

**Department of Labor  
Veterans' Employment and Training Service  
Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment, Training, and  
Employment Outreach (ACVETEO) Meeting  
Remote Virtual Hearing  
November 4, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Participants**

Williams, Kayla, Chairman, ACVETEO  
Adams, Lori, Policy Director & Nlx Senior Advisor  
Brown, Eric, ACVETEO  
Eversole, Eric, Vice President and Executive Director, Hiring Our Heroes Program  
Green, Gregory, ACVETEO Designated Federal Official  
Hall, Jeff, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Johnson, Pamela, Goodwill Industries  
Lorraine, Jim, America's Warrior Partnerships  
Lowe, Anthony, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)  
Lowry, John, VETS, Assistant Secretary  
McDermott, Michael, American Legion  
Natrass, Keith, General Motors  
Roberts, Darrell, Director of Organizing, SMART Union  
Safstrom, Wendi, Executive Director of the SHRM Foundation  
Schmeling, James, National Defense University Foundation  
Shellenberger, Stan, VETS, Deputy Assistant Secretary

**Call to Order – Gregory Green, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer**

Mr. Gregory Green called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Opening Remarks – John Lowry, VETS, Assistant Secretary**

Mr. John Lowry thanked everyone for being there following election night. He said it was indicative of their dedication to veteran employment. He said he knew the work continued on building the 2020 ACVETEO recommendations. He updated the group on October unemployment numbers and that they would likely show a continued downward slope of veteran employment they had seen since April's high. He stated that September's rating had been 6.8% which was lower than during the "Great Recession".

He spoke about upcoming Veterans Day and listed some of the activities VETS has coming up and expressed that the participants should have received invitations. He called out the 675 HIRE Vets Medallion Awards on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and he thanked ACVETEO for their assistance in spreading the work about HIRE Vets Medallion and managing to raise applications by 60% over last year even during COVID-19. He hoped to keep the momentum going ton 2021 and raise the applicant number to 1000. He finished by congratulating Jim Lorraine and Tony Lowe for their awards.

**Introduction/Meeting Logistics –Gregory Green**

Mr. Green reminded everyone to type their questions into the chat box to be asked at the end of the meeting and then took roll call. He then invited Chairwoman Kayla Williams to speak.

**Recommendations of the Fiscal Year 2020 Report—Chairwoman Kayla Williams, ACVETEO**

Chairwoman Kayla Williams thanked everyone for being there and then spoke on the recommendations of the fiscal year 2020 report. She explained she would read through all 10 recommendations and then email them out at the end of the call.

She started with recommendations from the Underserved Populations Subcommittee.

1. The Secretary of Labor should expand eligibility for Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) intensive services to spouses of veterans for a maximum of five years post-transition and to any subgroup of veterans with an employment rate more that 20% higher than the overall veteran unemployment rate who are not otherwise eligible for DVOP services.
2. Consistent training should be provided to all non-JVSG staff who serve veterans without significant barriers to employment or not in a targeted population in an American Jobs Center utilizing existing available resources of the National Veterans Training Institute.

3. DOL should release an annual report assessing unemployment, labor force participation, and other key metrics for veterans by various demographic characteristics, including race, gender, and disability.

From the Innovative Veteran Training and Employment Subcommittee.

1. DOL VETS should consult subject matter experts from relevant government agencies, for-profit companies, and not-for-profit organizations to identify the training needs that are necessary, hard and soft skills, in the current economy and the next economy and how training should be delivered.
2. DOL VETS should lead an effort with DoD, VA, trade associations, the services, and the relevant business community to transform the current programming offered to alleviate unemployment, to include preparing transitioning service members for critical roles needed in the economy where the available workforce is under strength.
3. DOL VETS should compile and share best practices and platforms learned as a result of past and current success with apprenticeships, on-the-job training, online workshops, online learning, and the use of virtual technology.
4. The Department's Secretary of Labor should support an extension of the WOTC to match the timeline of the GI Bill to benefit protected class veterans who may choose education right after service.

Service Delivery Subcommittee

1. VETS should seek to integrate all DOL programs, such as American Job Centers, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, and the Transition Assistance Program, at community levels.
2. DOL should seek to integrate their community-based programs with other veteran and family-focused government programs.
3. DOL VETS should consider collaborating with other government agencies, such as the Department of Veteran Affairs, Health and Human Services, et cetera, to establish an ambassador program that can work in communities with established veteran-serving non-profits to help recruit clients, spread the word, and promote DOL services for veterans.

Chairwoman Kayla asked for any questions but there were none. She thanked everyone for their efforts to get the recommendations in on time in spite of COVID-19.

**2021 Planning Discussion—Chairwoman Kayla Williams, ACVETEO**

Chairwoman Williams said the participants would hear from Mr. Green about possible dates for the January meeting, and asked that those who want to present email her with a request. She

also asked for requests for presentations from VETS or DOL. She said she would be asking for an out brief on the status and expected impact of the 2019 recommendations.

She moved onto subcommittees and reminded everyone that the three current subcommittees are: Underserved Populations, Innovative Veteran Training and Employment, and Service Delivery. She asked if everyone felt these three continue to be the best way to move forward into 2021. Or if given the significant impact of COVID-19 in 2020, if it makes sense to change them. She opened it up for discussion.

Discussion followed and each subcommittee received support in its continuation. There were also requested for presentations from OFCCP on their activities related to veterans, and possible from OSHA on how to handle the increased safety needed within the workplace. Chairwoman Williams read several other comments from the participants. Another request came in to hear from WWP about their disabled work efforts and survey incomes, and from the SBA on what the impacts of COVID has had on entrepreneurship and small businesses, give they are a source of employment for veterans and disabled workers. There was also a request to address the growing need amongst veterans for food and heating assistance instead of just employment assistance.

Following the discussions, Chairwoman Williams summarized that it seemed people were in agreement with maintaining the three current subcommittees into 2021, though she did ask any dissenting opinions to let her know either by email or phone in the coming weeks, and they could address any possible adjustments again in the January meeting.

#### **Public Form Discussion —Gregory Green**

Mr. Green opened the meeting up to the public forum for questions or comments. One person asked if the Year-End Report could be shared publicly. Mr. Green explained that once the report had been fully vetted and received by the Department of the Secretary of Labor, it would become publicly available on the ACVETEO website.

There were no further questions or comments and Mr. Green concluded the public forum.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Green thanked the committee members for all of their hard work on the recommendations and then the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Green at 9:33 a.m.