



Veteran Response Teams

Not just a training

Welcome & Introductions

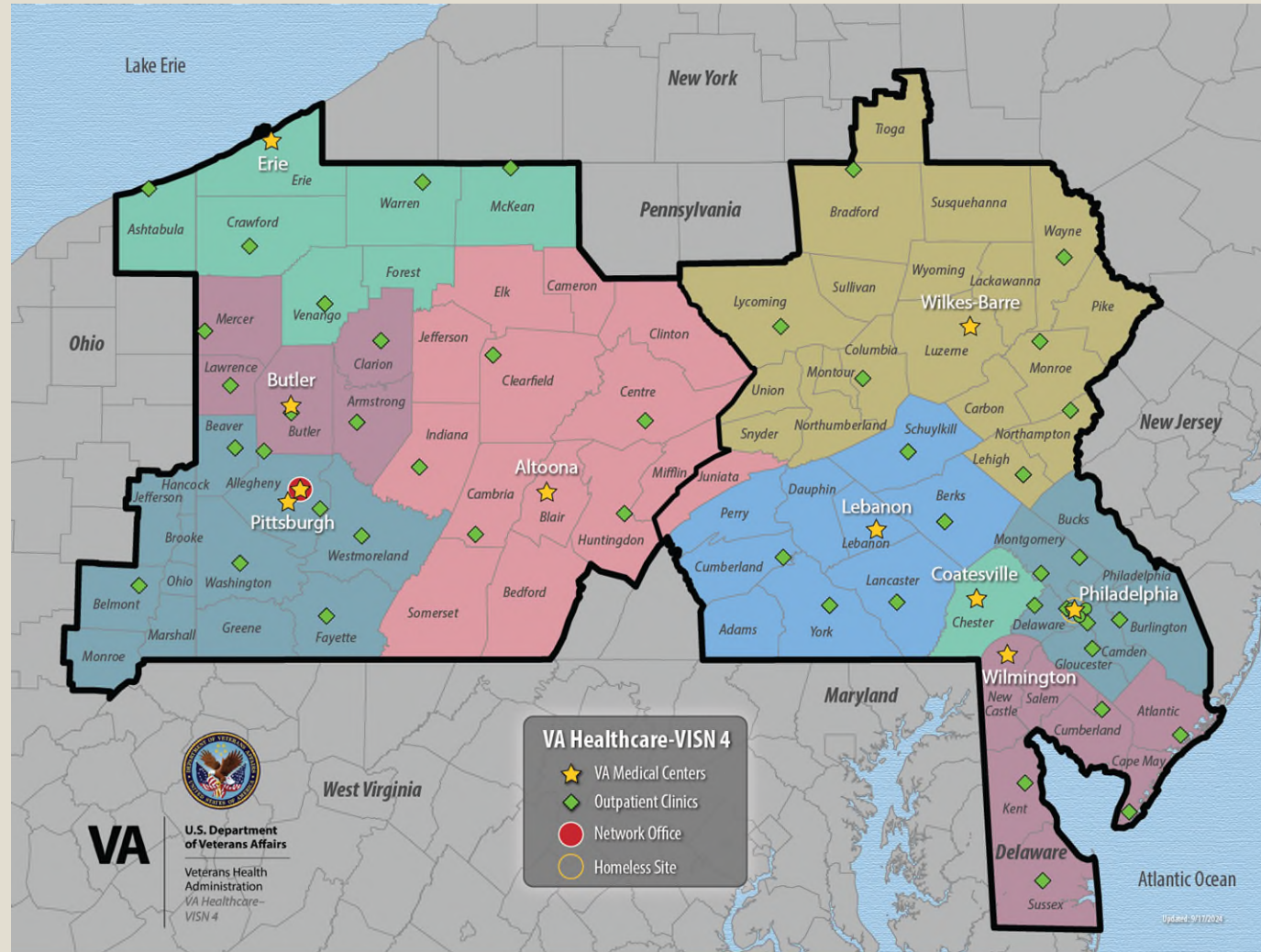
- **Facilitator: Erin O'Donnell, Philadelphia**
- **VA Reps:**
 - Chief Dennis Basmajian, Philadelphia VA
- **VRT Reps:**
 - Matt Allen, Bucks County
 - Greg Wright, Philadelphia



Plan for this Session

- Overview of VRT programs
- Deep Dives into the essential elements of VRT Success
 - Foundational and ongoing training
 - Team Members, Who's Who on the team
 - Operations
 - Real Response Examples
- Vision for the future of VRT in PA
- Wrap-Up

Where is your VA?



When I speak to police
officers who are veterans,





Training

Training

- Two day training
- Speakers from all different disciplines across the counties including law enforcement and behavioral health
- Example Topics
 - De Escalation/ QPR
 - Peer Support
 - Veterans Treatment Court
 - Military Sexual Trauma
 - Local Resources



Operations

Day to Day Operations

Operations

- Referrals
- Dispatching
- Tracking
- Levels of Urgency
- Relationships VA has with VRT programs and Departments



Philadelphia & Bucks

Day to Day Operations

Bucks

- Launch Date: June 2024
- Size of Team: 72 from various departments
- Number of Trainings held: Four
 - Class Five Taking place May 2026
- Veterans served: 18 referrals

Philadelphia

- Launch Date: First class held October 2024
- Size of Team: 180 Members
- Number of Trainings held: Five
 - Class Four taking place May 2026
- Veterans served all over city of Philadelphia

Other Counties in Pennsylvania

- Montgomery (first in the state) – started January 2022
- Delaware County – started 2025
- Butler County – started November 2024
- More countries to start by end of 2026



Real Response Examples

How does this work in the field?



Vision for the Future

Regional Teams

Pennsylvania Meetings

Wrap-Up

Q&A, Networking, Share contact info

Contact Information

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