



## Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, Room 112, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

### MEETING MINUTES Focus – Employment

#### Welcome and Introductions

Task Force meeting attended by: Sean Files, Don Weber, Ed Howard, Pete Pringle, Andrea Jusino, Erika Preuitt, Diane Labant, Christian Rilling, Jessica Chapman, Catherine Todd, Frank Ball, Marc Clift, Rose King, Eric Ensley, Doug Kuhl, Tito Mendoza, Marie Ramage, Katie Burgard

TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
<b>Multnomah County's Veteran Preference Training for Managers &amp; Supervisors</b>  Amy Lippay & Kathryn Short <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>Presented a video the county created for hiring managers at Multnomah County about application of veterans preference points for Oregon public employers. The video included segments on which positions are affected, who qualifies for the preference, consequences of not applying the preference, and interviewing options. The purpose of veterans preference is to give an employer the opportunity to hear about skills or experience that may not be clear on a candidate's resume, and for the veteran to articulate why they are the best candidate for the job. The county has 400 supervisors and managers in over 8 departments that each have their own human resources unit, so this video has and will continue to be a valuable resource. Last year the county hired about 500 people for positions that around 27,000 people applied. The county has worked with employee resource groups (ERGs), including the Veterans ERG, to develop guidelines for minimum qualifications. In addition, VERG is a resource for questions that recruiters or hiring managers may have about candidate applications to help interpret military experience. In discussion, an attendee asked why a veteran who meets base qualifications in the job description might not get an interview. Response was that many positions have additional requirements or testing, such as being bilingual or other specialized knowledge, skills or abilities. County HR representatives can answer questions about specific positions at the county. Additional discussion focused on the example in video of a veteran requesting letter from the recruiter, which doesn't happen often but is a good way to get feedback. Veterans preference points are applied on a 100-point scale, and BOLI has clarified that the preference points need to be 5% (veteran) or 10% (disabled veteran) of the total. These are requirements for public employers in Oregon, so if you are not a hiring manager at Multnomah County consult your human resources representative for questions at your agency.</p>
<b>VA Employment Programs</b>  Christian Rilling <i>Community Employment Coordinator, VA</i>	<p>As the Community Employment Coordinator, Christian works in the community - largely with HUD-VASH program – with veterans who have physical or behavioral health disability. The CWT program focuses on getting veterans work experience, especially when there have been long gap(s) in their work history. Incentive therapy is for veterans who are more likely to be part-time but builds basic work skills, confidence, and strengthens the individual's social network. Supportive employment works 1-on-1 with counselor for veterans engaged in mental health treatment. His program also coordinates resources for job-seekers, has USA Jobs classes, and helps veterans apply for government positions. Starting a walk-in clinic in Vancouver and hope to have one at the CRRC in the future.</p>

<p><b>Lioness Writing Program</b></p> <p>Rose King <i>Author, Program Co-Facilitator</i></p>	<p>This program is scheduled to begin in October, and is the product of women coming together with an interest in writing. Rose will be one of the facilitators, and the program is free and open to any female veteran. Capacity to have up to 40 people each class, which are planned as a 3-part series but there will be a recap each week in case people missed a previous session.</p> <p>For more information, visit the multcolib.org website.</p>
<p><b>Easter Seals Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program</b></p> <p>Catherine Todd <i>Easter Seals Oregon</i></p>	<p>Catherine and Frank presented overview of the program and how veterans can get involved. Focus is on veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homeless, and want to get a job. Services include help with resume, cover letter, interview skills, and employer outreach. They also assist with employment counseling, placement, housing assistance, job-driven certification/licensing, business clothing, and networking through local partnerships (co-located with worksource and work very closely with DVOPs). There is no time limit – Frank is the outreach worker and helped each veteran until they get a job.</p> <p>This is the first year the program has expanded to the Portland metro area, but last year in Salem and Medford they served 251 veterans, placed 168 in employment, and helped 69 veterans access housing. Recently signed up 80 veterans at the Portland Stand Down, and are at the Community Resource &amp; Referral Center (308 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Portland) every Wednesday from 9am-12pm for walk-in appointments. Handout is available at the Task Force meeting materials website, call their office at 503-280-6057 or 503-280-6067, or facebook Easter Seals HVRP to find out more.</p>
<p><b>Updates</b></p> <p>All</p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literary Lioness Writing Project workshops: October 14<sup>th</sup>, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Hollywood Library branch.</li> <li>• October 17<sup>th</sup> East County Veterans Stand Down in Troutdale at The Chapel.</li> </ul> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pete gave an overview of DVOP changes, with services now available to any veteran who has been previously incarcerated, not just those released in the past 12 months.</li> <li>• Veteran Writing Project workshop went very well in August. There were 17 veterans who participated in the two-day course, and the cohort plans to continue meeting.</li> <li>• Portland Stand Down went really well. 351 registered with close to 500 people attending including walk-ins. Lots of volunteers helped out.</li> <li>• Eric introduced Marie, who is an intern in the County VSO office. He is doing reference checks for service officer position and will open a new assistant position soon. Visit multco.us/jobs to see postings.</li> <li>• Diane Labant is coordinating a donation drive, seeking tarps, warm clothes, tents, toiletries for homeless veterans. Contact Diane@SynergyRNC.com for more information.</li> </ul>