



Court Navigator Resources Informs Program Development Legislation in Maine

Our work to catalog and share the structure and services of court navigator programs is building momentum across the nation! States building court navigator programs are using Policy Research’s resources to inform their program design:

- *National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs (2024)*: Offers an overview of 18 programs across 22 states.
- *Court Navigator Resource Guide (2023)*: Provides detailed findings from site visits and interviews with five programs

Program Development Plan Through Legislation in Maine

Maine State Senator Rachel Talbot Ross introduced [LD 1965](#), “Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan,” that would “develop a comprehensive court navigation program that provides critical support to self-represented litigants.” In her opening testimony, Senator Talbot Ross notes that the task force’s “approach reflects the findings of the *Court Navigator Compendium*, a national report authored by Policy Research Associates ... [that] highlights the critical role these programs play in connecting people to behavioral health, economic, and social services.”

The bill to establish a task force was passed in March. Over the next year, the task force will design a court navigation program and implementation plan.

Interested in bringing a court navigator program to your jurisdiction? Contact our [Research and Evaluation team](#) to design a program that fits your needs.

Save Your Seat—Beyond the Court Order: New Long-Term Evidence from Mobile County’s AOT Program

May 7, 2026, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, Drs. Cindy Gipson and Richard Van Dorn will provide an overview of AOT in Mobile County, Alabama. They will present outcomes from analyses of over 500 individuals who received AOT orders—including **first-of-their-kind data on police contacts and use-of-force incidents**—examining AOT's impact across different risk groups and across three distinct time periods: before, during, and after the AOT order.

Beyond the Court Order: New Long-Term Evidence from Mobile County’s AOT Program

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Register for the Webinar

PRA Contributes to SAMHSA Publication Outlining Strategies for CCBHCs to Strengthen Veteran Engagement

Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA) is proud to support the release of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) *Engaging Service Members, Veterans, and Families: A Toolkit for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics*. Developed by PRA's behavioral health experts for service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF) on behalf of SAMHSA, the toolkit reflects our longstanding commitment to effective, community-based care for SMVF.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are uniquely positioned to serve SMVF. SMVF may experience intersecting behavioral health needs made more complex by military experiences, service history, and the challenges of transitioning between systems of care. This toolkit equips CCBHCs with strategies to strengthen engagement with military-connected individuals across the full continuum of care.

TOOLKIT

ENGAGING SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FAMILIES:

A Toolkit for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics



2026

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

What's inside: Topics covered in the publication include identifying SMVF within service populations, building awareness of military and Veteran experiences, cultivating partnerships with Veteran-serving organizations, and addressing engagement barriers specific to military-connected communities.

Learn more: Join SAMHSA, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center, state government representatives, and CCBHC implementing partners for a webinar introducing the toolkit on **June 9, 2026, from 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET.**

[Download the Toolkit](#)

[Register for the Webinar](#)

Introducing an Interconnected View of Veteran Well-Being

A recently released conceptual model from PRA maps the clinical and life factors that shape Veteran mental health and their interactions.

Our impact: This framework helps providers consider the range of experiences and conditions that service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF) may experience. SMVF may face numerous challenges across multiple circumstances, and comorbid or chronic conditions can exacerbate one another.

What it covers: The framework organizes two categories that influence SMVF mental health and well-being:

- **Biopsychosocial conditions:** Clinical and social factors with direct impact on well-being, including post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, moral injury, and substance use
- **Life circumstances:** Situational factors with indirect impact on well-being, including housing instability, criminal legal system involvement, isolation, and access to lethal means

Who should use it: Policymakers, providers, behavioral health leaders, and supporters can use this framework model to assess whether their programs and services reflect a holistic understanding of Veteran well-being.

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)



Clinical Considerations and Life Circumstances Impacting Veterans

By Duane K. L. France and Holley Davis
December 2025

This graphic presents a conceptual model illustrating the range of circumstances and conditions that service members, Veterans, and their families (SMVF) may experience during their lifetime.

The model highlights two categories that influence mental health and wellness: biopsychosocial conditions and life circumstances. Biopsychosocial conditions and clinical factors have a direct effect on mental health and wellness. Broader life circumstances, such as housing, employment, and legal issues have an indirect influence on overall well-being.

Although these areas are presented separately, they are not discrete or disconnected. SMVF may face numerous challenges across multiple circumstances, and comorbid or chronic conditions can exacerbate one another.

This model is not intended to pathologize military service or imply that SMVF are universally impaired or impacted by that service. Most Veterans do not screen positive for mental health conditions and demonstrate substantial resilience (Fogle et al., 2020).

Biopsychosocial Conditions

Figure 2 illustrates common clinical conditions that some service members and Veterans experience. This can include common clinical concerns, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance use disorders, and mood disorders.

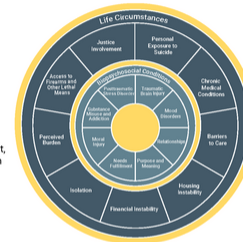


Figure 1. Clinical Considerations and Life Circumstances Impacting Veterans



Policy Research leads the nation in driving sustainable, impactful change for people with behavioral health conditions. Ready to transform your community?

[Contact us!](#)

“...[I]t is important to examine the cycle experienced by those entering the justice system. One tool for this is the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) developed by Policy Research Associates.”—[Correctional News](#)

“Screening tools provide an initial indication that further evaluation may be warranted. Screening should occur as early as possible. The Brief Jail Mental Health Screen, developed by Policy Research Associates, is a booking tool used during jail intake to flag the need for further mental health assessment in individuals where applicable.”—[Indiana Supreme Court](#)

Sarah Desmarais Presents at New York State’s Promoting Community Safety Convening

In November 2025, PRA President & CEO Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, was featured at *the Promoting Community Safety: The Role of Mental Health Theory and Practice* convening. The NYS Office of Mental Health and NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene hosted this first-of-its-kind event. It brought together peers, providers, and researchers to advance recovery and safety for individuals with serious mental illness at elevated risk for aggressive behavior.



Dr. Desmarais presented *Targeting What Matters: Violence, Risk Factors, and Protective Factors in Mental Illness*, drawing on PRA’s deep expertise in violence risk assessment and management. She shared PRA’s research evidence on mental illness and violence, the role of dynamic risk and protective factors in clinical decision-making, and evidence-based intervention strategies. Her presentation underscored PRA’s national leadership in behavioral health research, evaluation, and technical assistance.

PRA leads the nation in driving sustainable, impactful change for people with behavioral health conditions. Ready to transform your community? [Contact us!](#)

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