

MINUTES

Oregon Veterans' Services Task Force **Reintegration Subcommittee**

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2008

Place: Oregon Military Department

Convened at 4:12 p.m.

Attendees: Daniel Thompson, Barry Vertner, Tino Ornelas, Jack Heims, Linda Christy, Martha Schrader, Scott McCrae, Jeanne Arana, Diane Gooding, Robin Steckley, and Tom Mann.

Mike Burton, the regular Chair for this subcommittee was not able to attend; Scott McCrae was acting Chair in his absence.

The first issue that was brought up as a result of the housing focus of today's meetings and presentations was the issue of OIF/OEF veterans finding themselves homeless. A discussion about what returning military members may be facing that would cause them to not have housing.

This then led to discussion as to how society and younger generations have changed due to issues, such as accessibility to drugs, the power of current illegal drugs, more people (especially current OIF/OEF veterans) live despite violent injury and trauma. And the incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and its resulting symptoms are becoming more recognized. Also, there is a much higher ratio of female veterans now serving than in other times.

Jeanne Arana mentioned that Salem in particular does not have sufficient shelters available to meet the demand of the homeless in this area. Discussion then followed of the difficulty to provide or receive services for those who are homeless. What can this group put in place or ask for that would aid with these challenges was asked.

Guest Elizabeth Peters, of the Oregon Veterans Foundation provided a handout and shared information about her organization's plan to build a veterans' resource center in Wilsonville. Members asked her questions regarding the type of services that she planned to have available at the center, and Peters explained where they stood currently in the planning process.

Next, Rachel Post was available for questions that may have arisen from her presentation to the full task force. During this discussion she was asked – "what would you like if there were no limits?" Funding is a key, as well as outreach services.

Last person to be speaking to the group was Debbie McGuire. There were a few questions about Community action programs and services, which allowed some brief discussion as the group's time ran out and the meeting came to a close at 5:06 p.m.