



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY VETERANS TASK FORCE

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

## Executive Committee Meeting

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	
Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Elizabeth Estabrooks, Katie Burgard, Dana Brandon, Michelle A. Aguilar, Lee Girard, Greg Flores, Alexandra Birmingham, Stu Walker, Alex Glover, Brian Adamski, Molly Finnegan, Chris Aiosa, Kai Batalona, Estanislado Quinones, Stephen Canova, Carrie Young, Ciara Doyle, Eric Ensley, Andy Smith	
<b>TOPIC / PRESENTER</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>Update on Women Veterans Services in Oregon, and Women Veterans Healthcare Survey</b>  Elizabeth Estabrooks <i>Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs</i>	<p>Elizabeth presented overview of the She Also Served summit last week for women veterans, which is the second one in the state. Prompted by feedback that women veterans want to see community providers instead of just VA, but those providers need information on military culture and the choice program for purchasing/contracting procedures.</p> <p>Presented statewide demographic information, including over 28,000 women veterans in Oregon with an average age of 48 which is fifteen years younger than the average age of male veterans. Forty percent have at least one child under age 17, twenty percent are single parents, women veterans are under-diagnosed for PTSD, and less likely to identify as a veteran and receive benefits. Discussed impact of societal stereotype that veterans are male and effect of trauma exposure. Barriers identified for women accessing services include shelter restrictions, childcare, male bias, and workplace restrictions. Elizabeth presented an overview of the system of care, with societal supports, health care, and behavioral health. The key recommendation is to ask the question: Do you have prior military service?</p> <p>Distributed summary of women's health study, which is also uploaded onto VTF meeting material site. Recommendations from the study about health care navigator collaboration with VHA to share technical information to streamline processes when veterans move to a new catchment area, strategies to develop gender informed training, and provide a hospitable environment.</p>
<b>Service Referral Information for Local Providers</b>  All	<p>Sean provided background of VTF discussions regarding the need for a veteran services resource guide. Presented examples of resource pages available online from different local organizations. The ADRC website is used by local staff and searchable by members in the community. The County has a contract with 211 and ADRC, and will be able to create a veterans resource page that others can use.</p> <p>The VISTA volunteers and VTF will work on a survey for feedback and possibly build a partnership between ADRC, 211, and military helpline.</p>

<p><b>Year in Review Draft Report</b></p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Sean presented a draft report of the year in review document for 2016. No edits identified by the Task Force and agreement that demographic data is presented in manner consistent with this year's work plan. Sean will draft narrative statements on the data section of report and bring back to the VTF for final approval in December.</p>
<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do Good Multnomah has a fundraiser on 11/14 at 237 NE Broadway from 5:30-7:30pm. More info at <a href="http://dogoodmultnomah.org/fundraiser">dogoodmultnomah.org/fundraiser</a></li> <li>• Eric passed around wallet folds with info on the County Veterans Service Office. Added info on community partners who focus on housing. Each year since 2013 have doubled the numbers of veterans coming in for benefits. Now at 1100 calls per month and 900 claims per year. For comparison, in 2013 there were 200 claims per year. A lot of that progress from partnerships with local agencies and co-location. Have some housing assistance funds now, contact the office for more information.</li> <li>• Portland State is having a Veterans Day celebration on 11/8 at 11am.</li> <li>• PCC has Veterans Day-related events on 11/7, 11/8, and 11/10.</li> <li>• Transition projects has launched "Operation Got Your Back", a warm coat clothing drive. Drop off coats and warm clothes at TPI on Friday 11/11 between 8am-3pm. 665 NW Hoyt.</li> <li>• ODVA – Veterans parade honoring women veterans. Seeking women to march – contact Scott Thompson if interested. 11/9 filming of the movie "lioness" at Portland State in the Native American Cultural Center at 5pm.</li> </ul>