

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

## Meeting Focus: Women's Services

Welcome and Introductions	
Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Casey Curry, Alex Glover, Alison McIntosh, Andrea Jusino, Michelle Aguilar, Stu Walker, Stephen Canova, Don Weber, Doug Kuhl, Shelah Johnson, Amber Arnold, Cristal De La Torre, Elizabeth Estabrooks, Eric Ensley, Amber McCoy, Shannon Langley	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
<b>Update on Veterans Housing Funding Through Housing Council</b>  Alison McIntosh <i>Oregon Housing and Community Services</i>	<p>Alison presented an overview of the housing fund, which began in 2009 after the state legislature passed a bill to create a document recording fee. The funds are directed into three different focus areas: emergency housing (10%), home ownership (14%), and housing development (76%). In 2013, legislation passed to add an additional \$5 to this fee that would be dedicated for veterans housing, which is allocated into the same three focus areas for to support veterans. It is estimated to provide \$6m for veterans housing in the 16-17 biennium.</p> <p>The emergency housing assistance goes to local communities through community action networks. Formula is based on need, and includes homeless counts, severe rent burden, and percentage in poverty. For the 14% that goes to home ownership, they have a relationship with ODVA for down payment assistance through the OR Vet Loan program, which can provide up to \$15,000 for a veteran buying a home. The third bucket is housing development, which had collected \$4.6m through the end of December last year. Two new developments using these funds are Victory Place in Medford (16 beds, including 10 dedicated to VASH), and Victory Commons in Klamath Falls (10 beds and VASH slots as well as partnerships with local service providers).</p> <p>In the future, the program will look at home repair and modifications. RFP will come out this spring for these types of projects. Will do another RFP this spring for \$3m on more veteran housing projects. To see more, visit <a href="http://OHCS.oregon.gov">OHCS.oregon.gov</a>. The website has link to sign up for newsletter and the "technical advisories" section has RFPs.</p>
<b>Statewide Women's Services</b>  Elizabeth Estabrooks <i>ODVA Statewide Veterans Services Women Veterans Coordinator</i>	<p>Elizabeth started in January in this new position created by HB 3479 in the 2015 legislative session, which also created an LGBT advocate position that will begin applicant interviews soon. Role described as multi-layered with focus on education and outreach.</p> <p>Discussion about barriers women face, especially trend that they don't identify as veterans - if they don't identify they won't apply for benefits or services. Many services are traditionally focused on men, so Elizabeth also reported plans to identify services specifically for women or ways to make existing services more open or comfortable for broader audiences.</p>

	<p>One example discussed was homeless counts, during which women (especially with children) are potentially under-represented because they don't sleep on the street like male veterans traditionally do. This position will seek to build capacity so homeless women get identified even when sleeping in their car or couch surfing. Another focus will be on education for service providers about additional resources available for women when they get identified as veterans.</p> <p>Elizabeth discussed some challenges she anticipates and expressed interest in working with partners to help. Happy to meet with any agency at the local or state level to discuss further.</p> <p>The Oregon Women Veteran Conference is March 18-19 at Camp Withycombe from 8am-4pm. Women Military Week is March 21-27 and event is scheduled 3/25 at ODVA auditorium from 11am-1pm. Check agency website for more details, and Elizabeth can send a flyer to anyone who would like to post it.</p>
<p><b>Updates</b> All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric – Multnomah County Veterans Services Office has been approved to sponsor 3 VISTA volunteers for outreach and education. Focus is on anti-poverty, and they will especially focus on connecting with LGBTQ veterans, women veterans, homeless or at risk veterans, those who have experienced domestic violence, and children in school from military families. Probably begin work in July. It's a 4 year program and each VISTA will have an 11-month commitment. Hope to lead to sustainable data coordination that can continue this work within existing CVSO program after the VISTA positions end.</li> <li>• Commissioner McKeel announced formation of a Veterans Task Force Executive Committee. She discussed the original formation of the VTF and in her last year of term she is working to integrate this group into the county's work. Will create an Executive Committee, in adherence to the resolution that formed the task force in 2010, that will provide direction on the work plan and formal policy voice. This committee will alternate monthly meetings with the full Task force, such that it will meet in odd-numbered months and the Task Force will meet even numbered months. All meetings are public, materials will be posted to the VTF website, and everyone is encouraged to attend any meeting if interested.</li> <li>• Returning Veterans Project: Recipient of National Guard Purple Award. Now partnering with Oregon outpatient surgery program in the Tigard/Portland area, and have partnerships to do orthopedic surgery around the state.</li> <li>• LGBTQ advocate group meeting monthly. First meeting hosted at the Returning Veterans Project office on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.</li> <li>• ODVA has two CVSO positions opening in the Salem office, and hiring an incarcerated veterans coordinator.</li> <li>• Petition going around to get the pentagon to change policy so WASP women are able to get burial privileges at Arlington National Cemetery.</li> <li>• Multnomah County is hiring for a CVSO position. Visit the website at <a href="http://multco.us/jobs">multco.us/jobs</a> to apply (only open until Friday).</li> <li>• March 19: Yellow Ribbon event at the Embassy Suites @ the airport for units deployed. Targeted to family members.</li> <li>• March 23: grand opening of the Fisher House in Vancouver.</li> </ul>