



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

December 1st, 10:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, Copper Conference Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Year in Review

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Glenn Shuck, Don Weber, Pete Pringle, Doug Kuhl, Belle Landau, Medina Journey, Andrea Jusinno, Eric Ensley, Chris Mann, Diane Labant

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Veterans Task Force 2014 Report, Year in Review Commissioner McKeel & Sean Files	<p>Commissioner McKeel presented overview of Task Force work plan, with a different issue area identified in the Community Covenant as the focus for each month's meeting. The December meeting's focus is "year in review" and the group reviewed the draft annual review document. Purpose of document is to provide an overview of the Task Force's history and work, capture the accomplishments that have occurred this year, and reassess next steps by determining goals for the coming year.</p> <p>During discussion, group supported statement that, though one month is focused on families, every issue should be considered from a family perspective since they impact the veteran as well as his or her family members.</p> <p>Members asked to email recommendations for edits or additional content to Sean, and the task force spent majority of time considering focus areas for 2015. Priorities will be added to annual review document, and included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Employment. Pete described services and incentives for employers, including tax credits, training, salary support, and more. Employers typically learn about these by contacting the employment department, so there is an opportunity to connect with a broader range of businesses to help veterans get hired. Task Force decided to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Promote educational outreach across the state through the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) & Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA);b. Develop a speaker's bureau for Task Force members to present to rotary clubs and chambers of commerce, as well as a 1-pager information sheet for consistent and accurate messaging;c. Support for the SERVe study to enhance retention of employees who are veterans.	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop a mentoring program to help veterans build resumes, follow up on job search, and stay in job. Components to be discussed would include how to build a database of mentors, referral process (such as with CVSOs), position description and training, and oversight. 3. Stabilizing stand downs in Portland and East County so there is coordinated event organization and sustainable funding, location, and times. What additions could help support stand downs, such as follow-up actions, additional partners, or services? 4. Identifying children from military families in school and enhancing access for them to resources. Task Force discussed proposing an additional session to yellow ribbon events for soldiers to talk with schools about their children (issues children often have when a parent is deployed or recently returned, who to talk with at school and how, and back-up resources). Next Portland Yellow Ribbon event is April 18th. 	
Updates All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Portland Health Care System Veterans Town Hall: December 9th, 5:00 – 6:30pm, at the VAPORHCS Vancouver Division, Columbia Room, Room 305 on E. 4th Plain Rd in Vancouver. Flyer is linked on VTF website with meeting materials. • Frog Pond Farms is supporting the Returning Veterans Project, with proceeds of Christmas Trees and other purchases going to RVP. Flyer is linked on VTF website with meeting materials, and must be presented at purchase. 2995 SW Advance Rd., Wilsonville, OR 97070. https://www.facebook.com/thefrogpondfarm • The Portland Airport USO saw about 25 military travelers per day during the Thanksgiving weekend, with 100 total. • Commissioner McKeel reported on the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) conference that took place in mid-November in Eugene. The committee of County Commissioners and Judges from around the state had a good meeting, toured the Eugene Vet Center, and Lane Co. Commissioner Pat Farr presented on housing and other veterans services in Eugene. • Commissioner McKeel gave Eric a copy of the signed Veterans Day proclamation that Eric co-presented during the board's November 6th meeting. 	