

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

# Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

March 21, 2011



9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building Room #635, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

## MEETING AGENDA

AGENDA TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  Commissioner Diane McKeel	
<b>NACo Conference Veterans Task Force Update</b>  Commissioner Diane McKeel	<p>NACo Conference Cmmr. McKeel is involved in the Veterans and Military Task force. First time meeting in person. We are hosting the national conference in July. NACo sets up speakers, and we have input into that.</p> <p>The veterans group is very excited to come here. I anticipated that we would be learning a lot from them. Instead, they were very excited to connect with us.</p> <p>Was hoping to get to the grassroots level on what is being done by counties, and we are far ahead of the rest of the nation.</p> <p>We also talked about a tour for them when they're here. Tour of the new VA women's center. Check out block 49. The Washington Park Vietnam memorial, right on the MAX line.</p> <p>They are working on a wall in Washington DC. "Hometown Heros" There are 187 people from Multnomah County on the wall. There would be pictures of each of the veterans. They are looking for help and financing. We will research this and see what kind of a project it will be. Sea of Goodwill is a system of linking education, employment and healthcare. We will evaluate how we can be involved in these projects.</p> <p>We will likely have a session around the Community Academy. They were very excited that we have a designation on our drivers license.</p>
<b>Jail Veterans Service Officer Program Offer</b>	Lee: Kathy Tinkle is meeting with Joanne Fuller this week to determine when is the best time to insert it. We need to connect with the Chair's office

<p><b>Update</b></p> <p>Andrew Olsen</p>	<p>Greg: A one year program – a measurable outcome would be establishing a baseline, and tracking whether these people return or not.</p> <p>Elan: Similar to how they do it in Marion county.</p> <p>Fred: Are you thinking a brand new docket? We need to figure that out.</p>
<p><b>Partnership for Veterans at Risk</b></p> <p>Elan Lambert, Executive Director</p>	<p>Started as contractor to hold veterans at risk public hearings across the state, as part of a grant. Got lots of requests to see people in jail, who were involved in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Out of those meetings and the requests received from that, formed own non-profit. Since then, have met and talked to 118 veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Charges from DUI to attempted Murder, and multiple choking incidents. This is because they are trained in hand to hand combat to strangulation.</p> <p>At jail, at intake/booking, when a vet answers “yes” to prior military service, Elan comes and meets with them. Largely a “community liaison” that brings vets to services and visa versa.</p> <p>Had judge in court in Marion county last week call last week regarding a Vietnam vet that was homeless and in very bad shape.</p> <p>Work within the system to get the veterans where/what they need.</p> <p>Gets referrals from Marion and Clackamas county jails. Washington county jails as well. Goal is to get to them before they get to jail. Have worked with Linn, Lane, Polk counties.</p> <p>We have vets who have gone to war, and sacrificed their lives, and now they’re back and have no support. “We train the up, we don’t train them down.” If they end up in the justice system, then we need to figure out why, and how we can prevent it in the future.</p> <p>When working with other organizations, always tell that we need to work together. Re-integration team calls, goes to jail, meets with vet, gets them to sign forms, forward those on to Linda Matty. Work with Parole Officers. Connect with county veterans service officers. Funded through grants, looking for funding.</p> <p>Most veterans organizations that are sanctioned by the VA shut the door on many vets. For some veterans who went to Katrina, they may not have been deployed long enough to get benefits, but the deployment was very hard and they have PTSD worse than after they went to Afghanistan and Iraq.</p> <p>Multiple vets who have been on 4+ deployments. There is difficulty with many vets, sometimes suicidal, and the VA is overwhelmed.</p>

	<p>Needs:</p> <p>Money</p> <p>Has a couple of vets who have been involved with the criminal justice system that now want to be involved in helping their colleagues.</p> <p>Working with Marion county veterans docket.</p> <p>Have public defender, putting meetings together.</p> <p>Looking for peer mentors.</p> <p>The more that we can get the veterans that are in jail connected to services that they need and deserve. That brings federal money into the county, and helps the vets.</p>
<p><b>Open Discussion and Updates</b></p>	<p>Seth: In listening to Elan, I know the Health Dept. brought someone on who tracks 911 calls and who looks at “frequent callers”. They have a social worker that does it on a case management role. He tracks who calls frequently and doesn’t land anywhere. We can connect all of you. Unsure of his name but, will get that. Seth will send his contact info to Greg.</p> <p>Every month or two, he brings a filtered list of cases about this group that he identifies.</p> <p>Greg: Two meetings ago, there was a proposal to have us go to the Emergency Room meeting folks. That has been addressed, and the identify the vets. Got the sense that it wasn’t our terrain.</p> <p>Lee: Often some overlap between these works. Have shown that once someone has been referred to a system, the multi-disciplinary works better.</p> <p>Seth: Sometimes the folks that are calling 911 frequently are a very different crowd than the ones getting transport to ER.</p> <p>Lee: There has been talk of PARIS computer program. There is an agreement with state DVA, and they do a run against the VA system. Oregon has been reluctant to participate, but Washington has saved millions of dollars, so there is renewed interest. Would the group be interested having the Washington County expert come – Jeff Hill. It would need to go to the state legislature. The ODVA is skeptical because they’re afraid that it might lead to some vets getting kicked off of medicare. Those are misconceptions. If they are really eligible for VA benefits, then it is usually going to be better benefits. There seems to be some “silo” funds pushback.</p> <p>In governor’s budget, there is a \$47,000 cut to Multco veterans services. That would come out of staffing.</p>

Elan: You might want to connect to the re-integration team – Don Webber.

Have talked to judges and helps figure out appropriate treatment for vets. Needs help having connection and being notified when vets are booked in Multco jail. Right now, only knows when Linda Maddy, re-integration team lets her know.

Greg Lamb: We are working on a pilot program at the jail, organized by Cpt. Bobbi Luna. We know there is a population that continues to visit the jail system. The goal is to get them before they are incarcerated, and get them diverted. If successful, then they may never come back. It is very hard to sell to get funding.

Fred Lenzer: DA's office would see them two ways. There are community courts. If they have a disorderly conduct and need to do 24hrs comm. service or meet with a treatment councilor. Question is should we add you on as one of the alternatives? The other way we could do it at the diversion level, and get the public defender on board. The easier we make it in the courtroom. We know of some of our resources. I'm not sure exactly how to fold Elan into this program

Elan: In marion county, the judge calls me. There has also been talk of having a flier in the Inverness jail. Have worked with some attorneys/public defenders in Multco.

Fred: Is there anything that the county can offer beyond you?

Elan: When I work with someone, I get them to sign some paperwork. Often, they don't know if they need to see Greg or not. I listen to them and get them together and help connect them with the people who can help them.

Greg: There is the tech ops group that meets for the community court. It might be worthwhile for you and Greg to go to that meeting.

Elan: Have also done some work with the Community Academy. It is a training for the incoming Portland Police Recruits. It was led by the head of the VA Medical Center police chief, Sgt. Eddie Black, Linda Maddy. We talk to them about how they are trained up, how they are taught to kill and that when they return, we tell them "good luck." They aren't trained down. There are multiple symptoms – road rage, strangulation, assault IV. These people are reacting because they have been abandoned. High alcohol use. Some meth use. Besides alcohol, meth is the drug of choice.

Many are falling through the cracks. Had a vet who went to the Saller emergency room over 100 times. We need law enforcement to have

	<p>the awareness to understand what is happening with these people. We also talk about the brain, and how brain chemistry is involved. My job is to help connect those gaps.</p> <p>Have found that peer mentors bring the recidivism down to zero. In many places, they haven't done anything different since tragedies with vets. We need to make sure that law enforcement understands how their actions are being processed. We also have police officers who are Iraq and Afghanistan vets. Next training is in June.</p> <p>Greg: We've all thought about what happened in Gresham. If we had the opportunity to plant one seed that could save one person, then it was all worth it.</p> <p>Elan: In Hillsboro, they have three OIF/OEF veterans on police force and they are training the rest of their officers. We had an incident in Tillamook county. There was a welfare check for a vet, and when Sheriff got to property, found that vet had shot and killed his dog, and burned it. Sheriff saw assault rifle on the couch. Sheriff was able to de-escalate the event.</p> <p>If a life and limb situation is involved, they can call police department and get info on medications and prior psychological evaluations.</p> <p>Diane: I attended the training, and Sgt. Black was very dynamic.</p> <p>Talked to Chief Junginger, and he said he was very interested in some training.</p> <p>Nate: We would be happy to collaborate.</p> <p>Diane: Elan, is there anything we can do around the Attorney General's proposal to make strangulation a felony?</p> <p>Elan: This may be reasonable for Domestic Violence, but it might be a risk for veterans who are doing things that they don't understand. I'm concerned. HB 2940 is the bill.</p>
--	---

Action steps:

Greg, Fred meeting

Nate, McKeel to connect over MSCO training/ Community Academy

Tour for NACo  
Drew will send out program offer

*Next meeting scheduled for ...*

**April 4, 2011**

9:00am - 11:00am

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd - Conference room #635 Portland, OR 97214

\*\* Meetings normally take place 1st Monday of every month 9:00am - 11:00am \*\*

"The taskforce is comprised of members from various departments throughout Multnomah County who are committed and focused on responding to the needs of veterans while assuring the equitable and effective delivery of services to them and their families."