

Bend Leadership and Town Hall Notes

Meeting with local leadership and Town Hall combined.

Concerns –

Access to VA and again mental health services. Many knew of the new CBOC open in Bend and some were getting their primary care there. Most had positive experience but some not favorable of the clinic.

There was a concern about the how to even access and enroll in VA healthcare and do you have to enroll to receive medications etc. (VETS NEWS?)

Housing and cost of living is high in the bend area so more challenging for assisting homeless veterans.

COVO - Central Oregon Veterans Outreach is doing an awesome job but is limited in resources due to funding is all by donations and staffed by volunteers. Need to look into some alternatives and how to expand the number of veterans in the area who could be assisted by their services.

A question was brought up about raising the issue with VA to request that all care providers bring up to the veterans that they should see a VSO and inquiring if they may be eligible for any pension or compensation. It was unclear as to whether VA has a policy for advising their physicians to pass along this type of advise or not.

VA physicians - obtaining and holding onto quality doctors (for staffing CBOC)

Mental health caseload is heavy.

Full Service Veterans' Cemetery is needed.

Would like to see more local leadership or business owners be champions for veterans as well as state leadership.

Positives -

The soon to open Specialty Clinic in Bend is the first of its kind in the nation.

Planning and discussions are open with local Community College, local leaders as to outreach and service partnerships.

Bend is an attractive community for quality of life living.

COVO's Home of the Brave could be used as a model for programs throughout Oregon and work to do so is in process.