

Oregon Veterans' Services Task Force

Aging Veterans Subcommittee

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2008

Place: DHS, Room 252

Convened at 3:55 p.m.

Members not present: Erin Kelly-Siel

Dan Estes (Chair) – Introduced himself and invited the members to begin a general conversation. Mentions some specific items of discussion should be what information are we needing to bring to these meetings and who are some individuals that should be here who are not.

Items of discussion

Key member(s)

1. Direction and Definition

Jerry Lorang, Jim Willis,
Sen. Peter Courtney

Define who we are looking to serve? Define it by what criteria, and overlaps.

The use of the term 'Senior'. President's current budget this year contains \$763 million for non-traditional *senior* care. Jim Willis gives a snapshot of senior veteran care in Oregon. 151- care beds now at the OVH in The Dalles, 25- beds are for Alzheimer and dementia. Current need of 800 skilled-nursing beds for veterans in Oregon.

Is retirement thought as military retirement? Who will determine the definition and is it others outside of this room? Can we change the title? What about using a term that federal VA uses, 'Aging Veterans'? Many members favor using the term aging.

Conclusion: Chair will seek more information and guidance and report back to the group.

2. The Checklist

Peter Courtney, Dan Estes
Victor Merced, Jerry Lorang

What is the checklist for and what about the categories? Do some need to be expanded and subcategories defined? And which categories apply? What information about services and programs are out there today at all levels do we need to help work out these topics on the checklist. Main concern that we are focusing on a group that does not fall under the other subcommittees, while realizing there may be some instances when there might be some overlapping.

Run through of the checklist – which apply?

Small Business – No

Employment – No

Senior Care and Retirement Services are what we are doing correct? We will want to identify specific services under these.

Sen. Peter Courtney suggests adding items like transportation.

Jim Willis suggests looking at nutrition and meals on wheels type programs.

Victor Merced mentions homelessness and networking among all governments and agencies.

Conclusion: Chair agrees to clarify what the use of the checklist is intended and if items can be sub defined. Will report back to the group.

3. Next Meeting

Dan Estes, Jerry Lorang, Jim Willis
Frank Van Cleave

Would like some data for the committee to be provided. Jerry Lorang suggests getting data from the federal VA. Jim Willis mentions the concerns and complaints coming from this veteran group, timeliness and access of services etc. Need to ensure we focus on creating a balance of services and programs to provide the best service across the board for all veterans as a result of the task force as a whole. Peter Courtney stated that in the most recent AARP magazine a survey among seniors of their concerns shows that government competency and efficiency is a major concern. Waiting time (when filing claims, applying for benefits) shows lack of competency and sincerity. Group wants to dare to be bodacious, use responsiveness model of the flooding in Vernonia this December. Jim Willis offers to assist with providing information on benefits, programs and services.

Conclusion: Determined that there are informational needs in order for the group to move forward and also set some goals that the group would like to set and meet.

Closing - the scope of what the 'Senior Care and Retirement' subcommittee needs to address and the definition of the group of veterans we are working for must be clarified. Group wants to look into the accessibility and delivery of all of the services and programs that are addressed and improve networking.

Who needs to be at this subcommittee's meetings –

Frank Van Cleave suggests that a CVSO needs to be on the committee -Chair will look into.

Jeff Bodenweiser urges the inclusion of UVGO membership – he is then officially invited to be part of this group.

Sen. Peter Courtney clarifies that he will not always be able to attend but his assistant Sasha will be present and representing him.

Linda McMillan of the ODVA Portland Claims Office offers a final statement as to the work of the veteran service officers in that office and the process of claims filing.