

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

October 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:

Gregory Green, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer

James Rodriguez, Chair, ACVETEO, VETS Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

Joe Wynn, Director and Legislative Liaison, National Association for Black Veterans

Lori Adams, Policy Director & NLx Senior Advisor, National Association of Workforce Agencies

Gary Harter, Executive Director, Utah Dept. of Vets and Military Affairs

Stan Seidel, Veteran Service Representative, Mental Health association of Montgomery County

Ivan Denton, Director of Veteran Employment Programs, ACVETEO

Darrell Roberts, Director of Organizing, SMART Union of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers

Michael McDermott, President, Arcadia Group

Michael Feggans, Out of Reach Technical Solutions

Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership

The virtual meeting of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) took place on October 14, 2021. **Greg Green**, Designated Federal Officer, introduced **James Rodriguez**, Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, for opening remarks. **Mr. Rodriguez** thanked everyone at ACVETEO for all the work they had done throughout the year for their annual report. He expressed that he is looking forward to hearing about what recommendations they have put together and to see how that will impact his and his teams work in the coming year. He

also mentioned the HIRE Vets Medallion Program awards that are coming up and he is looking forward to seeing how many participants there are. He spoke about the upcoming National Apprentice Appreciation Week and the recognition he hopes to see around the country, and again thanked everyone for the hard work throughout the pandemic.

**Mr. Green** informed everyone that the October 31, 2021, is the deadline to submit a nomination package for the next Committee's term which runs February 1, 2022, through January 31, 2025. He then explained that the duration of this meeting will be for each subcommittee to present their draft recommendations to the full committee and then answer questions.

**Mr. Jim Lorraine**, America's Warrior Partnership, of the Service Delivery subcommittee presented first. Their recommendations started with suggesting VETS accelerate the expand the Employment Network and Partnership Pilot due to its incredible potential with transitioning veterans and service members. He gave additional details into what the program is, where it currently runs, and its function. He then explained recommendation two which said Department of Labor VETS should seek to improve the Workforce Development System to ensure American job centers better utilize the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to ensure veterans who are unemployed receive appropriate training and services to help employ them to their fullest abilities.

**Joe Wynn**, Director and Legislative Liaison of the National Association for Black Veterans, added more to that

recommendation and explained the research they did that showed them the underutilization of the WOIA funds. He also added that the recommendation will note clearly that the jobs veterans be placed in should offer a living wage that is sustainable. **Mr. Lorraine** finished the presentation with recommendation three which stated the DOL VETS should recommend to the Department of Veteran Affairs that they establish the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) as a permanent training program. He gave some history on VRRAP and how it helps veterans. They then answered some questions, and **Mr. Wynn** gave more background and analysis on VRRAP.

**Ms. Lori Adams** with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, as the Veterans Policy Director, presented the recommendations by the Underserved Populations Subcommittee. She quickly introduced the other members of the subcommittee and presented the subcommittee's two recommendations. The first was for the Secretary of Labor to expand the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) eligibility. Part of the expansion would be to include groups such as military spouses and veterans who have been unemployed as a result of a natural disaster, who are often overlooked, but could be served once priority members have been addressed. The recommendation also included expanding DVOP eligibility to transitioning service members, reservists, and National Guard personnel.

She then moved to recommendation two which suggests that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) develop and release a new annual report that would assess unemployment labor force participation and other key measures for

veterans in traditionally underrepresented populations. Since the BLS is already collecting the information, rather than having to ask them for it, the recommendation suggests they put the information into an annual report to make it easily accessible and available for ACVETEO and other groups who could benefit from more informed discussions and recommendations.

**Ms. Adams** concluded the presentation by giving the subcommittee's rationale for each of their recommendations, including the exceptionally high rate of unemployment amongst military spouses, the alignment with Mrs. Biden's priorities, and the large number of veterans who found themselves ineligible for DVOP help when they lost their jobs due to the COVID pandemic. Lastly she mentioned that they believe these two recommendations would increase overall efficiency and provide a better understanding of the factors that impact underrepresented groups. They then fielded a few questions.

**Mr. Mike McDermott**, President, Arcadia Group, presented next the recommendations for the Innovative Veterans Training Subcommittee. Their first recommendation is to get DOL VETS and other groups to come together to take an active look at how things in the country and economy will be changing in the future and getting ahead on what they can do to start preparing people for those changes. The second recommendation is for VETS to focus on developing veterans specifically for industries that already have difficulties finding qualified employees. The third recommendation is to look at how COVID impacted learning, employment, training et cetera, and identify what

has worked and what is not working, best practices, best technologies, and utilize what has worked best to help veterans even if things move back to a largely in-person world.

He continued with recommendation four which is to extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to meet the timeline of the GI bill. And then **Mr. McDermott** finished with recommendation five which is a joint recommendation with the VA's ACVETEO-type program to get the two groups involved in military spouse unemployment rates in hopes of being more successful. This could involve making the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses (TEAMS) stronger and more consistent. He then accepted a few questions.

**Mr. Green** thanked all of the subcommittees for their presentations and reminded them that they need to forward the recommendations to **Chairman Roberts** by close of business on October 19. He added that the next meeting in mid-January would also be the last meeting for this current term of ACVETEO. He then opened the meeting to public comments but there were none. After some additional brief conversation about SkillBridge **Mr. Green** adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.