



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

September 9th, 2013

9:00am – 10:30am

Multnomah Building, 5th Floor Copper Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Sean Files, Julie Osborn, Ruben Pacheco, Alex Glover, Roy Weedman, Martin Clark, Tressa Kovachevich, Gabriel Court, Elizabeth Edwards, Mike Caudle, Steven Easterday, Pete Pringle, Seth Lyon, Annie Neal, Tina Edge, Doug Kuhl, Deanna Dalton, Irina Ksenofonton, Pam Brokaw, Pat Lucas, Barbara Willer

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Multnomah County Microloan Program John Tydlaska	<p>Commissioner McKeel invited John to present to raise more awareness about this microlending program to better connect with veterans who are looking to start their own business.</p> <p>The county's microloan program started about 18 months ago with the goal of helping people we serve to be more economically self-sufficient. It is a partnership with MercyCorps NW and Microloan Enterprise of Oregon to provide technical assistance along with small scale loans. Ten of the loans last year were for less than \$5,000 each, and in all the program loaned out \$500k. As they get repaid, there will be more funds to get loaned out.</p> <p>Criteria: At or below median income, and must be a Multnomah County resident.</p> <p>Discussion: Encouraged to partner more with SBA, OAME, SBDCs and Score to raise awareness and broaden the services available. Discussed ways to run a kickstarter/KIVA-type program to raise seed money.</p>	<p>For more info: Micro Enterprise Services of OR Mesopdx.org 503-841-3351</p> <p>MercyCorps NW Mercycorpsnw.org 503-896-5081</p> <p>Contact at the County: John Tydlaska 503-988-6277</p>

<p>Portland Stand Down</p> <p>Alex Glover Ruben Pacheco</p>	<p>The Portland Stand Down and Job Fair will be on October 2nd at the Convention Center. Registration starts at 8am. Full details available at: portlandstanddown.org</p> <p>There will be a complete array of services on site, including a dental van, about 50 employers, DOD surplus, some VA donations, free food for the first 400 veterans, and haircuts. They expect up to 500 veterans to attend.</p> <p>They need volunteers. Duties could include loading and unloading supplies the day before and day of the event, registration, set-up/tear-down of booths. To volunteer, contact Samuel at shaffey@tprojects.org</p> <p>Looking for colleges to attend (contact Alex with contacts) and also need food donations (full meals and things like fruit/snacks).</p> <p>For a calendar of other stand down events, go to: http://211info.org/military</p>	<p>To volunteer: Samuel – shaffey@tprojects.org</p> <p>To Register to be a provider: Deanna – Deanna.dalton@211info.org</p> <p>Questions or donations: Alex – aglover@tprojects.org</p>
<p>Beginning Urban Farmer Program</p> <p>Dan Bravin</p>	<p>Like the microlending presentation, the goal of this presentation was to improve outreach to veterans who may be interested in this farming and agricultural small business program. Dan presented on the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) program, which is a partnership between the Multnomah County Office of Sustainability and the OSU Extension program. It is a season-long course for entry-level farmers, running from April to October. There is a classroom and field trip component, and a field-work part to the course. The program is designed to prepare students for joining a business or starting their own small-scale farming operation.</p> <p>The intensive track consists of two full days per week and one weekend per month. The other track is weekend and evenings but does not include the hands-on fieldwork. The BUFA program has a comprehensive curriculum that includes business, sales at the market, seed starting, and growing. There is a small business class at the end of the course. Upon completion, graduates get a certificate from the county and OSU. There were 15-20 students last year (65 applied) and will increase to 30 students in this year's course. Tuition is \$3,000 for track 1, and \$1200 for track 2 – scholarships are available.</p> <p>More information is available at the website: http://web.multco.us/sustainability/bufa</p> <p>Discussion: The program is not accredited at this point, and the group agreed that if it was eligible for GI Bill it would be a lot more attractive to veterans. Dan will inquire about voc rehab.</p>	<p>For questions: Dan Bravin Dan.bravin@multco.us 503-421-5708</p> <p>Additional reading about programs training veterans to be farmers: http://www.organicgardening.com/print/102211</p>

General Updates All	Partners in Careers: Pam- Pam discussed the Partners in Careers program, funded by a US Dept. of Labor grant for homeless women and veterans with children. The primary focus is on employment. Working with fifty families in Multnomah and two other counties. To be eligible they need a DD214 with anything but dishonorable discharge and be homeless. For a homeless male to be eligible, they need to have over 51% of custody of their child. They have a good partnership with local nonprofits, the county, and Mt. Hood CC, and have learned to become a good navigator for other services their clients may need.	More info: Pam Brokaw- pam@swwpic.org
	Upcoming Events: Portland Stand Down on October 2 nd . East County Stand Down October 19 th . Career Fair at Memorial Coliseum on November 14 th .	

Next meeting scheduled for ...

October 7th, 2013

9:00am - 10:30am

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 ****