



MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Multnomah County Veteran Services Taskforce

December 3rd, 2015, 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

MEETING MINUTES Focus – Year in Review

Welcome and Introductions	
Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Leneld Brown, Rachel Livernois, Thomas Brown, Casey Curry, Faustina McDowell, Steven Easterday, Andrea Jusino, Raymond Baker, Doug Kuhl, Don Weber, John Concepcion, Meloni Beauchamp, Nancy Bumpus, Edie Higgins, Amber Arnold, Eric Ensley, Andy Smith	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
Briefing on County Veterans Services AmeriCorps VISTA Eric Ensley <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>The County Veterans Service Office has applied to host eight AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. If approved, they would begin in July 2016. These positions will go through the ODVA training for service officers and will improve outreach to veterans and help the new CVSO veteran's guide position in fostering partnerships with local organizations. Outreach focusing on veterans experiencing economic hardship, with particular emphasis on incarcerated veterans, LGBTQ, communities of color, families with children in school, and victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Eric will report back to the task force with updates on the application and this group's work.</p>
Year in Review & Discussion of 2016 Work Plan Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>Commissioner McKeel presented the draft 2015 Year in Review document and requested feedback on edits, especially related to focus area priorities for 2016 (page 10) and the data represented on page 4. Sean provided an overview of the document's purpose to capture the work that the Task Force did the prior calendar year, and the goal of next year's focus areas fitting within the Task Force's scope as a policy advisory committee for the County.</p> <p>Group discussion indicated a priority for increased data collection next year. Specific focus areas include employment related data (number of veterans at stand downs and job fairs, hires made, resumes submitted, employers participating in those events), data on efforts to end veteran homelessness through Operation 424, and demographic data on veterans in Multnomah County. Also interest in continuing work on supporting children in school who are in military families, and expanding the partnership to other schools and districts. Task Force discussed housing barriers, employment and access to benefits, and the eviction rate. Home for Everyone is tracking housing efforts in other cities and looking for models that could work in Multnomah County for veterans and the general population. Focus areas will be added to the draft year in review for next month's approval.</p>

<p>Updates</p> <p>All</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 12 is the Youth Military Ball in Salem, OR from 7-10pm. Visit http://bit.ly/2015YouthBall or call 503-584-2346 • December 15 is holiday toy distribution event by Operation Homefront. Walk-in Event – <i>While Supplies Last</i> – for active duty, E1-E6 or all ranks of post 9/11 wounded, ill or injured veterans. 7014 NE 79th Ct., Portland, OR 97218, and for questions contact PNW office 503-928-6794. • Week of February 25th there will be a financial workshop at Camp Withycombe. • March 2-3 there is a legal workshop scheduled at Camp Withycombe. • March 23rd Fisher House dedication at the VAPORHCS Vancouver Campus. More details will be announced by the VA in the month leading up to this event. <p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Seals has openings in their Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program. For more information review the September 14th VTF meeting minutes and uploaded handout, or call 503-280-6057 or 503-280-6067. • Veteran unemployment rate decreased 1% this year, down to 4.7%. This makes Oregon one of the top ten states nationally in veteran employment rate.
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