

Oregon Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis

September 15, 2026

Introduction

The Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis (Task Force) was created by House Bill 4099 (HB 4099) in the 2026 legislative session. This report has been prepared by staff for Task Force ratification at their first meeting scheduled for August 6, 2026, in order to meet the legislatively required deadline of September 15, 2026, for the initial report. The report provides an overview of the purpose, scope, and membership of the Task Force.

Task Force Purpose

The Task Force was formed to 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 must take into consideration the following elements:

- The organizational structure and funding mechanism for each veteran crisis response team.
- Training standards and potential certification requirements for members of a veteran crisis team.
- A plan to provide each potential veteran in crisis with a unique government-issued identification card that specifies the veteran may be in crisis.
- A path to include a field to flag a veteran as potentially in crisis in the Law Enforcement Data System to provide law enforcement with timely and usable information.
- 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.
- Any other necessary changes to existing state law or recommendations to ensure the proposal is successful.

The Task Force brings together representatives with expertise in veterans services, behavioral health, law enforcement, local government, and others with experience or expertise relevant to responding to veterans in crisis.

Legislative History

[HB 4099 \(2026\) Legislative History](#) is available for review on the Oregon State Legislature website.

The [Enrolled text of HB 4099](#) is available for review on the Oregon State Legislature website.

Task Force Members

Non-voting members:

- Representative Court Boice, appointed by Speaker of the House
- Representative Paul Evans, appointed by Speaker of the House

Voting Members:

- Brian Blais, *representing veterans' services officers*
- Sheronne Blasi, *at-large member*
- Samantha Byers, *representing the Oregon Health Authority*
- Julie Collinson, *representing the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training*
- Sean Joyce, *representing Department of State Police with expertise in the Law Enforcement Data System*
- Geoff Kirkpatrick, *representing an association of chiefs of police*
- Caprice Massey, *representing an association of county sheriffs*
- Chathula Magage, *at-large member*
- Debbie Nieradka, *expertise in advocating for veterans or providing peer support to veterans in crisis*
- Todd Noble, *representing an association of counties*
- John Parsons, *expertise in advocating for veterans or providing peer support to veterans in crisis*
- Vacant, *representing an association of cities*

Task Force Meetings

The initial Task Force meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At this meeting the Task Force will set a monthly meeting schedule. All meetings will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams, unless the Task Force decides otherwise.

Coordination

Establishing a program that includes training and credentialing of crisis team members; a funding source for two crisis responders per county; the LEDS software purchase/enhancements and implementation; and a new government identification program will require coordination among local and state behavioral health programs, law enforcement training and certification programs, and state and local veterans service programs. Coordination may also include the Oregon Department of Transportation Motor

Vehicles Division if the identification card provision is incorporated as part of its existing identification card program.

Work Plan

In order to make a well-informed policy recommendation to the legislature, the Task Force will assess current behavioral health programs serving veterans, training and certification requirements for crisis counselors, programs that partner law enforcement and behavioral health programs, funding and implementation considerations for LEDS software enhancements as determined by task force recommendation, and an identification card program. The review will also identify gaps in current services and how a Responding to Veterans in Crisis program would improve the response to and services for veterans experiencing a crisis.

Website

A Task Force website has been established on the [Oregon State Police website](#). The task force email address is: veterans.taskforce@osp.oregon.gov which is directed to the Task Force administrator and staff.

Questions about the Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis may be directed to veterans.taskforce@osp.oregon.gov.