collaborative care supports improved outcomes and reduces recidivism.
- 5) Apply trauma-responsive and health-informed approaches when working with Veterans in treatment court programs.



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.