



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

January 6th, 9:00am – 11:00am

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

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Commissioner McKeel, Sean Files, Blake Love, Estanslado Quinones, Doyal Smith, Andy Smith, John Concepcion, Pete Pringle, Belle Landau, Doug Kuhl, Josie Silverman, Antonio Torres, Britni Childs, Gabriel Court, Tressa Kovachevich, Cathy Spofford, Chris Aiosa, Nathaniel Boehme, Pat Lucas

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Cover Oregon Josie Silverman Antonio Torres	<p>There are about 1.3million uninsured veterans in the US, with around 63,000 uninsured veterans and their family members in Oregon. Estimate that about ½ of them will qualify for Medicaid, and many of those who don't will qualify for a subsidy on the health insurance exchange. Goal of the presentation is to improve outreach to uninsured veterans in Multnomah County for health care services (in addition to other benefits they are eligible for).</p> <p>Open enrollment through Cover Oregon started in October and ends 3/31/14. Next open enrollment period will be in the fall. The OHP Medicaid expansion is open year round. Plans are available to be compared at coveroregon.com, and it is recommended to use the google chrome browser. Tax breaks often decrease the premium amount. The portal to sign up is currently only accessible by trained assisters, whose contact info is available on the site.</p> <p>A homeless veteran would likely qualify for Medicaid, and there are many assisters at the county as well as about 20 trained to assist at Central City Concern. Cover Oregon's application screens for both Medicaid and eligibility for all other plans.</p> <p>Commissioner McKeel led discussion about making a formal request to Cover Oregon, likely through the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), to add a question to application form asking about military experience, and explore release of info to assess VA eligibility.</p>	<p>To be trained as an assister, contact communitypartner@coveroregon.com</p> <p>Will look into possibility of training CVSOs on assisting or available resources/referrals to connect a vet with health insurance.</p> <p>Increased Cover Oregon involvement in veterans events (such as Yellow Ribbon pre/post deployment, job fair in Salem this March, maybe vet-focused application fair)</p>
Community Covenant Sean Files	<p>Reviewed the Health Care action plan in the Community Covenant.</p>	<p>Additional contact information for enrollment assisters will be added in an addendum</p>

**General
Updates**
All

- Multnomah County Veterans Service Office has submitted a grant to the Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs for \$75,000 to enhance outreach efforts to veterans. This will be a partnership with Washington Co. and includes advertising on buses and newspapers in the metro area. Should hear back by February.
- VA Homeless Awareness Week is the 1st week of February. Flyers, donations, and other info planned at the CRRC – contact Cathy Spofford with questions.
- Update provided on Veterans Probation Violation Docket. An MOU between the different partners has been developed and there will be a briefing and approval of it at the Mult Co board meeting on January 16th. More info at Multco.us
- Reference to recent article on homeless program in Phoenix that has ended veteran homelessness using a “housing first” model. More information here:
<http://phoenix.gov/news/121913homelessvets.html>
- Pete reported that Don Weber has moved to Concordia as their vet representative. There will be a replacement identified soon. Big congratulations to Don.
- Doyal introduced himself as the new Executive Director at DDA of Oregon. Corbett has taken a leave of absence and will remain connected to the organization.
- Q – There has been a philosophical shift in the role of vet reps, and now will focus on case managing veterans with significant barriers (rather than general veteran population).
- Pat shared info on AED book and provided overview of education for its usage. Proceeds of the book go to the Jeff Lucas Memorial.
- Transition Projects is leading the effort for the 2014 Portland Stand Down. Considering dates now (possibly 9/10 or 9/11), and the next planning meeting will be: Feb 5th, 3-4pm at the Bud Clark Commons 3rd fl board room. For more info or questions, contact standdown@tprojects.org