



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

December 5th, 2016, 9:00am – 11:00am
Multnomah Building, Room 112, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions	
Task Force meeting attended by: Sean Files, Diane McKeel, Dan Herrigstad, Casey Curry, Belle Landau, Matt Koslowski, Cameron Smith, Mary Jaeger, Kim Douthit, Andrea Jusino, Stu Walker, Dana Brandon, Molly Finnegan, Alex Glover, Chris Aiosa, Carrie Young, Denise Bender, Josh Davis, Nathaniel Boehme, Meloni Beauchamp, Diane Labant, Felita Singleton, Shane Maher, Jessica Chapman, Evan Hessel, Jessica Chapman, Greg Flores, Eric Ensley, Lori Stegmann	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
<p>Update on Outreach Efforts to LGBT Veterans - ODVA Initiatives</p> <p>Nathaniel Boehme <i>Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs</i></p>	<p>Nathaniel presented overview of ODVA's role providing veterans services across the state, including accreditation and training, ODVA home loan program, and aging services. In FY14 they helped bring \$2.5b to veterans in the state, about half of which is cash from compensation and pension.</p> <p>The LGBT coordinator position was created by legislature during the 2015 session to report out, collect data, build connections in communities, and develop any necessary legislative recommendations. LGBTQ data has not been comprehensively collected within the military. Discussed the legacy of don't ask-don't tell and services for LGBTQ veterans in Oregon such as military record corrections, discharge upgrades, name changes, and corrections in the va system.</p> <p>Reviewed data from online survey. Top priorities reported by respondents were correction of military records and promotion of LGBTQ veteran community within the military. Discussed partnerships and development of the LGBT conference in 2017. Also group discussion about training resources within the Oregon national guard, specifically bridge 13 curriculum and contacts within the army to implement it.</p>
<p>Portland VA Update</p> <p>Dan Herrigstad <i>Portland VA Medical Center</i></p>	<p>Presented VA updates that were highlighted in recent newsletter. MyVA 311 is a phone tree to help, and vets.gov helps with navigating the thousands of websites within the VA.</p> <p>Also provided overview of the hepatitis c treatment the Portland VA medical center provides. Have cured over 700 veterans of HepC so far and have funding authorized by congress to continue helping veterans. Task force members noted the success of this treatment and encouraged any veteran who may be suffering from hepatitis c to get treatment.</p> <p>Dan described monthly meetings for organizations serving veterans- contact him to get on email list at daniel.herrigstad@va.gov. Also co-hosting regular veterans town halls to discuss issues with benefits. Have increased outreach but don't get very good attendance at these meetings so now broadcast on Facebook live to make more accessible.</p>

<p>Update on Outreach Efforts to LGBT Veterans - Multnomah Co. Initiatives</p> <p>Eric Ensley <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>The Multnomah County Veterans' services Office has been engaged in strategic and targeted outreach for the past few years. Outreach has included branding with rainbow dog tags on materials, participation in events, and partnerships with colleges and local community organizations. Now about 10-25 veterans identify when calling the office.</p> <p>Multnomah county is an area agency on aging, and the office has worked with department to ensure that veterans, especially those identifying as LGBTQ who often don't seek services through the VA, can access the appropriate services as they age. Discussion about partnerships, especially work underway with the Oregon Bar to help veterans who were denied benefits with the VBA and may need legal representation on the court of appeals. Working to set up system where the Oregon Bar will work with veterans whether they are on active duty or not. Going to reach out to the Bar to determine scope of an MOU and the services provided to veterans in Multnomah Co as well as those in neighboring areas.</p> <p>Josh presented overview of his VISTA role with focus on outreach to Military families with children. Discussed work and progress toward implementing military child identifier. Have been using the letters of support the Task Force sent to each school district and will continue to provide updates as progress is made or opportunities arise for further VTF advocacy.</p> <p>Group discussion about resources for families. The Red Cross has peer support groups for kids in military families, with resources for coping with deployment and for adults caring for children in military families.</p>
<p>Veterans Memorial Coliseum: Planning Update & Discussion of Outreach to Veteran Community</p> <p>Susan Hartnett <i>City of Portland</i></p>	<p>Presented overview of her role with the city of Portland managing the city's interest in venues such as the Portland 5, providence park, and the veterans Memorial coliseum. Described history of the building, and noted that it is currently in use as originally planned for sporting events and other events. Original cost for the building was \$8m, which is comparable to about \$70m in today's dollars.</p> <p>A unique feature of the building is free standing bowl in the middle where curtain can lower to see out. In 2010 it was added to the national register for historic places because of the bowl and unique architecture.</p> <p>The building also has a WWII memorial and a Korean War memorial, though both have issues with location and accessibility.</p> <p>As the building has aged, discussion have started about what to do with it. Studies were done in 1997-1998, and again in 2010-2012, with a variety of proposals coming out of them. Presented summary of those concepts and the impact of designation on national historic registry. This led to a proposal of renovation supported by the City Council, though it never got approval within the scope of \$31m available for renovations. Four years ago they began a review of options available. The report is available here: http://www.portlandoregon.gov/cao/68441</p> <p>Now looking at the "right sized renovations" and seeking to have meaningful conversations with the veterans community. That is goal of this VTF presentation, to get groups up to speed with current status and build the network. Hope in the next year or two to have a path forward and be ready to engage with the veterans community.</p>

<p>2016 Year in Review Report</p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Sean presented the 2016 Year in Review and received support of the VTF to publish on the Task Force website.</p>
<p>Updates</p> <p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East county veterans stand down was a big success. Served 284 veterans this year. • Honor flight team is having meetings the first Tuesday of every month at synergy's office in se Portland. Contact Diane Labant to get more information and how to get involved. Next flight will probably be in May. • PSU- got approval to have a memorial on campus. Will be in front of Shattuck Hall. Hope to have it by this time next year. • Will have a SSVF screener on site at the Lincoln Building every week. Great new partnership. • On February 24th there will be an event at Portland State for women veterans through the "I'm not invisible" campaign. • On December 14th there will be a veterans committee meeting in Salem at the capital as part of legislative days. Will include presentation on impacts of m96 veterans lottery ballot measure passing. • Transition projects is taking warm coat donations all month. Bring coats to TPI at 665 now Hoyt. Also, Alex noted that when the temperature gets below 32 degrees they will open a winter warming shelter at bud Clark commons and imago dei. He will send Sean info on warming centers to share with the VTF.