



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

February 2nd, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, Copper Conference Room, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Mental Health

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Ken Buckles, Patti Jay, Doug Kuhl, Brent Marini, Don Weber, Andrea Jusino, Andrea Gardner, Tonia Foster, Alex Glover, Chris Aiosa, Brook Jenkins, Katie Burgard, Javelin Hardy, Medina Kurney, Eric Ensley, Diane Labant, Steven Easterday

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES	Action
Military Helpline Andrea Gardner <i>Lines for Life</i>	<p>Helpline provides immediate, confidential support to veterans and their families. Staff are highly trained and understand issues affecting military families as well as military culture. They conduct follow-ups if that is helpful to the individual. All eras are eligible.</p> <p>This past year they have experienced a 22% increase in calls. During discussion about trends they have observed, Andrea noted that Vietnam veterans report feeling like they are being closed out of services (especially long-term therapy), many callers report a need for face-to-face interaction when they schedule appointments rather than just medication management, and there seems to be a growing need for pro-bono family legal representation –especially in the area of custody cases. A common statement by families is that they “just want the veteran to be the way they used to be.” The OEF/OIF program at the VA is very valuable for younger veterans and the lack of a similar program for Vietnam veterans is a gap that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lines for Life conducting outreach at events and in the community to better connect with veterans.• County Veteran Service Officers have and will continue to try to connect with veteran who aren’t getting the face-to-face contact they want at the VA and assist them to access other services that may be helpful.• Discussion will continue about preparing soldiers and families early on rather than “therapeutic band-aids” during or following a crisis.• Upcoming ASIST training in Vancouver.	

<p>Portland Metro Veterans Connection Update</p> <p>Patti Jay <i>Portland Metro Veterans Connection</i></p>	<p>PMVC is a program of folk time, with a focus on peer support. The veterans component has been around for a year, and seeks to bring together the community with a goal of identifying and strengthening connections. This networking is supported by meetup.com, where individuals can find out about social and service meet-up activities. All eras are welcome. Patti noted that this is an opportunity for face-to-face interactions that were discussed in the previous presentation.</p> <p>For more info visit http://www.meetup.com/portland-metro-veterans-connection or contact Patti Jay at pjay@folktime.org</p>	
<p>State Legislation Update</p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah Co.</i></p>	<p>Handout distributed with list of bills introduced thus far in 2015 legislative session. Sean presented a brief overview of these bills using the summary provided, and directed task force members to https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1 for more information about specific bill language and updated status.</p>	<p>Handout with veterans-related legislation is linked on task force webpage</p>
<p>Year in Review Document, Work Plan</p> <p>Commissioner McKeel <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Year in Review document draft presented, which includes sections on the task force's background, work plan, accomplishments during 2014, and focus areas for 2015. The concept of this document was first discussed in the fall and the final draft developed using feedback from that discussion. Support among task force members for this final draft, and to continue doing one in future years to document the task force's work. Discussion about employment opportunities focused on development of speaker's forum, which will be a priority to begin 2015.</p> <p>Focus areas for 2015 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote employment opportunities for veterans • Stabilize Stand Down Events in Portland and East County • Support military families with school-age children 	<p>Year in Review 2014 document available on the task force webpage</p>
<p>Updates</p> <p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portland Stand Down planning update: Looking at September 11th again. At the end of this month will meet to discuss event planning • Gresham Outlook has announced nominations for "Love a Vet" contest. Deadline is February 12th. Contact Gresham Ford for more info. • NACo conference is at the end of this month. Commissioner McKeel is Vice Chair of Veterans Committee and has advocated for committee to prioritize supporting CVSOs and increasing the availability and use of housing resources. • Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Brian Grant Parkinsons Awareness Fishing Day: April 25. For questions contact Diane Labant at 503-756-8135 or diane@synergync.com 	<p>.</p>