



# Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

October 6th, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, Room 315, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

## **MEETING MINUTES** **Focus – Accessing Benefits**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Adam Renon, Shane Maher, Doug Kuhl, Wendall Palham, Darrell Beck, Jennifer Hibbs, Chris Aiosa, Raychel Gary, Alex Glover, Gabriel Court, Lynn Schemmer-Valleau, Pete Pringle, Katie Burgard, Eric Ensley, Matt Burton

<b>TOPIC / PRESENTER</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Updates</b>  All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioner McKeel shared a Gresham Outlook article, dated October 3, about the new VA Community Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC) coming to Fairview. It will be located on the corner of Halsey and Village streets.</li><li>• Transition projects has been awarded \$6million grant for SSVF program, which support veterans and their families over the next three years. Partners involved in this program include Central City Concern, NW Pilot Project, NAYA, 211, and others.</li><li>• East County Stand Down is scheduled October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Chapel in Troutdale. Opens at 10am and have a lot of vendors and veterans registered. Next planning meeting is 10/7 from 10am-12pm at the Chapel.</li><li>• The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners will present a proclamation recognizing Veterans Day at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.</li><li>• Wendell shared about his experience and provided an overview of the "Live Like John Foundation". He is a Gold Star Father who's son was killed in February of this year. The foundation came from his son's commitment to do better. Proceeds of wristbands fund scholarships at Oregon Youth Challenge Program in Bend, and the foundation helps fund education for soldiers and Gold Star family members.</li><li>• Matt handed out a flyer about the Victory on the Home Front event on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. RSVP online at <a href="http://helpingmenheal.org">helpingmenheal.org</a></li><li>• USO at the Airport: Recently passed the 1,000 visitor mark and conducting outreach to families and local businesses to get volunteers and donations for the space.</li><li>• Tina introduced Andrea Jusino, who will take over as representative from DCJ juvenile services. Andrea shared information about her experience at the county in her role as well as 31 years of service in the Army and OR National Guard.</li></ul>	Veterans Day Proclamation will be first item on the agenda. Meeting begins at 9:30am, and will be in the board room on first floor of Multnomah Building.

	<p>Upcoming events:  10/10: At 11:30am the Secretary of the Navy will be in Portland at the waterfront for a naming ceremony for the USS Oregon and USS Portland  11/5: Mt Hood CC and PCC having veteran job fair events  11/14: Hiring our Heroes job fair at Memorial Coliseum  11/22: Town Hall at the VA, tailored toward agent orange exposure. 1:30-5pm.</p>	
<p><b>County Veterans Services</b></p> <p>Lynn Shemmer-Valleau, Eric Ensley</p>	<p>Lynn and Eric provided overview of County Veterans Services Office programming and next steps for collaboration opportunities and funding requests. Updates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing hiring process for new CVSO position, the 4<sup>th</sup> in the office.</li> <li>• Added second ½ time administrative position.</li> <li>• Received outreach funding from ODVA for advertisements on buses, paper inserts, flyers, and other promotional materials.</li> <li>• Starting third week of “living well with chronic conditions” workshop at Transition Projects.</li> </ul> <p>Goal for expansion is to increase awareness of veteran’s benefits in the community, conduct targeted outreach to help veterans who are returning from service, and connect veterans with other county programs such as the Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services.</p> <p>Discussion included request for a script about the work CVSOs do, for ORNG staff to share with airmen and soldiers prior to deployment.</p> <p>Possibly bring questions from service members back to the task force to develop FAQ. County veteran service office has good relationship with other county departments, but is continuing to strengthen them and look for new opportunities.</p>	<p>Development of FAQ document for senior enlisted supervisors and transition assistance staff.</p> <p>Will send electronic handouts for CVSO to family assistance program to share with families.</p>
<p><b>JTAP Update</b></p> <p>Jennifer Hibbs</p>	<p>News release from the Oregon Military Department, dated September 29, 2014, was distributed as handout.</p> <p>Family Assistance Specialists with the Reintegration Program will continue to support veterans and their families, and Worksource representatives are still valuable referral source for jobs.</p>	<p>Handout is linked on Veterans Task Force meeting materials page.</p>
<p><b>Year End Report</b></p> <p>Sean Files</p>	<p>Sean presented concept for a year-end report that captures the work the task force has accomplished this year, reports back on action items, and identifies issues for 2015 work plan.</p> <p>During group discussion, recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include resource directory with contact information, and upcoming activities</li> <li>• Create an overview of the work being done in Multnomah County to raise more awareness locally and statewide about collaborative opportunities and models to implement elsewhere</li> <li>• Include goal of identifying ways to get younger generation of veterans involved (access to social network as well as benefits/services) who aren’t engaged in other veteran community organizations</li> <li>• Employment – track the number of veterans hired by the county</li> <li>• Goal of having conversations with businesses about the law and hiring veterans, and how to navigate private sector websites to apply for jobs</li> </ul>	