



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

March 2nd, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am

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

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Women's Services

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Steven Easterday, Jennifer Chitwood, Katie Burgard, Eric Ensley, Diane Labant, Marc Jolin, Shane Maher, Dan Herrigstad, Chris Aiosa, Pete Pringle, Don Weber, Andrea Gardner, Patti Jay, Sgt. Jeremy Gill, Jill Behunin, Lisa Watson, Medina Kurney, Alex Glover, Raychel Gary, Tonia Foster, Javelin Hardy, Casey Curry, Rylan Albright, Deanna Dalton, Raymond Baker

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Update on Veteran Housing: Operation 424 and A Home for Everyone Marc Jolin <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>The Home for Everyone board is developing a strategic plan to end homelessness in Multnomah County. Governance structure has been established and partners include Portland, Gresham, Multnomah County, and Home Forward. Commissioner Bailey and Chair Kafoury both serve on the Executive Committee. This committee directed the HFE board to create five work groups, one of which is ending homelessness among veterans. Handout distributed (linked on Veterans Task Force meeting materials site) with more information on the Veterans Workgroup and the action plan that was created in January, 2015. Operation 424, formerly Operation 305, took on the challenge and created this plan.</p> <p>This workgroup has collected data to determine how many people are becoming homeless, the number of people placed into housing, and what needs to happen to "get to zero". Goal has been to house 70-80 each month of this year, including about 25 who are chronically homeless. This is accomplished by using current flexible funding, identifying the level of need, and assessing gaps for those who are not eligible for existing VA benefits. Potential additional services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24/7 retention support, consisting of a hotline number or person who can come assist tenants and landlords during off hours;• Landlord recruitment. Often the only barrier is a veteran's rental history. Using "rent well" and other resources, work group will explore ways to support landlords and incentivize renting to a homeless veteran. <p>Discussion included question about how "ending homelessness" is defined: the system of care will resources to engage with a veteran, get them services, and into housing. People may become homeless but system has capacity to help anyone who needs supportive and permanent housing. Further discussion was on people moving and their voucher transferring with them to other nearby counties, the model for housing veterans in Manhattan, and inclusionary zoning. Some projects of the housing workgroup are promoting construction of new units and buying down rent to make it affordable.</p>	

<p>Women Veteran's Grant & Per Diem Program</p> <p>Medina Kurney & Lisa Watson <i>Central City Concern</i></p>	<p>The Martha Washington has up to 22 rooms for single female veterans. The program is 90 days, and can extend up to 2 years if appropriate based on reassessments every three months. Eligibility is one day of active duty, and anything besides dishonorable discharge. Units are a single apartment with bathroom and kitchen with 2 burners and a microwave.</p> <p>Goals of case management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing permanence; • Increased skills for employment, and/or stable income; • Improved self-determination, which is self-identified and can be related to areas such as mental health, substance abuse, or criminal history. <p>Access program by calling Medina at 503-621-2180 Orientations are on Mondays at 2pm, at 2 NW 2nd Ave.</p>	<p>Currently 1 vacancy, with 3-4 more in the next few months.</p>
<p>Women's Services through SSVF</p> <p>Deanna Dalton <i>Impact NW</i></p>	<p>Deanna shared a handout with information about women veterans and SSVF, which is linked on the Veterans Task Force meeting materials website.</p> <p>In the past 18 months, 127 women veterans have been served through SSVF. Outreach has been conducted at college campuses through the women's resource centers, at shelters, networking with other service providers, and transitional housing. Recently finished two months of outreach for a women veteran trauma group, and have five currently enrolled. Also preparing to start women-specific skill building workshops.</p> <p>SSVF provides up to five months of rent assistance over a 2 year and additional funding to help with security and move-in deposits, clothing, child care, bedding, and more. Key areas of need right now are food pantries, hygiene kits, and cosmetics. Dress for Success is a good referral source if a veteran has an job interview coming up. Deanna noted that the funding is fairly flexible but everything needs to be tied to housing stability and meet the standard of "...but for this assistance would the person be or at risk of homelessness".</p>	<p>For questions or more information, contact Deanna at: ddalton@impactnw.org</p>

Updates

All

- Commissioner McKeel attended the legislative conference for the National Association of Counties last week in Washington, DC. Good veterans committee meeting and also met with our entire federal delegation. Some specific asks related to veterans services included: continuation of SSVF funding; greater flexibility with HUD-VASH resources; support for the Choice Card and revisions to make the 40mi criteria from clinic where services needed rather than closest facility and eligibility based on road distance rather than "as the crow flies".
- East County Stand Down planning has begun. Pete reported that they are doing a combined shipment of surplus gear to this region to share with the Portland Stand Down and Job Fair. Next meeting is tomorrow from 10-12 at the Chapel in Troutdale. Main event will be at the Chapel this fall.
- Dan reported that on Tuesday, 3/31, the Women's Veterans Health Center will have a health fair at the VA Hospital's auditorium from 9am-3pm.
- Lines for Life is hiring a military helpline QMHP (grad degree) level position. Also recruiting volunteers, and the new volunteer training begins April 1st.
- March 21st Yellow Ribbon event at Ambridge – 8:30 registration, 9am event. Vendors and attendees need to register. Go to the JSS site for more details and to register.
- Returning Veterans Project: Casey shared new brochures, announced that RVP is celebrating its ten-year anniversary this year, and she shared flyers for upcoming events, including:
 - *Suicide prevention training* March 20, 9am-12pm, in Salem. Contact Mike McCarrel for more questions/register. 503-954-2259 ext 101, mike@returningveterans.org
 - *Combat PTSD: Healing Soul Wounds* on April 24. Contact Mike McCarrel (contact info above) to register.
 - *Rethinking Psychiatry* speakers series begins on March 18th and will continue through May on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Location: National College of Natural Medicine, Room #107 at 049 SW Porter St., Portland. 6:45-8:45pm.
 - *What's Your Story* research study for veterans living with Traumatic Brain Injury. Participants compensated for their time. For more information about participation, please call 503-220-8262 x52465.
- There is a meeting March 3rd at 6pm for honor flight fundraising. Contact Diane at diane@synergyRNC.com for more info.
- SSVF: 211 has started doing SSVF screening, call the hotline for assistance. Transition Projects' website also has a prescreening tool.
- Multnomah County Veterans Services: Eric announced that in the third week of March the office will begin a domestic violence workshop for women veterans, and in June plan to have an LGBT workshop.