

ACVETEO - ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS ' EMPLOYMENT,
TRAINING AND EMPLOYER OUTREACH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

April 29, 2021

SUMMARY MINUTES

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS ' EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND
EMPLOYER OUTREACH (ACVETEO)

Virtual Meeting

U.S. Department of Labor
Frances T. Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

PARTICIPANTS:

Sam Shellenberger, Deputy Assistant Secretary, VETS, Chair

James Rodriguez, Chair, ACVETEO

James Borbely, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Ron Brock, Clear2Connect Coalition

Eric Brown, ACVETEO

Lawrence Cahoon, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Eric Eversole, VP and Executive Director, Hiring Our Heroes
Program

Gregory Green, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer

Gary Harter, Utah Dept. of Vets and Military Affairs

Pamela Johnson, ACVETEO, Goodwill Industries

Stan Kurtz, Director of Policy and Engagement, Small Business
Administration, SBA

Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership

Michael McDermott, President of Arcadia Group

Mike Miller, DoD, Defense Personnel and Family Support Center

Stephen Parker, Legislative Director, Education and Workforce,
National Governors Association (NGA)

Julian Purdy, Chief of Staff, VETS

Mark Toal, Director of Strategic Outreach, DOL VETS

Timothy Winter, Director, Transition Assistance Programs, VETS

The virtual meeting of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) took place on April 29, 2021. **Greg Green**, Designated Federal Officer, introduced **Sam Shellenberger**, ACVETEO Chair, for opening remarks. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on all the work ACVETEO does to help the Department of Labor (DOL) and Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS). He reminded the Committee

that veteran unemployment is consistently below non-veteran unemployment and that other studies have shown that veterans earn 17% more throughout their lifetime than non-veteran peers. He then explained that they still have work to do, especially with those veterans that have significant barriers to employment. He finished his remarks by telling the Committee that he is retiring, and this will be his final ACVETEO meeting.

Mark Toal, Director of Strategic Outlook for VETs, gave a brief history on **Mr. Shellenberger's** career in the military and then with VETS and ACVETEO and thanked him for his commitment to the cause. **Mr. Green** then took a quick roll call and had the Committee Members introduce themselves to **James Rodriguez**.

Mr. Toal then introduced **Mr. Rodriguez** as the new Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and then gave a quick professional background for **Mr. Rodriguez** that included extensive experience in the government and the private sector, as well as military service.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked **Mr. Shellenberger** for his service and then thanked the ACVETEO Committee Members for their hard work both in their private sector jobs and as members of the Committee. He transitioned to speaking about the 2020 annual report and stated that as the new Chair of the Committee, he is looking forward to hearing what recommendations everyone has for the organization.

Mr. Rodriguez then spoke about the administrative changes made for the Committee and at DOL and the direction

and dedication Secretary Walsh has regarding veteran employment and programs, as well as outreach for military spouses. **Mr. Rodriguez** then spoke about Joining Forces briefly and expressed his excitement that the organization is back.

Next, he introduced **Julian Purdy**, the Chief of Staff of VETS who is working closely with members of congress and has been an asset to DOL VETS in making sure their efforts are aligning with what congressional members want to do. With that in mind **Mr. Rodriguez**, stated that he has been in roundtables discussing veteran homelessness and the military transition during the COVID-19 pandemic.

James Borbely presented next on the employment presentation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BAL) which he explained would cover the supplement the BLD conducted in August 2020, the annual average data, and finally some insight on the first quarter of 2021. He started with background on the population survey and supplement. He added that he catered the presentation a bit to be as relevant to VETS and the VSOs as possible by focusing on veteran populations, the labor force participation, and unemployment of veterans.

Mr. Borbely spoke about what the survey entailed and touched on the changes they made to the supplement. **Lawrence Cahoon** then explained some of the questions asked on the veterans' survey, and spoke about the survey supplement that focused on Gulf War-era II veterans. He then gave statistics on Gulf War-era II veterans compared by service-connected disability, Reserve or National Guard

status, where they served, and how those differences impacted employment.

Mr. Cahoon passed the presentation back to **Mr. Borely**, who spoke to the highlights from the annual average 2020 data. His top highlight was that veterans in regards to joblessness fared better during the pandemic than the general public. He then spoke about the statistics on veterans compared to the general public based on gender, race, age, and state. He also touched on the veteran education status compared to the general public and noted the differences in age and school enrollment between the two groups.

Next, **Mr. Borely**, shared some statistics of veteran unemployment over the course of 20 years, and noted the differences for veterans at large, Gulf War II veterans, and the general public noting that all three groups followed a downward trend to their all-time low in 2019, with both groups of veterans performing better than non-veterans throughout. **Mr. Borely** finished with an analysis of profession and industry to show possible veteran industry employment trends that might explain why veterans did better during the pandemic. He concluded the presentation by explaining how those on the Committee could receive more information and that the April figures would be coming out shortly.

Tim Winter, Director for TAP, spoke next about the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Employment Navigator Partnership Pilot (ENPP) provided through DOL VETS. He explained what the new ENPP program consisted of

workforce wise, scale and location of the pilot installations, and the purpose of the program in assisting transitioning service members with career path advice and guidance. He added that since the program started only four weeks ago, 150 service members had already engaged with the employment navigators.

Mr. Winters also touched on the work they are doing to assist military spouses such as the Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses curriculum. He finished the presentation by reminding everyone of the Off Base Transition Training pilot from 2014 that has since been reinstated legislatively and is becoming an additional responsibility for TAP that they are working on now.

Mark Toal then reminded everyone that the Hire Vets Medallion Program application period was ending the next day, and that he is hoping at the rate they are going they can hit at least 800 applications. He also announced that they have stood up the Office of Research and Policy and are continuing the search for a Disabled Veteran Program lead and he announced some of the other leads who had already been chosen.

Mr. Toal then introduced the Committee Members to the new Chief of Staff of VETS, **Julian Purdy**. **Mr. Purdy** then introduced himself directly and expressed his excitement with working with the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Green directed the Committee to some possible dates for their future meetings and explained he would send out a poll, and then he asked for input from the Committee

on what kind of information they might want covered or to present on in their next meeting.

He then opened the meeting up to public comments. **Ron Brock** spoke about the Clear2Connect Coalition and its work bringing telephone captioning to the hearing impaired free of charge and offered his contact information in case the Committee was interested and wanted more information. There were no other public comments, and following another acknowledgment and thank you from **Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Green** adjourned the meeting.