

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

January 14, 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:

Kayla Williams, ACVETEO, Chair

Lori Adams, Policy Director & NLx Senior Advisor

Eric Brown, ACVETEO

Ivan Denton, DOL VETS

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

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

Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership

Anthony Lowe, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

John Lowry, Assistant Secretary of Labor, DOL VETS

Michael McDermott, President of Arcadia Group

Keith Natrass, Military & Veterans Affairs, GMC

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

Darrell Roberts, Director of Organizing, SMART Union

Wendi Safstrom, Executive Director, SHRM Foundation

James Schmeling, National Defense University Foundation

Sam Shellenberger, Deputy Assistant Secretary, 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 January 14, 2021. **Greg Green,**  
Designated Federal Officer, introduced **John Lowry,**

Assistant Secretary of Labor for opening remarks. He welcomed everyone to the first ACVETEO meeting of the year and informed everyone that veteran unemployment continues to improve according to numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and included that veteran unemployment is 1.3% better than the non-veteran cohort.

**Mr. Lowry** continued by explaining he might be losing his position with the new administration but was hoping to hear back that they would like him to stay. He touched briefly on the insurrection on the Capitol and touched on what he felt it meant for the country to rise above it and possible steps forward. He finished by thanking everyone for their support of veterans and for VETS.

**Chairperson Kayla Williams** took a moment to express her appreciation to **Mr. Lowry** for everything he has given to ACVETEO. **Darrell Roberts** and **Lori Adams** both also spoke briefly about the contributions of **Mr. Lowry** to the group and thanked him for his investment and time. **Mr. Lowry** then left the call.

**Mr. Green** then took a quick roll call and offered the previous meetings minutes that were then accepted by the committee.

**Mark Toal** began speaking on the veteran unemployment levels. He repeated what **Mr. Lowry** had said about veteran unemployment being lower in December than the month before and lower than the non-veteran unemployment. **Mr. Toal** then turned to speaking about the 2019 and 2020 recommendations.

**Maria Teminquel** then spoke about groups of veterans that the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOPs) is eligible to serve. She explained their process for analyzing all the data available in an effort to help the process, but during COVID, the DVOPS were pulled to assist the unemployment insurance staff to enact a rapid response and are only now getting back to this work.

**Tim Winter**, TAP director at VETS, spoke next about the Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses (TEAMS) program that they focused on. He explained how they tried to test the program during COVID and the number of participants. He then went on to explain they took all the test feedback and are using it to implement the four modules in February and spoke about follow-up courses they are developing in addition.

**Mr. Winter** went on to say that the 2021 FY will be dedicated to developing similar transition programs but for the wounded, ill, and injured, and their care givers population. He said they are following a similar process as with TEAMS and have gotten some really good engagement already.

The VETS team completed their presentation with added points about training with the National Veterans Training Institute and the available access to both Jobs for Veteran State Grants (JVSG) staff and non-staff members.

**Sam Shellenberger**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of VETS, talked about the ongoing efforts to work with the Bureau of Labor Statistics to get the most up to date data and find

efficient ways to share it with the VETS community. He also added onto the BLS veterans annual report and how the only group to reach the 20% unemployment over average goal was the students' group, and so maybe the ACVETEO committee could look at some of these veteran subgroups and see which ones in particular need additional data to help guide future services.

The VETS presentation also touched on the outreach VETS is doing with student veterans and educating employers on accessing the student demographic for a variety of student employment options. They will also be adding an updated "Employers Guide to Hire Veterans" to the Student Veterans of America (SVA) website for easy access. They explained improving unemployment for student veterans is a big priority.

**Ms. Teminquel** continued on the recommendations and agreed that further integrating Department of Labor (DOL) programs at the community level needs to continue to be pushed and addressed. In order to do this they are sharing best practices, information, and guides to American Job Centers.

**Mr. Winter** added that VETS is kicking off their Employment Navigator and Partnership pilot in April with the goal to connect service members before transitioning with both a career pathway and a partner to help them when they do finally transition and feels it will be a successful addition to the Transition Assistance Program.

VETS took a quick break for questions and there was

conversation about the discrepancies in services made available to spouses of fallen soldier's vs those of injured veterans. The obstacles here are centered around funding and resources available.

**Ms. Teminquel** continued the presentation talking about the priority for VETS with collaboration at the federal, state, and community levels. She and **Mr. Winter** touched on some of the steps they are taking and some of the successful collaborations they have seen and are learning from.

**Mr. Shellenberger** spoke next about some recent legislation passed that impacts them. He ran through 4301, 4303, 4304, and 7004. He briefly explained each one, and how he thinks VETS and ACVETEO will be able to benefit from them and any setbacks or holes present in the legislation.

**Mark Toal** then reminded everyone that the 2021 Hire Vets Medallion application period starts at the end of January. He mentioned some winners who were present at the meeting and encouraged everyone to get the word out so they can reach 1000 applications this year. **Mr. Shellenberger** finished the presentation by letting everyone know he would be the acting agency head for VETS during the administration transitional period, until a new head is named.

After some conversation about what the Department of Defense (DoD) has been doing to help military families and the concern about it not being enough, **Mr. Shellenberger** spoke about the 2021 DOL and VETS priorities, which amongst

basic managerial priorities, included implementation of the Employment Navigator and Partnership pilot, managing the administration transition, and collecting data and fully understanding the impact COVID had on some of the VETS programs.

**Chairwoman Williams** took over after VETS and gave the ACVETEO committee an update on the status of the 2020 report which had been completed and turned into the appropriate federal committees one time. She then let everyone know she had submitted her resignation to the ACVETEO due to a new placement with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Mr. Green** finished the meeting by opening it up to the public forum. There were no public comments. He then adjourned the meeting.