

Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Veterans Services Committee

Formed in the Fall of 2012 as a subcommittee of the AOC Human Services Committee, following the 2013 AOC Annual Conference it will be a stand-alone committee through AOC.

Mission Statement:

"The AOC Veterans Subcommittee's mission is to work together as a collective voice for Oregon Counties in an effort to provide the best possible services to our veterans, service members, and their families."

Committee Jurisdiction:

The AOC Veterans Committee's jurisdiction encompasses all matters pertaining to the employment, education, healthcare, pension, and other earned benefits for military service veterans and their families. In addition, the Committee's work encompasses coordination with the public safety and legal system.

Committee Structure:

Members include Commissioners and Judges from across Oregon.

The 2013-13 voting membership includes:

Commissioner Diane McKeel (Committee Chair), Multnomah County
Commissioner Kathy George, Yamhill County
Commissioner Henry Heimuller, Columbia County
Commissioner Joe Laurence, Douglas County
Commissioner John Lindsey, Linn County
Commissioner Rod Runyon, Wasco County
Commissioner Martha Schrader, Clackamas County
Judge Steve Shaffer, Gilliam County
Commissioner Don Skundrick, Jackson County
Commissioner John Sweet, Coos County

Nonvoting member includes:

Cameron Smith, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, and representatives from Senator Wyden's Office, the Oregon National Guard, County Veterans Services Officers Association, VA VISN 20, Northwest Public Affairs, and the Oregon Legislature.

Work Plan:Support and Coordination for County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs)

1. Coordinate technical assistance to identify barriers and share successes across Oregon.
2. Increase the number of veterans who are qualified, but not yet enrolled for VA health care benefits.
3. Increase the number of veterans who are qualified, but are not enrolled for VA disability, education, housing and other earned benefits.

Suicide Prevention:

1. Work with ODVA as a lead partner in suicide prevention campaign in support of SB 762 (2013)

Housing:

1. Help effectively implement the \$5.9 million of new state funds earmarked for chronically homeless veterans housing as created by HB 2417 (2013)
2. Facilitate technical assistance for federal housing resources for veterans, including VASH vouchers, SSVF funds, and other appropriate programs provided by the VA and local government or nonprofits.

Public Safety and the Justice System:

1. Work with local public safety systems to compile data on the number of veterans in the local jails and in the justice system.
2. Help coordinate efforts of local Sheriffs, Judges, community corrections, LMHA's, the VA, CCO's and health departments to provide more coordinated services for veterans.

Health Care:

1. Help to maximize the number of veterans enrolled in Medicaid Expansion and through the Health Exchange / Cover Oregon.
2. Help Establish protocols for relationships between VA health care, CCO's and the Health Exchange / Cover Oregon.

Adopt a state legislative agenda by December 2013 (on the agenda for December meeting)

Adopt a federal legislative agenda by February 2014