



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

August 4th, 9:00am – 11:00am

Concordia University: Room GRW 310, 2811 NE Holman St., Portland, OR 97211

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Casey Curry, Julie Dodge, Sheryl Reinisch, Scott Winegar, Sally Erickson, Cathy Spofford, Carolyn Bateson, Seth Lyon, Don Weber, Jonathan Sanford, Jennifer Hibbs, Alex Glover, Javelin Hardy, Gabriel Court, Lynn Schemmer Valleau, Walter Robinson II, Sean Files, Commissioner Diane McKeel, Matt Burton, Scott Wilkening, Doug Kuhl, Kevin Matheny, Jen McCalley, Sarah Johnson

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Resources for Supporting Military Connected Children and Youth Sarah Johnson	<p>Sarah presented an overview of the Oregon National Guard's Child and Youth Program and provided county-level data on the number of children with a parent in the Guard. With the most recent data (2012) in Multnomah County there were 192 children between the ages of 0-5 years, 208 children between ages 6-12, and 165 children ages 13-17 with a parent in the Oregon National Guard, for a total of 565 children in the county.</p> <p>The three staff members in this program serve around ten thousand kids across the state, which Sarah described and distributed packets with additional information on the military teen panel, family camps, the free tutor.com resource for families of current service members and wounded warriors, and graphics on the stages of deployment.</p> <p>Suggested ways that schools can help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be aware and track kids who have a parent in the military• Be aware of where that parent is at in the deployment cycle• Contact the Child and Youth Program to build a custom program to promote understanding of community needs and staff development goals• Encourage military-connected children to participate in the tutor.com program <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logical partnership with the county's foster grandparent program, and information about these resources will be added to newsletters.• Discussion about upcoming event to support healing and resilience through fishing called "celebration of wild steelhead". September 7th, 1pm at Peninsula Park. Information available at: http://soulriverrunsdeep.com/2014/07/26/celebration-wild-steelhead-returns/• One issue that schools have experienced is custody disputes after a single parent returns from deployment but did not put an end date on their custody paperwork.• Reviewed the draft action plan handout. Work group will meet to revise it.	<p>Commissioner McKeel will approach AOC about advocacy for family care plan oversight.</p> <p>Sean will convene small work group; revised action plan to be shared at future VTF meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to get good data on the number of students at any school who have a parent in the National Guard. Usually just anecdotal data available. • When there is a connection with a school, helpful to get information to the administrator as well as counselors and secretaries. 	
<p>Operation 424 to End Veteran Homelessness</p> <p>Seth Lyon, Carolyn Bateson, Sally Erickson</p>	<p>A few years ago there were 305 HUD-VASH housing vouchers for chronically homeless veterans allocated to Multnomah County. These vouchers are limited to paying for rent, so local partners formed "Operation 305" to overcome barriers and ensure that all the vouchers were used. In this partnership, Home Forward provided reports on voucher usage and can cover the security deposits for veterans, the VA sped up its hiring process for case workers and improved accessibility with services available at the CRRC, the county (with other entities) provided flexible funds to help veterans pay for housing costs, and Home Forward along with multiple nonprofit housing organizations used networks with landlords to help veterans get housed. All of the VASH vouchers are leased up now. A team from the local area recently went to Washington, DC, on a conference to end veteran homelessness as part of the "25 cities initiative". Building on this initiative, they looked at data and estimate 424 chronically homeless veterans that need to be housed by the end of 2014 to accomplish this goal.</p> <p>Housing programs used in "Operation 424" include HUD-VASH, SSVF, Grants and Per Diem, and Shelter + Care. In addition, an estimated 15% (about 64) of chronically homeless veterans are not eligible for VA services and will be housed through other local programs.</p> <p>Goal of Operation 424 is to house 100 by Veterans Day this year (14 per month), and the other 324 by the end of 2014 (at a rate of 23 per month). Thus far there have been 72 housed since April, 2013.</p> <p>Using values-based approach that emphasizes a "no wrong door" philosophy where any veteran can access help from any point in the system, and housing first model where individuals are housed and then receive the necessary supports to keep them successful in that placement. The three key issues to address are: 1) finding a safe place off the streets until a unit opens up, 2) Finding a housing placement, and 3) Retention to keep that veteran in the apartment.</p> <p>Carolyn described the positive impact that these strong community partnerships has helped make possible.</p> <p>Asks for the Task Force:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Carry forward the message to the community that there is hope for ending homelessness among veterans and the successes of Operation 424. If you know a homeless veteran, please send them to the Community Resource Referral Center, Transition Projects, or a County Veteran's Service Officer. 2) Legislative advocacy to enable flexibility for HUD-VASH funds (e.g. 5% that could be used for other housing-related costs). 	

<p>3 to PhD Initiative</p> <p>Kevin Matheny, Julie Dodge, Jen McCalley</p>	<p>Kevin and Jen presented an overview of Faubion Elementary, Concordia University, and the shared facility and partnership between the two. Faubion Elementary, which sits adjacent to the Concordia campus, has a large boundary area stretching as far as Jantzen Beach, eighty-one percent of students are on free & reduced lunch, and approximately twenty percent are homeless. Due to food insecurity at home and students who ride the bus as long as an hour or more each way, the school provides breakfast, snack, and lunch for students, as well as supper for those participating in SUN school programming.</p> <p>Concordia has over 9,000 students, about 2,000 of whom are undergraduates. One primary focus is its education programs, which include a Masters in Education and newly started Education Doctorate program.</p> <p>In 2012 a bond passed for Portland Public Schools and after an extensive fundraising campaign by Concordia they will break ground on a new school in about February of 2016. The new building will house Faubion classrooms as well as Concordia's 3 to PhD classrooms, extensive wraparound services for students, three science/tech/engineering/arts/ math (STEAM) classrooms, a full-time social worker, and professors and college students integrated into school programs. Reviewed sketches of the conceptual layout for this new building for discussed how the services and academic programs are integrated in. Handouts distributed on Concordia, the 3 to PhD program, and Steve Duin's October 15, 2013, Oregonian article titled "Concordia, Faubion, and the Makings of a Beautiful Friendship".</p>	
<p>General Updates</p> <p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Run for the Fallen</i> event scheduled August 16th at Cleveland H.S. Great event and proceeds support Blue Star Mothers of Oregon, who support mothers while their children serve in the military. More info available at: http://bluestarmothersoforegon.com/events/run-for-the-fallen/ • Commissioner McKeel gave a recap of the recent National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference, which was held July 11-14 in New Orleans. She serves on the Veterans and Military Services committee and reported on the five military-related resolutions passed at the conference, the workshop on importance of county veterans service officers, toured the National WWII museum, and her recent appointment as Vice-Chair of the committee next year. • Jonathan announced that he is leaving Sen. Wyden's office and this will be his final VTF meeting. He identified highlights from the past few years and called for those around the table to continue focus on helping veterans. • The County's Veterans Service Office has posted a Supervisor position, which closes August 8th. Sean distributed position announcements, which can be found at multco.us/jobs. A CVSO position will also be posted in the coming weeks. • Casey reported that the Returning Veterans Project has an open slot for Friday's Rose Festival Golf Tournament, and that the upcoming LPGA tournament is donating ticket proceeds to selected charities – including RVP. Visit returningveterans.org for more info. • Department of Labor and JTAP are hosting an employment workshop on August 10-12. Register at www.h2h.jobs prior to attending, and contact Jennifer Hibbs for more info at Jennifer.hibbs@ang.af.mil 	