



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

April 1st, 2013

9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 6th Floor Room 635, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Commissioner McKeel, Shawn Postera, Gerald Fields, Gareld Gedrose, Doug Robberson, Julie Osborn, Tina Edge, Glenn Shuck, Doreen Binder, Cathy Spoffard, Lon Getlin, Sean Files, Eric Zimmerman, Don Weber, Elan Lambert, Barbara Willer, Gabriel Court, Steven Easterday, Keith Falkenberg, Mark Forker, April Woods, Jonathan Sanford

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Veterans Toolkit and Veterans Preference Shawn Postera	<p>Shawn presented the veteran toolkit that has been developed by the Office of Diversity and Equity to help recruiters and hiring managers understand the skills and assets that veteran candidates bring. The questions guiding this work are how do you recruit veterans, and how do you retain them? Toolkit includes skills veterans bring (hard and soft skills), benefits of hiring veterans, best practices, and strategies to streamline the veteran preference process.</p> <p><u>Where do we go with this?</u></p> <p>Task force recommended taking this presentation to AOC veterans committee, the NACo committee, Craig Sticker with the National Guard, the Multnomah County Business Advisory Council, and do outreach to help apply it to the private sector.</p>	<p>More information at: web.multco.us/diversity-equity/veterans-recruitment</p>
Veteran Critical Home Repair Program Mark Forker	<p>This is a program through Habitat for Humanity with support from Home Depot Foundation. The Willamette West office's service area is from the Willamette River to Hillsboro, but the Veterans program isn't offered by other local Habitat affiliates so there may be more geographic flexibility for qualified veterans in this program.</p> <p>They have \$30k to go toward two critical home repair projects this spring, which can cover work such as roofs, HVAC, structural, plumbing, or electrical repairs. Out of 1500 habitat affiliates across the country there are 80-90 who have this grant, with potential to reapply next cycle if they can demonstrate the local need. Broad agreement on task force that there is a need and we should help with outreach to connect veterans with this service.</p> <p>"Sweat equity" is highly valued and it was emphasized that this is a hand up to a veteran in need. Candidates need to be over 18 and fall between 30-60% of median household income in Washington County. Can be a renter, but homeowner needs to live at the residence also.</p> <p>If you know a veteran who may be able to benefit from this service, go to www.habitatwest.org/veterans or call 503-844-7606</p>	<p>More information at: habitatwest.org/veterans</p>

<p>Joining Community Forces – Community Covenant</p> <p>Elan Lambert & Sean Files</p>	<p>Elan provided overview of the Joining Community Forces initiative, which seeks to foster and sustain meaningful relationships between military and civilian worlds. The board passed a resolution on March 21st to convene a steering committee and begin work on the Community Covenant and community action plan. First meeting will be May 6th at 10:30am after the VTF.</p> <p>When reintegration funding ends it will be the responsibility of our communities to support veterans, and this effort will provide the structured undergirding for these resources. The action plan will include what's happening now, who's doing what, and where are the gaps.</p>	<p>Sean is conducting outreach to businesses, faith community leaders, schools, veteran civic orgs, and cities within Mult Co. Contact at 503-988-5213 with recommendations.</p>
<p>Project Updates and Open Discussion</p>	<p>Community Resource and Referral Center - April 16th there will be a 1st Birthday celebration at the CRRC from 1-3pm. They have seen 1100+ individual veterans in the past year. Cathy has a work study student who can help put together a service directory of resources for veterans. Additionally, Multnomah County Aging & Disability Services has a website directory that could be a model: web.multco.us/ads/services-resources</p>	<p>Will have a presentation at May meeting from Deanna Dalton at 211, which can guide discussion at that meeting about developing database of veteran services.</p>
	<p>RONA – Jonathan reported that federal offices can contact every veteran in the state who receives VA benefits, possibly for public outreach program. Also, Jonathan described an event that Sen. Wyden is working on for Veteran's Day. More updates at future meetings.</p>	
	<p>Faith Summit in East Multnomah County – On April 18th, Commissioner McKeel will co-host a faith summit at Parklane Church, located at 160th and Main. Faith leaders have been invited to learn more about the county's work and opportunity to partner.</p>	<p>Sean and Elan will staff a table for veteran services</p>
	<p>USO Vets Center – USO has announced that there will be a vets center at the Portland Airport. This will be the first time this resource is available at PDX.</p>	<p>Sean will follow up to have a presentation at a future VTF meeting</p>
	<p>Veterans Docket – Keith reported that protocols are being developed around community court to set up a veterans' docket, possibly as a dedicated day for veterans at community court. The Criminal Justice Commission approved funding and a position should be posted soon to develop the framework for it.</p>	
	<p>Partners in Care – Elan announced that there will be a Partners in Care – Oregon National Guard training on May 16th in Tualatin from 12-2pm.</p>	

Next meeting scheduled for ...

May 6th, 2013

9:00am - 11:00am

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd – Copper Conference Room on 5th Floor Portland, OR 97214

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