

Ashland Meeting Notes

Southern Oregon University Meeting –

- ◆ Who, What, Where of the Task Force.
- ◆ Why can't VA sub contract healthcare to hospitals as it does in other states?
 - Need to be service connected to “buy care.”
- ◆ Could specialists travel to outside facility?
 - They do travel to Roseburg.
- ◆ Quality of care at VA is good – Getting there is the hard part.
- ◆ Reintegration:
 - Clackamas – “Prepare, not Repair.”
 - Veterans career and benefits fair.
 - Vet reps don't always know all of all benefits available.
- ◆ VA student funds count against regular student financial aid.
 - \$20,000 max.
- ◆ Legislative concept to allow concurrent receipt of Federal and State aid.
- ◆ Demobs and reintegration need to consider single vets as well as the married ones.
- ◆ “Spin-up” and “Spin Down” of deployments and reintegration.
- ◆ What healthcare do you want available locally?
 - Mental Health.
 - Group Therapy.
 - Someone to explain benefits.
- ◆ Would like to get Service Officers on campus.
- ◆ Have psychologist train vets to help vets.
- ◆ Need to get agencies to ask if people are veterans.
- ◆ Re-employment rights don't extend to University enrollment.

Ashland Leadership Meeting –

- ◆ VFW adopts families of deployed.
- ◆ Housing is an issue due to price.
- ◆ Single males are in need of housing.
- ◆ Interfaith Housing closed its doors in Ashland.
- ◆ Agencies are encouraged to ask who is a veteran.
- ◆ 19 new housing units are proposed.
- ◆ There is a lack of resources for female veterans.
- ◆ Looking to create a women's vet center in Eastern Oregon.
- ◆ VA doesn't have the facilities to deal with kids.
- ◆ Lack of VA authority to treat spouses and dependents.
- ◆ Need to reform the Champ VA program.

- ◆ Look to change VA rules in hardship cases to treat spouses and dependents.
- ◆ No Community College workforce training in Ashland.
- ◆ Homeless veterans need shower facilities to get jobs.
- ◆ Concerned for the homeless that don't choose to be so.

Ashland Town Hall Meeting –

- ◆ Who, What and Why of Task Force.
- ◆ Where will the new vet home go?
- ◆ Vets have a lot of help – albeit disjointed.
- ◆ There will be a series of mini-summits through congressional districts to determine what is out there for veterans.
- ◆ ODVA is working on a Task Force website (bulletin board).
- ◆ Training for EMT's , Police, Fire and others on veteran issues (PTSD).
- ◆ Is there public education of veterans' issues?
- ◆ USERRA is only for 90 days.
- ◆ We are getting Chambers of Commerce involved.
- ◆ Get the Governor to reinstate the State Defense Force.
- ◆ Re-integration – Looking to a “Spin-up, Spin-Down” process.
- ◆ Most programs are tied to a disability rating.
 - “Services should be tied to it.”
 - Most non-healthcare related benefits aren't tied to it.
- ◆ Need better transportation to hospitals.
- ◆ Need VSO's for Community College campuses.
- ◆ Federal Forest payments to counties.
- ◆ Women veteran needs:
 - OBGYN, Military Sexual Trauma, etc.