

July 11th, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 1st Floor Room 126, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Portland, Oregon 97214

Executive Committee Meeting

Welcome and Introductions	
Task Force meeting attended by: Diane McKeel, Sean Files, Allyson Spencer, Mary Jaeger, Erin Grahek, Khela Singer, Carrie Young, Kate Sappell, Tre Johnson, Estanislado Quinones, Stephen Canova, Chris Aiosa, Emily Hutchison, Andrea Jusino, Doug Kuhl, Diane Labant, Mark Nishi-Strattner, Kim Douthit	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
Data update: Demographic and Employment Data Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i>	<p>Sean presented demographic data collected from voluntary surveys conducted by the County Veterans Service Office. Information was updated from the first quarter of the year, presented to the task force in April, and included the veteran's period of service, branch of the military, and gender. Chart includes State of Oregon data for reference, though the Multnomah County demographic information is just veterans coming in to the CVSO for benefits and services, while the state data is estimated to be all veterans whether they are seeking services or not. Presentation materials are linked on the Task Force website. During discussion, there was interest in finding out when the veteran separated and how long out of service they are when they've come in to access benefits. Sean will follow up with Eric Ensley and the CVSOs to see if this is something to start tracking.</p> <p>Employment data was collected using the American Community Survey and reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Presentation materials are uploaded to task force website, which include unemployment rate over the past five years nationally for all veterans, nonveterans, and male and female veterans. Additional analysis measured unemployment rates for male and female veterans, nonveterans, and broke it down by era for Gulf War I and Gulf War II veterans (as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics). Unlike the demographic data, this information reflects the whole population and not just those seeking benefits or services.</p> <p>General trends indicate that male and female veterans typically have lower unemployment than the general population, though younger veterans (defined as Gulf War II) tend to have higher unemployment. There was some spikes, especially by female Gulf War II veterans between 2011-2012, but those have decreased to similar or only slightly higher levels of unemployment than the general population.</p> <p>Discussion about how this analysis can inform future outreach efforts for employment resources. Task force will discuss further about specific recommendations and the relevant programs at the September meeting.</p>

<p>College to County</p> <p>Allyson Spencer <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>The College to County program was developed after reviewing existing internship programs at the county. Some were issue specific but there wasn't a coordinated effort across the organization. At the County, 31% of the workforce is eligible for retirement and only 1.7% is under age 25, so this program is designed to expose college students from underrepresented communities to county careers.</p> <p>Key components include: educational program-based recruitment, three month temporary employment on substantive projects and processes, workplace mentorship, engagement in county-like HR process, group training and feedback opportunities, and build a conduit to future permanent employment at the county. Allyson distributed a handout that has been scanned and uploaded to the Veterans Task Force website.</p> <p>Eligible students are in good academic standing and vetted by the school to be strong candidates. Recruited from the eight multi-cultural education support programs at PSU, ACT 6 at George Fox and Warner Pacific, SEI, and the engineering program at PSU and OSU. So far, one of the interns that has been hired on at the County is a veteran. This year there are 23 positions, for which 65 students applied.</p> <p>In group discussion, noted that one challenge at community colleges is that students are often only there for a year or two before transferring. Hard to get higher level courses completed in that time. Allyson noted that there is a variety of internship positions at the county and some don't require upper level coursework and students should still consider applying.</p> <p>Additional discussion about capacity and outreach for the program. College to County is near or at capacity right now at its current staffing level. First step for the Task Force can be to raise awareness and get veterans who are a part of these educational support programs to apply for internships. The systems capacity issue remains and Task Force was interested in further discussion to see if this model can be used for an expansion to address capacity and serve more students who are veterans. Also interest in school year positions rather than just three month summer internships. Task Force members talked about possible partnerships with OJT through the VA, VISTA and VA workstudy; Sean will bring this back at the September 12th Executive Committee meeting for further discussion.</p>
<p>Multnomah County Guardianship Program</p> <p>Mark Nishi-Strattner <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>This program is within the County's Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services division and serves county residents over age 18. Mark discussed difference between guardianship and conservatorship, which is when the person has over \$10,000 in assets. The majority of this program's clients are low-income. Guardianship is legal relationship that gives authority for decisions related to medical care, where a person lives. Can apply for a representative payee to manage SSI or other assistance funding. The County program can serve up to about 160 clients, and receive far more referrals than it can serve so the waiting list is prioritized by the level of need – about 20 new spots open every year.</p> <p>VA privacy standards for data are higher than HIPAA so one barrier has been information sharing when getting referrals from the VA. Good partnerships and well-connected with local organizations for referrals.</p>

	<p>Currently developing a money management program. Resources similar to guardianship program but intended to be available before they'd need legal guardian when some additional support could meet their need. Examples include helping to make financial adjustments, money management or budget assistance; help pay bills as representative payee. Anticipate about 160 people who could be served with this new program, with potential for more depending on how it is staffed. No fee for anyone who can't afford it.</p> <p>During discussion, Mary described the ODVA guardianship and rep payee program. Interested in sharing policies that may be used and adapted by the county level as technical assistance based on the state agency's experience. Discussion about temporary guardianship process for the purpose of evaluation.</p> <p>Additional comments referenced the struggles of many veterans in school who need money management help, and veterans in the housing system who don't budget for bills or forget to pay their rent. This program could help with retention in the housing programs. The money management program is still under development, and will consider possible community partnerships with Do Good Multnomah, CRRC, and others.</p>
<p>Letter of Support for Military Child Identifier Project</p> <p>Sean Files <i>Multnomah County</i></p>	<p>Sean presented draft of letter of support that was originally shared with the Task Force at the June meeting. Task Force indicated its support and the letter will be given to Hank Bauer at Oregon National Guard Family program to send to schools. More updates will be shared with the Task Force as they become available.</p>
<p>Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE Sandy Suites will be opening soon for veterans. There will be 53 units in this master leased motel, and have already screened 20 veterans with prioritization for those with HUD-VASH vouchers. • Do Good Multnomah has moved the shelter and doubled its size and capacity. Rose City Park Methodist Church on 58th and Alberta is the new location, and it can serve 20 men with companion animals regardless of discharge status. For more information call Chris at 503-490-7298. • Honor Flight is actively looking for WWII veterans who still want to go see the memorials in Washington, DC. All fundraising has been completed. Call Diane Labant for more information. She will send update materials to Sean, which will be posted on Task Force website. In a few years when all WWII veterans have gone, will move on to Korean War veterans and then Vietnam. • National Association of Counties (NACo) conference is next week in Long Beach, CA, hosted by LA County. Commissioner McKeel has proposed additions of veterans language to multiple steering committee policy platforms to increase advocacy voice through the organization. • Q discussed issue where veterans can get unemployment benefits or GI Bill, but not both any more. Unemployment Department can help by providing some financial support.