



# Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 11:00am

Lines For Life, 5100 SW Macadam Ave., Ste. 400, Portland, OR 97239

## **MEETING MINUTES: Focus – Suicide Prevention**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Tina Edge, Tressa Kovachevich, Mike Caudle, Seth Lyon, Tommy Graven, Britni Childs, Alex Glover, Carrie Calaspa, Andy Smith, Joe Carbajal, Dwight Holton, Jill Behunin, Carrie Froelich, Calle Ann Pierson, Scott Wilkening, Belle Landau, Don Weber, Pete Pringle, Darrell Beck, Steven Easterday, Estanislado Quinones, Matt Burton, Lindsay Stover, Jean Detinger

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
<b>Update on Statewide Vision and Workplan to Prevent Suicide</b>  Cameron Smith & Eric Belt	<p>Cameron gave an overview of the vision for this next year and strategic partnerships that the organization is working on. Approximately seven in ten veterans statewide have not accessed benefits they are eligible for, and key component of the strategy to address this is veteran service officers and supporting them through partnerships at the state, federal, and local level. Estimate that 20% of claims come through the VFW, American Legion, and other service organizations, and 80% originate from CVSOs and ODVA's service officers.</p> <p>That includes engaging with CVSOs so they can communicate electronically within the VA claims management system.</p> <p>Another key focus for the state is suicide prevention. This work includes collecting baseline data, enhancing services and partnerships, and raising public awareness about resources. A warm hand-off with other community providers is very important, including county programs, so they are working to improve those partnerships as well. Need to work through to the outcome, not just make referrals.</p> <p>Expressed concern about long-term stability of the reintegration team, and recognize that now is the chance to build up other supportive services.</p>	

<p><b>Lines for Life Military Helpline</b></p> <p>Joe Carbajal &amp; Invited Guests</p>	<p>Viewed commercial that recently played on TV about the military help line.</p> <p>Conducting a 36 county outreach effort that starts today, May 5th. Getting out the phone number and information on services that callers will need. Resources for family members are equally important. Intercom radio is airing radio advertisements throughout the summer. lines for Life has hired three vet corps members for a year long assignment. Joe shared examples of local veterans who utilized the military helpline.</p> <p>Rebekah Wolfe discussed her role as a Vet Corps volunteer.</p> <p>Sgt King, from the Portland Police Bureau crisis negotiation team, discussed his partnership with Lines for Life. The team has 26 members who respond to crisis or hostage situations. All negotiators and supervisors work on the crisis line or military helpline at least once per month, which has prompted a change of philosophy over the years toward a focus on de-escalating the situation rather than rushing in to take control. This philosophy is especially important when working with veterans in crisis. Have trained 75 police officers, reaching down to Salem and Marion County, and are talking with other jurisdictions about training as well.</p> <p>The Multnomah County Crisis Line also takes phone calls from 911 and works with veterans.</p> <p>Question was asked about how, when somebody calls the crisis line, how is decision made to refer to 911, project respond, the VA, or other options? Response is that it depends on resources at 911 - do they have a response team for that issue, what de-escalation can happen, are their other local partners that can respond immediately? For example, some VA programs may not be able to respond right away but are available as a follow-up resource.</p>	<p>To volunteer with the crisis line, contact Joe Carbajal. there is a 56 hour training course and multiple attendees recommended it.</p> <p>Multnomah County Crisis Line is available by calling 503-988-4888</p>
<p><b>Multnomah County Guardianship Program</b></p> <p>Mark Sanford</p>	<p>Mark provided an overview of the county's guardianship program. It operates within the county's Human Services Department with a mission of providing legal court-ordered protections for individuals in need. Interventions are made when there is no other less restrictive interventions available.</p> <p>The guardianship program strives to represent the individual's desires and values, and coordinates to provide for plans that will keep the individual safe. Currently in Multnomah County, the program serves 170 cases, and there is an estimated need of 1600-3--- statewide. To find out more or with questions about an individual's eligibility for the program, call 503-988-4567.</p>	

<p><b>General Updates</b> All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand Down planning meeting is scheduled Wednesday, 3pm at 10000 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave Kliever Armory.</li> <li>• May 29<sup>th</sup> ODVA and National Guard Summit at the Salem Convention Center from 9am-12pm.</li> <li>• East County Stand Down will be October 18<sup>th</sup> in Troutdale.</li> <li>• County budget hearings are scheduled May 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8pm, if you'd like to advocate to the County Board of Commissioners about programs under consideration in the next budget. Contact Sean at 503-988-5213 with questions about any particular program and for details on these public hearings.</li> </ul>	
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