

Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Regular Meeting

August 6, 2026, from 10:30 to 11:40 a.m.

Microsoft Teams (no recording)

Attendees

Legislative Members: Rep. Court Boice

Non-Legislative Members: Julie Collinson, Chathula Magage, Samantha Byers, Geoff Kirkpatrick, John Parsons, Sheronne Blasi, Todd Noble, Caprice Massey, Sean Joyce, Debbie Nieradka, and Brian Blais

Absent: Rep. Paul Evans

Guests: Mike Hamilton and members of VFW 966

Staff: Capt. Kyle Kennedy and Jolene Kelley (Oregon State Police)

Summary

Call to Order/Welcome

Capt. Kyle Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Task Force members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

Overview of HB 4099

Capt. Kennedy provided an overview of House Bill 4099 (Attachment A). He noted there is currently one vacancy on the task force in the position representing an association of Oregon cities. He is working with League of Oregon Cities and the Governor's Office to fill the position and complete the appointment process.

Task Force Proposed Rules Discussion

Capt. Kennedy reviewed the proposed Task Force Rules (Attachment B).

MOTION: John Parsons moved approval of the Task Force Rules as presented. Seconded by Samantha Byers. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Records and Public Meetings Law Discussion

Jolene Kelley reviewed a handout (Attachment C) on public meetings law. She explained that as an advisory body to the legislature the task force is considered a public body and must comply with Oregon public record and public meeting laws.

Elect Task Force Chair and Vice Chair

Capt. Kennedy explained Governor Kotek will appoint a task force chair and vice chair from among the committee's voting members. He asked for volunteers or nominations for members to serve in each role.

MOTION: Rep. Boice nominated Geoff Kirkpatrick to serve as chair. Seconded by Chathula Magage. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Samantha Byers nominated Todd Noble to serve as vice chair. Seconded by Geoff Kirkpatrick. The motion carried unanimously.

Ratify Task Force 9-15-26 Report

Capt. Kennedy explained the task force had a deadline of Sept. 15, 2026, to submit an initial report to the legislature. To meet the deadline, staff prepared the initial report providing an overview of the purpose, scope, and membership of the task force. A draft report (Attachment C) was provided to task force members to review in advance of the meeting. Following a question by Sheronne Blasi, the task force discussed the potential LEDS software enhancements noted under the “Work Plan” section of the draft report. The section was updated to show that LEDS software enhancements will be determined based on recommendations from the task force.

MOTION: Caprice Massey moved approval of the Task Force 9-15-26 report as amended. Seconded by Todd Noble. The motion carried unanimously.

Set Meeting Schedule

The task force agreed to meet once per month through 2027. There was discussion about possible meeting schedules with Thursday afternoons as most compatible with member schedules. Jolene Kelley will send a scheduling poll to task force members to set future meetings.

Task force members discussed next steps and agreed that an assessment of current programs and services would be an appropriate first step. Members volunteered to gather information for review at the next meeting including information regarding crisis intervention teams, mobile crisis teams, and programs available through county sheriff’s offices and programs in other states.

Public Comment

Mike Hamilton from VFW 966 described how the vision for a crisis-response program for veterans emerged from his own experience and his efforts to assist a fellow veteran in crisis.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

83rd OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2026 Regular Session

Enrolled

House Bill 4099

Sponsored by Representatives LEWIS, BOICE, Senator FREDERICK; Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, BUNCH, EDWARDS, EVANS, GRAYBER, HARBICK, HELFRICH, LEVY B, MCINTIRE, NELSON, OSBORNE, OWENS, RESCHKE, RIEKE SMITH, SCHARF, SKARLATOS, WATANABE, YUNKER, Senators MEEK, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, THATCHER (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to a task force on veterans in crisis; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis is established.

(2) The task force consists of at least 14 members appointed as follows:

(a) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two nonvoting members from among members of the House of Representatives, each member being from a different political party.

(b) The Governor shall appoint at least 12 members as follows:

(A) Two members with expertise in advocating for veterans or providing peer support to veterans in crisis.

(B) One member representing an association of chiefs of police.

(C) One member representing an association of county sheriffs.

(D) One member representing the Department of State Police with expertise in the Law Enforcement Data System.

(E) One member representing an association of counties.

(F) One member representing an association of cities.

(G) One member representing veterans' services officers.

(H) One member representing the Oregon Health Authority.

(I) One member representing the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

(J) Any number of additional members with experience or expertise relevant to responding to veterans in crisis.

(3) The task force shall develop a proposal to ensure each county in Oregon has a veteran crisis response team consisting of at least two individuals properly trained in responding to veterans in crisis. The proposal shall include:

(a) The organizational structure and funding mechanism for each veteran crisis response team.

(b) Training standards and potential certification requirements for members of a veteran crisis response team.

(c) A plan to provide each potential veteran in crisis with a unique government-issued identification card that specifies the veteran may be in crisis.

(d) A path to include a field to flag a veteran as potentially in crisis in the Law Enforcement Data System in order to provide law enforcement with timely and useable information.

(e) Any necessary changes to existing state law to ensure law enforcement may transfer a veteran in crisis to a veteran crisis response team, including the specification of criteria for such transfer.

(f) Any other necessary changes to existing state law or recommendations to ensure the proposal is successful.

(4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(6) The Governor shall select one member of the task force to serve as chairperson and another to serve as vice chairperson, for the terms and with the duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the Governor determines.

(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

(9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

(10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and shall include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency management and veterans no later than September 15, 2026. The report must address the subjects described in subsection (3) of this section.

(11) The Department of State Police shall provide staff support to the task force.

(12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

(13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly serve as volunteers on the task force and, unless they are qualified members, as defined in ORS 292.495, are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

(14) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task force consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2026 Act is repealed on December 31, 2027.

SECTION 3. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

Passed by House February 12, 2026

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate February 26, 2026

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2026

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2026

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Tina Kotek, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2026

.....
Tobias Read, Secretary of State

Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis

Adopted Rules

1. Meetings will operate in accordance with the Oregon Constitution, applicable statutory provisions and general parliamentary law.
2. All meetings are open and shall comply with public meetings law.
3. The Governor shall select one member of the task force to serve as chairperson and another to serve as vice chairperson.
4. A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
5. Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the task force.
6. The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.
7. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

What governing bodies are subject to Public Meetings Law?

A governing body, per ORS 192.610(5), is:



Two or more members of a public body



With authority to make decisions for or recommendations to a public body on policy or administration

The governing bodies subject to Public Meetings Law, per OAR 199-050-0010(1), are:



Decision-Making Bodies

- Make decisions on policy or administration
- Including exercising governmental power and acting on behalf of the public body



Advisory Bodies

- Formed by public body
- To make recommendations to public body on policy or administration

What bodies are NOT subject to Public Meetings Law?

The bodies NOT subject to Public Meetings Law, per OAR 199-050-0010(2), are:



Fact Gathering Bodies

- Purpose is to gather and provide factual information
- Cannot make decisions or recommendations



Bodies Advising Individual Public Officials

- Appointed by an individual public official
- Can only make recommendations to that public official



Certain Multi-Jurisdiction Bodies

- Multi-jurisdictional bodies
- Oregon members do not make up a majority of the governing body's voting members

Meetings Subject to Public Meetings Law

A meeting is “the convening of a governing body of a public body for which a quorum is required in order to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter” [ORS 192.610(7)(a)].



CONVENING

When governing body members convene (in-person, virtually, or via other methods described in ORS 192.610(1)).



QUORUM

A quorum, or the minimum number of members needed to conduct business, is present.



DECISION / DELIBERATION

The group is talking about matters that could come before the governing body for deliberation or decision.



A Meeting
(Public Meetings Law applies)

There are a few communications where **Public Meetings Law does not apply**:

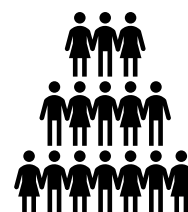
Purely informational & factual

Unrelated to governing body's deliberation or decisions

Non-substantive (scheduling, leave, etc.)



On-site
inspections



Association
gathering

Public Meetings Law does not apply so long as communications do not convey deliberations or decisions that might reasonably come before the governing body. See ORS 192.690(1)(m) and OAR 199-050-0015(3). Call OGECE at 503-378-5105 for more information.