



# Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

May 6th, 2013

9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Copper Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

## MEETING MINUTES

### Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Commissioner McKeel, Corbett Monica, Julie Osborn, Doug Kuhl, Deanna Dalton, Sharon Fitzgerald, Don Weber, Barbara Willer, Belle Landau, Joe Williams, Adam Watkins, Gabriel Court, Gareld Gedrose, Rachel Klein, Greg Lamb, Tina Edge, Elan Lambert, Sean Files, Juan Carlos Ocana Chiu, Tressa Kovachevich, Linda Maddy

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
<b>211 Info Veterans Services</b>  Deanna Dalton	<p>Deanna has been with 211 for three months working on this project and it will roll out around Memorial Day. The three goals include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Create a comprehensive database of services for veterans</li><li>2) One-Stop-Shop website</li><li>3) Texting feature – text 2898211</li></ol> <p>The database will have all of the community health centers, county veterans service officers, and working on adding in National Guard resources, faith based organizations, and JTAP. She has tabled at job fairs, partnered with OMSN, and started a weekly blog. The training workbook will be available on the website after Memorial Day. She also created a pdf training tool about understanding military families and the service member, and trained 211 call center representatives on identifying veterans and enhanced cultural competency.</p> <p>The majority of veterans who contact 211 are seeking basic needs, and the age range is typically around 30 y/o or over 50. The four most common issues that veterans are calling 211 about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Rent assistance – financial</li><li>2) Electrical bill assistance – financial</li><li>3) Dental care</li><li>4) Vision care</li></ol> <p>The organization is working on making this position ongoing. Deanna offered to put together a template for a letter of support if anyone would like to advocate for this service.</p>	<p>To check if your program is listed in database, go to <a href="http://211info.org">211info.org</a> and select "get listed/update record"</p> <p>Blog available at: <a href="http://211info.org/category/blog-keyword/veterans">http://211info.org/category/blog-keyword/veterans</a></p> <p>Sean will send template for support letter to any task force members who want to advocate for this position</p>

<p><b>Dual Diagnosis Anonymous (DDA) of Oregon</b></p> <p>Corbett Monica</p>	<p>Corbett is the founder of DDA of Oregon, which is a modified 12 step program for individuals with dual diagnoses. He shared his own mental health and substance abuse experience, and the impact of returning from Vietnam. Through his experience in multiple roles, Corbett met a number of people who wanted to go to a 12-step program, but it didn't meet their needs.</p> <p>Corbett started DDA in 1996, with five steps focusing on mental illness and creating a framework for addressing addiction and mental health. Open meetings: For veterans at the CRRC every Tuesday at 10am (308 SW 1<sup>st</sup>), Open meeting at 521 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) Tues and Wed noon (open meeting), Thurs at noon (for veterans/friends of vets), and Fri at noon (open to women only).</p> <p>A grant that has largely funded operations in Multnomah County is ending this summer, and the program is working on accessing funds to continue the current level of service in the Portland area.</p>	<p>More information at DDA of Oregon's website: <a href="http://www.ddaoforegon.com">www.ddaoforegon.com</a></p>
<p><b>USO Center at PDX</b></p> <p>Col. Joe Williams</p>	<p>Joe retired from active duty in 2007 and came to the Portland area. Through business and personal travel throughout his career he has recognized the value of a USO center at the airport, in particular the ones in Dallas-Ft. Worth and Houston.</p> <p>He described the efforts that have been made to get a USO Center at PDX, including originally being told "no", networking with civilian and military partners, and getting this project featured in a newspaper article. He met with the Director of the Port of Portland in January and now has a space reserved at the airport.</p> <p>They have connected with an architect, who helped recruit HVAC, electrical, and othes. Students at Marylhurst are doing design work for the space. There will be a lot of signage on the concourse and USO Center will be located in the mezzanine before security checkpoint. Website is <a href="http://www.usonw.org/pdx">www.usonw.org/pdx</a></p> <p>In the rough timeline, they expect to complete design in July, begin construction in August, soft opening in September, and grand opening by Veterans Day this year.</p>	<p>Have a contractor, and looking for subs to donate time.</p> <p>For questions, or to support this project (with time, talent, or "treasure") contact Col. Williams at: <a href="mailto:pdx@usonw.org">pdx@usonw.org</a></p>
<p><b>Project Updates and Open Discussion</b></p>	<p><b>Multnomah County Aging &amp; Disability Services -</b> Juan Carlos announced that in May he will be leaving his role in the county's veteran services office for a new opportunity with a different local organization. Lynn Schemmer-Valleau will be taking over this position on an interim basis. Welcome, Lynn.</p> <p><b>Veterans Justice Outreach –</b> Linda Maddy and Adam Watkins recognized the work of Greg Lamb for all of his efforts around interfacing with veterans and the VA at the jail, connecting veterans with benefits, and the success and excitement that he has helped create the past few years. Thank you Greg!</p>	

**USS Ranger Foundation –**

Steve reported that the foundation recently sent out a thank you to veterans and board members who had worked on the USS Ranger project. Because of the recent Navy decision, they are ending the effort to get the Ranger and instead working on honoring the Ranger with another ship that could be brought to Fairview.

**Merkley Event –**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Commissioner McKeel, Juan Carlos, and Gabriel joined Senator Merkley for a conversation at a local VFW post to discuss the VA claims backlog. The event went well and the County will continue to work with our federal delegation and local partners to raise awareness about (and access to) veterans benefits and services.

**Save the Date: Suicide Prevention Training scheduled this fall –**

Belle announced that there will be a suicide prevention training at Camp Withycombe on September 20<sup>th</sup>. More details as they become available.

*Next meeting scheduled for ...*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

9:00am - 10:30am

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd – Copper Conference Room on 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Portland, OR 97214

\*\* Meetings normally take place 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month 9:00am - 11:00am \*\*