



# Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

May 2, 2010, 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>	
<b>Washington County Ride Connection for Veterans</b> Jeff Hill	<p>They always have excess hours for their van system. They have a system where if a client has someone to give them a ride, they provide mileage re-imbursement. Wash. Co. put system together to coordinate. Oregonian wrote article and now they have more volunteers than they can handle.</p> <p>They pick up vet at their home and return at their home, and can even take them to the grocery store or other stops on the way.</p> <p>The Disabled American Veterans is about to end their transportation system, so this is very important.</p> <p>Greg: Leslie from Ride Connection came to talk about implementing a similar program in MultCo. Challenge was that many of the people weren't eligible to drive for them.</p> <p>David: Any criteria for the veterans?</p> <p>Jeff: They must be disabled. Includes mental health. They are not even required to prove they are a veteran.</p> <p>David: How are you getting word out to vets?</p> <p>Jeff: We have sent it out to our lists, have posted fliers in libraries, senior centers, ODVA, website. Newspapers have also published.</p>
<b>Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Employment Outreach Grant, HR Updates</b> Carla Gonzales	<p>Grant Application to Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission. Won grant for employment outreach to veterans. Translation of information in "military-ese". This is meant to support access to employment for veterans.</p>

**Open Discussion**

All

David Dedrickson, Oregon Partnership: The run Military Helpline. Oregon is one of six states with active duty base. Military line has 120 volunteers that work all five lines. They have ASSIST training – suicide hotline training. Military service members have different experiences and we know that vets are prone to suicide. There are 18 vets that work the system as well, including two female vets and vets from most major deployments since Vietnam. Have coined nickname “the new VA – Venters anonymous” because they are there to listen. If a vet has an Oregon area code, then they get to the OR partnership system. 100% confidentiality, not associated with VA, so none of it goes into the VA medical file.

Greg: It sounds like the people answering have lots of training.

David: Yes. 56 hours of training. They are prepared for anything – for the vet who has the gun at his head to the child who is confused why dad is mad now that he is back from deployment. It is very tricky when there is a determination of whether the veteran is in need of emergency services. The national suicide hotline has taken 390,000 calls. They then prompt someone to press 1. They are then sent to the Oregon Partnership line, which takes 160 calls per month. They also ask “Did you serve in the military?” not “are you a veteran?”.

There is a massive database that all call workers have access to. Oregon has three different population classifications – Urban, Rural, Frontier. For folks in Eastern Oregon, it is very tough to get services. Having a Community awareness is the most important thing.

*Next meeting scheduled for ...*

**June 5, 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."