



Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

June 1st, 2014, 9:00am – 11:00am

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

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Criminal Justice

Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Chris Mann, Kate Sappell, Diane Labant, Martin Clark, Don Weber, Steven Easterday, Andy Smith, Estanislado Quinones, John Concepcion, Doug Kuhl, Andrea Gardner, Brenda Jose, Linda Maddy, Tito Mendoza, Brook Jenkins, Andrea Jusino, Raymond Baker, Eric Ensley

| TOPIC / PRESENTER | NOTES |
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| Community Justice Veterans PO Project Marty Clark <i>Multnomah County</i> | <p>Marty discussed the department's efforts over the past eighteen months to collaborate with the Sheriff's Office and the VA to identify veterans who come into the jail, as well as veterans currently under supervision by DCJ. Community Justice wanted to find probation and parole officers who are veterans or have experience with this population. About 15% of the County's POs are veterans. There is now one PO designated at every field office as a point person. Have also implemented training to help officers become more practically aware of what unique issues and strengths veterans have.</p> <p>The greatest barrier is that veterans don't always self-identify at booking, so the collaboration is important between DCJ, the justice involved county veterans service officer, the Sheriff's Office, and the VA's Veteran Justice Outreach program.</p> <p>Also presented overview and update on the veterans docket, which started in Multnomah County almost a year ago. This docket is an innovative model, first of its kind in the country, in which DCJ works with veterans on probation to track and coordinate with docket partners to help them complete treatment and get involved in services. Thus far there have been 8 veterans involved. Eric described the role of the justice involved county veteran service officer in the docket, and Linda gave an overview of the VA's justice outreach project role. Marty noted that it has helped those involved in probation rethink services for veterans, with example given of the interstate compact to facilitate treatment in Vancouver. Brief discussion about the difference between a docket and a specialty court, with the goal of this veterans docket being treatment instead of focusing on the legal record alone. There are other specialty courts in Multnomah County where veterans can and do go, such as drug court, STOP court, community court, so this complements the other resources available to local veterans involved in justice system.</p> <p><u>Action Step:</u> Marty noted that it would be helpful to have a snippet of what is provided by different organizations involved in the task force. VTF will work on developing something at a future meeting.</p> |

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| <p>Unlimited Choices: Overview of Adapt-a-Home and Mend-a-Home Programs</p> <p>Brenda Jose <i>Unlimited Choices</i></p> | <p>Adapt-a-Home is a program that makes home projects affordable for people to age in place gracefully. Average adaptation is only \$1149, which is substantially less than the cost of assisted living and maintains the individual's quality of life. Presentation included slides with examples of ramps, fall prevention rails, and bathroom improvements. This program is available in Beaverton, Gresham, Portland, and unincorporated Multnomah County.</p> <p>The Mend-a-Home program does critical repairs on homes, such as roofs, plumbing, structural improvements, walkways, wiring, stairs, and doors. Assists low-moderate income home owners to continue living independent. Brenda showed pictures of projects that have been done through the Mend-a-Home program. Available in Beaverton, Gresham, Portland, and unincorporated Multnomah County.</p> <p>Unlimited Choices' role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project coordinator from intake to final inspection, on-site assessment • On-site assessment • Request for bids • Owner's permission and release • Oversight • Completion and payment <p>Eligibility is based on HUD median family income (50% in Portland, 80% in the rest of Multnomah County). For more information or to find out more about eligibility call 503-234-6167.</p> <p><u>Action Step:</u> Chris noted that OMSN has received a grant from Home Depot Foundation that can provide materials. He will coordinate with Brenda on a partnership. Eric said that as veterans are identified in the programs they can be referred to CVSOs to assist with benefit applications through the VA.</p> |
| <p>Veteran Employment Speaker's Bureau</p> <p>Diane Labant <i>Synergy</i></p> | <p>Diane spoke at a United Farmers agents meeting last week and used the talking points for veterans employment speaker's bureau. Multiple people followed up afterwards and said what they were hiring for and go connected with Pete at Worksource for candidates. She will speak with a rodeo group soon and next month plans to go to the Gresham Chamber of Commerce and Central Eastside Industrial Council meetings.</p> <p>Her recommendation to others on the task force is to go with the intention to talk about hiring veterans and don't be anxious about questions – all the referral information you need is on the talking points.</p> |

Updates

All

Upcoming Events:

- June 19th: 1st Anniversary celebration at the Portland Airport USO. Begins at noon and will as long as there is still cake.
- June 24th there will be a Veterans Expo at the Salem Convention Center.
- Career Fair June 26th at Camp Withycombe open to all veterans. Noon-4pm.
- July 10-11 Grande Ronde is doing a Veterans Summit – Gathering of Warriors 3.
- Legislation: Budget for county VSOs is coming up for review and appropriation in the Ways and Means committee. Andy briefed task force on key points in the budget bill (SB 5539), with special emphasis on the targeted funding for CVSOs (\$4.7m: \$3.7m pass-through and \$1m from extended outreach grant program). The funding package that passed out of subcommittee totaled \$4.2m with an increase to the county pass-through but discontinuation of the extended outreach grant program. He encouraged task force members who are able to contact ways and means committee members to discuss importance of full funding for county veteran services.
Eric noted that Multnomah County used outreach funding to enable CVSOs to be more mobile and meet veterans where they are, and the number of claimants has tripled since January. With administrative support from outreach grant the response time for phone call has dropped from 6+ weeks to only 4 hours.
- Brook announced that she has been working with a teenager who just lost a brother, and she and her sibling will be able to access lines for life teen helpline. Very helpful and shared appreciation for the presentation last month. Also stated that she got a soldier with family of six out of his car and into housing using the network on the task force and thanked others around the table for their work.
- Travelling Vietnam Wall is coming to Milwaukie July 23-26. American Legion Post 180 is organizing. Chris will send out more information about their needs for people to help organize and support the event.
- AOC veterans committee is doing a tour of services in Multnomah County. Meet at the county building at 8:30am Friday. Will tour ships on the waterfront for fleet week, then visit CVSO, CRRC, and after lunch go to the USO.
- Honor Flight – contact Diane if you'd like to get involved. There is a planning meeting at Synergy the first Tuesday of every month to coordinate the final push to get all WW2 veterans an opportunity to go to the memorial in DC. Meet at 6:30pm at Synergy (2435 SE 10th Ave), and there is need for greeters, volunteers, donors, and fundraiser coordinators.
- Eric reported that there will be a county veteran service officer presence at Pride this month, as well as Albina Good in the Hood event June 27th, the VA homeless summit June 23rd, and Health & Wellness summit June 26th (also at the VA's auditorium). Office has connected with a faith community in downtown Gresham that does outreach to homeless to help them refer veterans for benefits.