

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

October 15, 2019

SUMMARY MINUTES

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

U.S. Department of Labor  
Frances Perkins Building  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Room N-4437  
Washington, D.C. 20210

PARTICIPANTS:

CHAIRPERSON ERIC EVERSOLE, ACVETEO

MR. TONY LOWE, VFW

MR. LOUIS CELLI, ACVETEO

MR. ERIC BROWN, ACVETEO

MR. GREGORY GREEN, Assistant DFO

MR. MARK TOAL, DOL VETS

MS. LORI ADAMS, ACVETEO

MR. SAM SHELLENBERGER, ACVETEO

MS. KAYLA WILLIAMS, ACVETEO

MR. JAMES SCHMELING, ACVETEO

MS. ROSE WARNER, DOL

MS. PAMELA JOHNSON, ACVETEO

MR. ROBERT SCHWARTZ, ACVETEO

MR. STAN KURTZ, ACVETEO

MR. JAMES LORRAINE, America's Warrior Partnership

MR. ROBERT SANDERS, ACVETEO

## WELCOME AND REMARKS

**Mr. Gregory Green**, Assistant DFO, welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for their presence at the meeting. He opened the floor to remarks and turned things over to **Sam Shellenberger**, ACVETEO. **Mr. Shellenberger** added his own words of thanks for those in attendance and their commitment to working to provide actionable recommendations. He went on to issue the following updates:

1. The TAP contract was recently awarded to a new contractor who will implement the requirements of the 2019 NDAA, and that is set to occur on or about January 1, 2020. It will be reflected in a revised delivery of the employment workshops that TAP provides, with apprenticeship being one key emphasis among others. **Mr. Shellenberger** added that to his knowledge, the contract has not been protested. CERCO, who has prior experience providing these type of services to the VA, was the awardee.
2. The Department is examining ways to best implement the PREVENTS Task Force, a new initiative designed to address the high rate of suicide among the veteran population. The Secretary is attending a meeting on that very topic today. John VanderPlas, the chief of staff, will be the key connection point. There will

be more information on this to come at future meetings.

3. **Mr. Shellenberger** also mentioned the Grand Challenge, an effort run by GSA aimed at improving the effectiveness of government. The focus of this one will be matching employers with veterans, which fits well within ACVETEO's wheelhouse. Specific parameters of this program are anticipated to be released in about a month's time.

4. Lastly, with the Secretary now in place, the Department was able to finally notify recipients of the HIRE Vets Medallion, with a public announcement to follow in November. The number of recipients has more than doubled from the prior year, and outreach strategies are being assessed. Laurel Devine is the point of contact on this should anyone have input they would like to add.

**Mr. Shellenberger** concluded his comments by reiterating his thanks for the Committee and that he was eager to see the forthcoming recommendations they will have.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

**Chairman Eric Eversole**, ACVETEO, took over the meeting at this point and echoed Mr. Shellenberger's words of thanks, especially knowing that it is a busy time of year and everyone has many demands on their time. He shared that while this is the first

meeting of this calendar year that work is ongoing to finalize last year's individual group reports with recommendations, which are due to him and the DOL team by October 31. With that in mind, he asked everyone to keep an eye towards the future and start thinking about what next year's calendar of work would look like. He added that with the appointments finalized and a full calendar year ahead, was there something the Committee didn't get to focus on but would still like to address, like USERRA, for example? He hoped the Committee would come up with some suggestions for their next meeting in January, as their mandate is to help the Secretary understand better these issues in the veteran landscape.

Knowing that Mr. Green would need 45 days advance notice to submit an announcement to the Federal Register, **Chairman Eversole** posited January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> or January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> as potential dates for ACVETEO's kick-off meeting.

**Chairman Eversole** inquired whether everyone had had a chance to look at the minutes from the Committee's prior meeting. Upon confirmation that the changes sent by email are being incorporated, to address a question from **Mr. Tony Lowe**, VFW, **Chairman Eversole** approved the September 17, 2019, meeting minutes.

**Chairman Eversole** handed things over to **Mr. Green**, who again expressed his thanks to the Committee for their hard work. He reiterated that final recommendations are due to Chairman Eversole by October 31, with a goal of providing them to the Secretary by the end of the year. At the next meeting in January, the hope is

to have tentative dates in place for meetings next year so that people can plan ahead accordingly. **Mr. Green** requested that any ideas or input be provided to himself, Mark, Laurel, or the VETS liaison assigned to each subcommittee. Room numbers for the breakout sessions would be announced shortly.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

**Chairman Eversole** asked whether there were any comments from the public, and there was no response.

#### CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

**Chairman Eversole** indicated that was the conclusion of the public forum. **Mr. Green** shared the room assignments for the breakout groups, and **Chairman Eversole** closed the meeting so that the sub-committees could get to work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.