



MULTNOMAH COUNTY VETERANS TASK FORCE

February 1st, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am
 Multnomah Building, 1st Floor Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

Meeting Focus: Health Care & Mental Health

Welcome and Introductions	
<p>Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Cristal De La Tone, Sharlane Keener, Thomas Brown, Andrea Jusino, Leneld Brown, Nancy Bumpus, Kate Sappell, Diane Labant, Marc Clift, Steven Easterday, Tito Mendoza, Meloni Beauchamp, John Concepcion, Aaron Henry, Don Weber, Pete Pringle, Ed Howard, Dan Herrigstad, Kim Douthit, Molly Finnegan, Phillip Bowles, Chris Aiosa, Alex Glover, Doug Kuhl, Denise Bender, Patti Jay, Sami Jarrah, Casey Curry, Kimberly Douthit</p>	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
<p>VA Portland Health Care System Update</p> <p>Dan Herrigstad <i>VA Portland Health Care System</i></p>	<p>The My VA community initiative has been launched, and the newly formed My VA Cascadia Board had its first meeting in November. Kimberly Douthit, Cascadia Board co-chair, presented brief overview of this group and noted that it will hold regular town halls throughout the 26 county catchment area. Next meeting is scheduled February 25th in Portland at the Montavilla Baptist Church, 9204 SE Hawthorne Blvd from 6-8pm. Additional information at www.myvacascadia.com</p> <p>Dan described quarterly town hall events with VBA, which are a great opportunity to discuss questions or concerns and host a VBA claims clinic. Distributed handouts (posted to Veterans Task Force meeting materials website), and upcoming events are always announced in the newsletter. Easy to sign up on the website, or email Dan and he will add you. The Director also has a meeting every month with service providers to ask questions or receive concerns that local partners are hearing. Dan can add providers to that list as well if you are interested.</p> <p>Discussed VA Choice program, with informational flyers handed out. As of January 19th, have had 22,000 authorizations and almost 13,000 who have used the program through the Portland VA.</p> <p>New clinic ribbon cutting and open house at Fairview on March 3rd. See handout for more information. CBOC will have primary care, mental health services, pharmacy services, and homeless program social workers will also have space there.</p> <p>Fisher House grand opening is March 23rd, and it will be open to veterans and their families the following week. This is a great new resource for veterans and their families, and has capacity for as many as 64 family members of veterans coming to Vancouver or Portland from over 50 miles away. Also a new primary care facility on the Vancouver campus, which will be 21,000 square feet and add 49 parking spots. Working on development of a large parking garage and also talking with Clark College to identify additional parking options.</p> <p>Group discussion about medications being sent in mail and veterans not getting them right away.</p>

<p>Returning Veterans Project Update: Service Trends & Mental Health Partnerships</p> <p>Casey Curry <i>Returning Veterans Project</i></p>	<p>Casey presented an overview of Returning Veterans Project services, including free mental health and health care services to post 9/11 veterans. Providers get on a list that veterans can go online to set up appointments with confidentially. Biggest change recently is the number of MST reports, such that the number of incidents have decreased but victims are more likely to report it when something occurs. RVP has done two awareness trainings last year, and has observed a higher comfort level with the reporting process. Also seen a decline in suicides among veterans.</p> <p>New partnerships for the organization include working with Lane Community College for massages, mental health services in Baker City, and a psychologist has now partnered to serve veterans in Ontario. Encouraged by the additional resources for veterans in rural parts of Eastern Oregon.</p> <p>Upcoming event is a performance called "Breaking Rank", a partnership with Well Arts to take five women veterans' stories to the state. Will be on Wednesdays and Sundays at 7:30pm from February 17th – March 5th. Beginning this week there is a women in military writing workshop at Tabor Space, 5441 SE Belmont, February 3 from 12-2pm.</p>
<p>State Legislation Update</p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Sean presented overview of this year's legislative session, and described the three bills introduced which relate to veterans. The session begins February 1st and will end by March 6th. All legislation text, amendments, and meetings are available on the Oregon Legislative Information site, https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1#. The three bills discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HJR 202: Would send a proposal to the ballot that would allocate lottery revenues to fund veterans services in the state. • HB 4096: Modifies the veterans preference law for hiring in public agencies. • SB 1524: Relates to veteran training for law enforcement agencies. [Update: subsequently amended to be about veterans with medical marijuana cards.]
<p>Year in Review & Work Plan</p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Sean presented the revised draft of the Year in Review document for 2015, and will incorporate minor edits as suggested by task force members. Year in Review will be available electronically at the Task Force website: https://multco.us/ds4/multnomah-county-veterans-task-force</p>
<p>Updates All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner McKeel announced that she will be attending the National Association of Counties' legislative conference in Washington DC later this month and shared the agenda for the Veterans and Military Services Committee that she co-chairs. For the Army OneSource discussion, group suggested asking if the data is available, how often it gets updated, and how the term "veteran" is defined. For the best practices portion of the meeting, Sean and Alex will work together on a one-pager for housing best practices that have been implemented. • Honor flight fundraising event will be sent out to the task force. Might be the final trip, and will be in conjunction with the Bend group leaving in September. Contact Diane Labant for more information. • USO party tomorrow at the Oregon Historical Society 6-8pm. • Veterans Stand Down event planning is starting up. Contact Pete to get added to the list for east county meeting announcements. • Memorial Day event at Hillsboro Stadium. VFW hosting. Flyers in about a month. • VA beginning a tinnitus testing program. Anyone can participate and Pete will get flyers sent out soon.