



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

May 4th, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am

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

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Suicide Prevention

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Emily Moser, Aaron Proctor, Doug Kuhl, Patti Jay, Ken Buckles, John Concepcion, Estanislado Quinones, Andy Smith, Raymond Baker, Andrea Jusino, Brook Jenkins, Dorian Yee, Alex Glover, Raychel Gary, Steven Easterday, John Kersey, Pete Pringle, Don Weber, Eric Ensley

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
Veteran Apprenticeship & Training Programs John Kersey <i>Oregon State Bureau of Labor and Industries</i>	<p>Presented overview of the statewide apprenticeship program. Once approved, the veteran can use GI Bill benefits during their employment, which may include monthly housing allowance in addition to standing pay. The traditional conception of the GI Bill was going to college, but not everyone needs or wants to go to college and there is a great need for apprentices and tradespeople as well as on-the-job training. A veteran can get hired, get paid, and receive benefits from Day 1. To begin, employers need to contact John at 971-673-0772 (john.kersey@state.or.us). A handout distributed with additional information is available for download at the Task Force website.</p> <p>All apprenticeships registered with the State of Oregon have been deemed 'approved'. Non-traditional trades can also be approved, such as on-the-job training positions in law enforcement, medical and veterinary techs, firefighters, security, paramedics, and more. Contact John for additional information. There is a list of all the open apprenticeship positions on the BOLI website under the "announcements" page. Within the next few months they anticipate having all of the on-the-job apprenticeship programs also posted. Benefits to the employer include a structured training curriculum, improved retention (attrition drops by as much as half in this program), employer can save money on salary steps as well as possible tax breaks.</p> <p>Task Force discussed length of application time and duration of apprenticeships. This summer there are about 1,000 people with the Oregon National Guard coming back, about half of whom are at risk for unemployment. The minimum length of apprenticeship is 6 months, but typically the training lasts closer to 12 months and up to 4,000 hours. The employer can get approved by scheduling time with John (usually within 24 hours), go over the curriculum and requirements, and typically within a day or two they can be approved. For employers who have hired a veteran within the past twelve months, John can also certify and provide back benefits.</p> <p><u>Action Step:</u> Will add this information to the speakers' bureau talking points.</p>

<p>Lines for Life Youth Line Program</p> <p>Emily Moser <i>Lines for Life</i></p>	<p>Lines for Life operates the crisis support lines for the State of Oregon, and the Youth Line is a teen-to-teen crisis support hotline. In Oregon the leading cause of death among young people is suicide, so the Youth Line is an important resource where teens can get support over emails, phone calls, or texts. Teen volunteers go through a rigorous 40 hour training that includes active listening and motivational interviewing, and sometimes the ASSIST training as well. The Youth Line is supervised by a masters-level supervisor. Typically get 17-30 calls during each daily shift (4-10pm) and have a ratio of approximately 3 text messages for every phone call. Though the Youth Line is staffed from 4-10pm, the crisis line is available 24-7 for anyone to call.</p> <p>Goals of the program are to keep the teen safe, connect them to resources (e.g. who in their life they can talk to and how to talk with that person about what they're feeling), and role play conversation to help them prepare to have that talk. Upon request they can do follow-up calls and texts to check in and help make a new plan as needed. This is important resource because it is a stressful time to be a teenager, and can be even more stressful to be a teen in a military family. Task Force discussed examples of stressors that teens face. Toughest calls the Youth Line receives from youth in military families are around grief and loss.</p> <p>Youth Line connected with ORNG family services team at a recent Task Force meeting and looking forward to building a partnership together. Possibly adding a military component to the training for volunteers, and also interested in recruiting volunteers from military families. Commissioner McKeel will help connect the Youth Line with the Multnomah County Youth Commission.</p>
<p>Stand Down Events – Planning and Sustainability</p> <p>Alex Glover <i>Transition Projects</i></p>	<p>Commissioner McKeel introduced this item as opportunity to discuss Stand Downs planning and coordination to promote sustainability. Alex distributed summary of the Portland Stand Down, with handout linked on the Task Force website, with an overview of the mission, history, resourcing, and contact information to get involved. He discussed some struggles from previous years' events and plans to address them so this year's and future ones go more smoothly, such as coordination of surplus gear donations, having childcare resources, and fundraising in lieu of the Department of Labor grant. Want to make sure this veteran population is supported and Transition Projects is taking the lead to help make the Stand Downs an annual event.</p> <p>There is a good partnership between the Portland Stand Down, the one in East County, and others in the region. Last year 325 veterans attended the Portland stand down. There is good partnership between local organizations to coordinate the events – both in Portland and East County.</p> <p>* Next steps are focused on fundraising, getting volunteers, and coordinating transportation.</p> <p>Also doing assessment for veteran registry at the Portland Stand Down, with a goal of having every homeless veteran off the streets and in housing by the end of this calendar year. The veteran registry is a national best practice to identify veterans, know them by name, and meet their individual needs. It will begin with registry week starting Memorial Day, and the second registry week will be in September the week of the Stand Down. Doing a training on Friday, May 15th at Portland Housing Bureau, and again on Thursday May 21st at East Portland Community Center. Volunteers are needed, and more information is on handout linked at Task Force website for May 4th meeting, and by contacting Torrey.Giaguinta@portlandoregon.gov.</p>

Updates

All

- Transition Projects has an open SSVF case manager position (looking for Bachelors-level candidate), and likely a few staff positions opening soon to work with veterans who don't qualify for VA benefits due to discharge status, don't meet active service requirements, or experience other eligibility barriers. Contact Alex Glover or visit www.tprojects.org for more information.
- Eric introduced Aaron Proctor, who is completing his graduate degree in occupational therapy and working with the County Veterans Service Office this summer. He will work with LGBT veterans to run therapeutic groups and connect with programs to assist them in identifying and working with this population. He has also developed a quantitative survey to assess barriers for LGBT veterans. Eric discussed additional branding and efforts the office has underway to better work with this community and collaborate with other partners.
- Multnomah County Veterans Services is developing pocket guides for veterans services that have information about how to navigate the VA and use the county as a focal point to access other services and benefits.
- Home for Everyone: Partnership between Home Forward, Portland, Gresham, the VA, and Multnomah County. The Task Force had a presentation on the HFE Veterans Workgroup at the March meeting. On April 9th Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved \$370,000 in contingency general fund for veteran housing. Discussed what these funds will go to in order to fast-track veterans accessing housing, enhance eviction prevention efforts, rent assistance, and flexible move-in costs.
- Commissioner McKeel passed around flyers with information on the County Veterans Services Office Walk-in Hours. More information available at <https://multco.us/ads/veterans-services-office> and handout linked at the Task Force website.
- Ken described his outreach to the veteran community for employment through Goodwill. His role recently changed and he is working more with the civilian population but can still assist veterans looking for work.
- Pete announced that the VFW in Hillsboro is hosting a big Memorial Day event at Hillsboro Stadium. Flyer is linked on Task Force website.
- Career Fair on June 26th at Camp Withycombe. Contact Q for more information.