

May 2nd, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 1st Floor Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

Executive Committee Meeting

Welcome and Introductions	
Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Greg Flores, Eric Ensley, Alex Glover, Carolyn Bateson, Amber Arnold, Michelle Aguilar, Dana Brandon, Doug Kuhl, Meloni Beauchamp, Jessica Chapman, Peggy Brey, Shannon Langley	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
Scope and Role of Executive Committee Commissioner McKeel <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>Commissioner McKeel described the scope and role of the Task Force, which began in 2010 as an advisory board for the County. Started with internal focus on where veterans are connecting with the county, and it quickly broadened to include all partners in the system's continuum of care. All Task Force meetings will continue to be public and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Going forward, the task force networking group's agenda will typically focus on discussions about services and updates, while the executive committee will focus on policy or advocacy to inform decisions the Board may consider.</p> <p>The Multnomah County Board is currently working on its budget for next fiscal year and Sean distributed a handout with the programs included in the budget that focus specifically on veterans, as well as some that have a veteran component added or serve a broader population. Programs that are funded by the county are one key area where the Executive Committee can have input – what is the county's role as reflected by these programs, how do they support veterans moving through the system, and what are areas for strategic investments to expand or create new programs. The Executive Committee will also advise on other policy areas as opportunities are identified.</p>
Oversight Role for Veterans and Military Families VISTA Project Eric Ensley <i>Multnomah County CVSO</i>	<p>Eric presented overview of the VISTA project through the Veterans Service Office. Outreach and partnership development to underserved veteran populations, specifically focused on LGBT, women, communities of color, those who have experienced domestic violence, and families with children in school. Will begin with community assessments – what are the needs and what other county resources can or could do to help meet it. In year two they will have a database and can transition to more outreach. They will not be doing direct service, the goal is to develop a robust volunteer network so in the 4th year it can become self-sustaining. Will also do training for county programs and partners.</p> <p>During the course of their service, the VISTAs will present the information they collect to the Executive Committee and receive direction on where to move forward with next steps. The 3 VISTAs will start around July 1st (recruitment ends this month).</p>

	<p>Group discussed the veteran registry tool that was developed in 2015. This database of all veterans in the county who are experiencing homeless will be a good resource for the VISTAs. The veteran housing team team is now working on retention and stability, especially identifying what poverty looks like, who is on the cusp of homelessness, and what resources or interventions are working for veterans.</p> <p>Further discussion about data available through the Oregon employment department and interest to partner for additional data on veteran employment. Additionally, Eric and Greg will work together on recruitment for these positions among PSU students.</p> <p>The VISTAs will come back to the Executive Committee for on-going check-in and oversight. Will also come to the Task Force Networking Committee for updates and feedback on training curriculum.</p>
<p>Discussion of Task Force Work Plan and Priority Focus Areas</p>	<p>Commissioner McKeel described the Community Covenant and how the issue areas identified in that document drive the Task Force meeting agendas. In the 2015 Year in Review the committee identified focus areas related to continuing the partnership development between schools and service programs to support children from military families, and additional data collection related to employment and veteran demographics.</p> <p>She described the opportunity for the Executive Committee to focus on a couple policy focus areas; options discussed by the group included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop package of recommended investments for veteran services. With potential for additional revenue to serve veterans (e.g. if ballot measure passes in the fall that appropriates lottery revenues to veterans services, or if there is local funding to support housing retention and stability) it would be valuable to have a list of specific services that would have an impact. • Carolyn described population of cognitively impaired veterans, possibly exacerbated by drug and alcohol abuse, who are in their 60s or older. Sometimes they need a guardian, sometimes a representative payee. One investment to explore further would be a public guardian position dedicated to veterans. Group discussion about power of attorney through the CVSO and how they can advocate for veteran through VBA and the VHA systems. • Health Care: Develop training curriculum for county Health Dept. workers, such as eligibility specialists. Many non-VA providers serve veterans for urgent care since the VA may not be able to treat them right away. Also, approximately 15-20% of veterans aren't eligible for VA health care. These veterans may come to the county's health department for care, and staff training could be helpful to understand available resources. Committee also expressed interest in looking at diversion from emergency treatment. • Report back on Stand Down events, including logistical details and coordination needs. Use this group for support around networking, fundraising, and directions. • Career planning and workforce development: explore opportunities within the county's college-to-career program and other workforce policies that the county could consider. • Explore equity and inclusion issues faced by employees who are veterans. Also, training options through the VA, especially around suicide prevention. Will follow up with the County's Office of Equity and Diversity and the Veteran Employee Resource Group.