

June 6th, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am

Multnomah Building, 1st 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, Madeline Allen, Michael Elston, Steven Easterday, Molly Finnegan, Alex Glover, Nathaniel Boehme, Meloni Beauchamp, Douglas Kuhl, Don Weber, Brook Jenkins, Stu Walker, Andy Smith, Andrea Jusino, Amber Arnold, Jessica Chapman	
TOPIC / PRESENTER	NOTES
Efforts in Multnomah County to Address Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Among Veterans Shannon Rose & Ashley Carroll <i>Multnomah Co.</i> Kristi Ketchum <i>Portland VA Health Care System</i>	<p>Shannon presented overview of Multnomah County programs serving domestic violence victims. Services include emergency shelter, motel vouchering, longer term housing, information and training resources for partnering agencies, and the work of the domestic violence fatality review committee. Discussed grant for domestic violence with people who have physical disabilities. Have partnered with seven agencies on this grant, including the county veteran service office, DCHS, and community programs such as Rafael House, NAYA, and protective services. Starting to develop shared language with all of the different systems involved. Currently working on a needs assessment summary report that will lead to strategic plan to move this work forward. Multnomah County has the only site in the country working with veterans and disabled – important work that will impact our veterans and serve as model for other jurisdictions.</p> <p>Kristi described VA program about intimate partner violence. Portland is one of six sites nationally with these services. Focuses include an increase in the detection of IPV through screening, prevention and intervention, building partnerships, and developing a culture of safety. Have designated a DV coordinator at all VA medical centers. Phase one includes detection, assessment, referral and training. That phase wrapped up in December. Continuing that work while preparing for Phase 2 right now. Between Nov15 and Apr16 they screened just over 500 women veterans. Only 8% reported IPV, with the primary form of abuse being psychological.</p> <p>Presented overview of Safe at Home program, the comprehensive 12 week group for veterans struggling with abusive behavior and aggression in intimate relationships. This program is designed for veteran populations but doesn't meet Oregon's 36-week requirement for court-mandated treatment so referrals are through VA and partner agencies rather than through the justice system. Created information and referral guides for VA clients and partner training to help expand this work. Opportunities discussed include cross training and collaboration on events, as well as working with ODVA on training this fall. Work group has representatives across disciplines, who will develop the group's work plan and continue to participate on VTF, Family Violence Coordinating Council, and other relevant committees. Discussion about OEF/OIF and caregiver support programs, which rolled out in similar fashion and have since expanded following release of data demonstrating importance of the program.</p>

<p>ODVA Update: LGBT Veterans Coordinator</p> <p>Nathaniel Boehme <i>Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs</i></p>	<p>In July of last year the legislature looked at expanding benefits to LGBTQ veterans who had been discharged through Don't Ask Don't Tell. That discussion led to creation of LGBT Veteran's Coordinator position at ODVA. Nathaniel presented overview of this role, which focuses in part on identifying the number of veterans, type and number of resources provided, expansion of role, and any recommendations for future investment by the State. Currently working to get word out about available services and streamline access to benefits. Services provided include access to federal and state benefits, get discharge upgrade assistance, engage with LGBTQ veteran community across the state, and build network. Will send out survey soon, which is currently in development but could be valuable tool to get additional input from the VTF membership.</p> <p>For more information, contact Nathaniel at LGBTQVets@odva.state.or.us or 971-720-9016.</p>
<p>Birch Community Services Update and Overview</p> <p>Madeline Allen <i>Birch Community Services</i></p>	<p>Birch has been around about 25 years providing services. They pick up product for clients (mainly food) from over 240 companies. Last year they transferred 9.1 million lbs of product. Store it in warehouse for the families involved in program, currently about 510, who are working and don't qualify for government assistant benefits but are still in need. To get involved, families pay a \$70/mo fee to access free product and do two hours of community service. Average time on the program is 30 months. Also have a financial literacy training component. Birch has capacity to add about 200 families and is seeking to connect with more veterans.</p> <p>Referral process goes through partner agency. Contact Madeline for more information: Madeline@birchcommunityservices.org. Product that is available includes clothing, boots, bedding, food, and more. Definition of "working" can include National Guard soldiers who work one weekend per month.</p>

Updates
All

- Andy announced tours of the Portland VA Medical Facility on June 10th and the USS Howard on June 11th that have been organized by the Association of Oregon Counties Veterans Services committee. It will include County Commissioners from around the state and members of the task force are invited as well. Contact Andy (asmith@oregoncounties.org) to RSVP.
- Eric announced that the County Veterans Service Office has hired justice involved service officer position. This position will work with veterans in the jail and involved with the justice system through the veteran docket.
- Brook gave an update on her role since leaving ORNG as Director of Psychological Health. Described experiences at PSU as adjunct faculty member and current position at family ties counseling center. Sees individuals, families, couples, and children. Takes TriCare, and the whole office accepts a variety of different insurances.
- Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program will be in Salem – contact if you know any veterans who are homeless or at-risk in the Salem area.
- VA community advisory committee – July 17th will have a booth at the Rockwood Farmers Market to educate people about available resources. Working with the VA on easy reference referral documents. Contact Sean to pass along materials from your organization.
- The National Association of Counties (NACo) veterans committee had a presentation from Army OneSource and has two follow-up webinars coming up related to using data. Passed out website to register for them.
- Oregon National Guard has a scholarship program to help pay for summer activities for kids with parent in the National Guard. Fun in the Sun flyers distributed for task force members to share with their networks.
- Sean presented a draft letter of support for the Oregon National Guard's military child identifier effort. This was prompted by the partnership developed via the VTF between the ORNG and Gresham Barlow School District last spring. They have developed a form to help identify children from military families, GBSD has agreed to implement it, and the letter is intended for other school district to ask them to use the identifier as well. The ORNG team will be a resource for schools working with kids in need, and the VTF will continue to track this work and identify opportunities for policy or further partnerships to support this population.