

**Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce**

February 4, 2013

9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 6th Floor Room 635, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214**MEETING MINUTES****Welcome and Introductions**

Task Force meeting attended by: Sean Files, Barbara Willer, Glenn Shuck, Cathy Spoffard, Don Weber, Doreen Binder, Steven Easterday, Belle Landau, Tina Edge, Tressa Kovachevich, Pat Lucas, Gareld Gedrose, Doug Kuhl, Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu, Linda Maddy, Elan Lambert, April Woods, Carla Gonzales, Keith Falkenberg

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Multnomah County Interfaith Initiative Barbara Willer	<p>Initiative started at the end of 2011, with focus on building relationships and expanding collaborations with community partners. Currently mapping 750-800 leaders across the county and will present to the Board in March. The goal is to support faith community efforts and highlight opportunities to join the County in its work, with training for leaders throughout the faith community rather than just Pastors or Rabbis. The handout is attached at the end of this document.</p> <p>Group discussed some opportunities around veterans services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oregon National Guard - Partners in Care events with faith-based groups• Faith-based community is usually the first responder in times of disaster with food and other supplies• Homelessness is a growing issue with veterans and military families. No homeless shelter in N. Portland for families with children so the faith community may be able to help	<p>If you want to be added to the newsletter, email Barbara at:</p> <p>Barbara.Willer@multco.us</p>
Returning Veterans Project Belle Landau	<p>The Returning Veterans Project, which turns 8 years old tomorrow, provides free counseling, acupuncture, chiropractic, naturopathic, and massage therapy to veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. When people first come back, they often initially want massage and chiro treatment. Once they feel better, they sleep better, and are better able to engage in counseling. The program will serve anyone in the family – not just the servicemember.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have one certified national chaplain in their database – this is an opportunity to partner with faith community.• Also looking for more body work chiropractic and massage therapists in Multnomah County.• There is a need for more counselors in Clackamas County. (There is a 90 min orientation with some training required). <p>Also involved in ongoing activities/events including continuing ed, MST trainings, military culture training, TBI brown-bag, and training about military wives.</p>	<p>Events are posted on facebook, their website: returningveterans.org and at the website you can sign up for the newsletter</p>

Project Updates & Discussion	County Veterans Services - Juan Carlos announced that Gabriel Court has been hired as the Justice Involved VSO at Multnomah County	
	Veterans Project in Multnomah Public Defender's Office - Gareld described the MPD Veterans Project, which will remove legal barriers for housing and other issues veterans face. He can answer legal questions and refer veterans for services.	Call and talk to Gerald Fields at 503-225-9100 To set up an appt
	Transition Projects - Doreen reported that TPI has worked with veterans for 30 years. About 12 years ago the VA put out a grant for per diem funds and they were able to hire a position for veterans outreach, doing mental health support, housing, and case management. They have added beds for women at Jean's Place and long term housing. The per diem and SSVF funds enables TPI to house, provide mental health and substance abuse treatment, and companionship. She said that in their work they have found that you can't address the issue of homelessness without talking about veterans. <u>Question to the group:</u> Are shelters and homeless providers trained and prepared to work with veterans and their families? <u>Answer from group:</u> Not really, and this is an opportunity to look at collaborations and ways to expand training.	Seek opportunities to collaborate with homeless providers and expand trainings to identify and work with veterans and their families
	Resource Guide for Veterans Services - Is there a resource guide for veterans to use? Identified in group discussion: there is a section in the Rose City Resource guides, they may put together a veterans-specific guide, and 211 has a large list of resources by county.	
	Question about Housing Discrimination – A story was shared about a veteran who had a VASH voucher and was told by landlord that he wouldn't rent to veterans. Initial research was that this discrimination is illegal in Washington but not specifically called out in Oregon. Gareld will look into it.	Research into housing discrimination law re: landlord refusing to rent to veterans
	Veteran Employment – Discussion about how to make the military more of a pipeline for employment. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the county (or businesses) have an apprenticeship program or internships for veterans? • Healthcare, logistics, IT, and transportation are all logical fields for military employment pipelines. What needs to happen to develop the infrastructure for this? • By 2020 we can expect severe shortages for a lot of jobs at the county. How can we (county, nonprofits, businesses) utilize this potential pipeline of qualified employees? 	

<p>System Integration & Resource Networking (SIRN) – Training program has been in place about 4-5 years now. Initially it was for police recruits, then expanded to all officers when Chief Reese made it a mandatory training for PPB. Have expanded to train officers in East Mult County, Clark County, and some Washington Co transit officers. Next training is in May, then in November for four days. There is an article getting published today about new directions for police training, and SIRN will be included as a “promising practice.”</p>	<p>Tina Edge is contact for any questions.</p>
<p>Gold Star Memorial – A memorial is going to be built at Willamette. Need fundraising support to complete this project.</p>	<p>Sean can connect you with Pat Lucas if you want more information.</p>

Next meeting scheduled for ...

March 4th, 2013

9:00am - 11:00am

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd - Conference room #635 Portland, OR 97214

**** Meetings normally take place 1st Monday of every month 9:00am - 11:00am ****



**MULTNOMAH
COUNTY**

**INTERFAITH INITIATIVE
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND EQUITY**

The Multnomah County Interfaith Initiative is an innovative collaboration among communities of faith, social service providers, community organizations, and local government working together to promote:

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Equity and dignity for those disenfranchised from our community.
- **PEACE & NONVIOLENCE**
Opportunities to end all types of abuse and violence.
- **STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY**
Actions to support the environment and champion community health and wellness.
- **PLURALISM**
Respect for diversity of beliefs, and community integration without the expectation of assimilation

VISION

Multnomah County and its diverse faith communities align on issues of shared social concern, and work together to build a moral voice for the common good.

MISSION

To work in partnership with communities of all faiths by building relationships and providing leadership, policy analysis, technical expertise, and training to fulfill our respective core missions to serve the community.

STRUCTURE

Two primary structures exist to provide leadership and carry out the initiative. An internal County workgroup meets monthly to increase coordination and support to and outreach with faith communities for core service areas. Working groups are created to address specific community issues.

Contact:

Barbara Willer, Interfaith Coordinator
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January 3, 2013