

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

September 17, 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 C-5320, Conference Room 6
Washington, D.C. 20210

PARTICIPANTS:

CHAIRPERSON ERIC EVERSOLE, ACVETEO
MR. GREGORY GREEN, Assistant DFO
MR. MARK TOAL, DOL VETS
MR. MIKE MILLER, DoD
MS. LORI ADAMS, ACVETEO
MR. SAM SHELLENBERGER, ACVETEO
MR. LOUIS CELLI, ACVETEO
MS. KAYLA WILLIAMS, ACVETEO
MR. JAMES SCHMELING, ACVETEO
MS. ROSE WARNER, DOL
MR. MICHAEL MCDERMOTT, ACVETEO
MR. GARY HARTER, ACVETEO
MS. PAMELA JOHNSON, ACVETEO
MR. DARRELL ROBERTS, ACVETEO
MR. STAN KURTZ, ACVETEO
MR. JAMES LORRAINE, AMERICA'S WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP
MS. LAUREL DEVINE, VETS

IN THE PUBLIC:

MR. RON DRACH
MR. BILL OFFUTT, VIQTOY

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Chairman Eric Eversole, ACVETEO, welcomed the attendees present. He also informed the Board that Eugene Scalia, the nominee for Secretary of Labor, would give his hearing on Thursday, September 19, 2019 and would expect a swift confirmation afterwards. **Chairman Eversole** is also expecting **Mr. John Lowry III**, their nominee for Assistant Secretary of Labor, to have an equally swift confirmation come the fall and looks forward to working with him.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Mr. Gregory Green, Assistant DFO, reminded everyone where the bathrooms, cafeteria, and snack bars were. With the Committee's approval, **Mr. Green** approved the June 11, 2019 meeting minutes.

SERVICE DELIVERY SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFING

Mr. James Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership, presented the Service Delivery Subcommittee's three (3) recommendations to the Committee. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Vets should seek to integrate programs such as America Job Centers, Homeless HPRP, Women Who Serve, and Path as an Example, at the community level. The rationale is there should be a deliberate effort to increase integration at the community level, that when you go to one hit, when you hit one you really hit them all. At the local level in order to maximize the effectiveness and assess the opportunities for

Veterans who may not be aware of these agencies. These programs are currently fragmented.

2. DOL should seek to integrate their community-based programs with other Veteran and family focused government programs. Some programs suggested to be integrated with TAPS include HHS, Department of Veteran's Affairs to integrate HPRP and SSVF together would be an enormous step to make sure you are closing all the gaps, but also improve the services of DOL. And the program is already integrated currently at the community level.
3. DOL VETS should consider establishing an ambassador program that can work within the community. We have established veteran service and nongovernment programs to help recruit clients spread the word and promote DOL services in Veterans, so it is really starting to go from how do we consolidate with what DOL does, how do we consolidate with the federal government does at the community level, and then how do we then integrate it back into the community as a whole.

UNDERSERVED POPULATION SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFING

Ms. Pamela Johnson, ACVETEO, presented the Underserved Population Subcommittee's four (4) recommendations to the Committee. The recommendations are as follows:

1. The subcommittee had identified older vets, military spouses, LGBT, women, Native Americans, individuals with criminal backgrounds as being a part of the underserved populations. **Ms. Johnson** noted that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) didn't capture certain groups, so she stressed that the

Committee needs to analyze the data to see if they need to include additional pieces in the BLS survey to better understand how the Committee is serving different populations.

2. In terms of entrepreneurship, what set-asides are available for not only Veterans but also military spouses, because not everyone who transitions out is individuals who want to go to traditional employment.
3. The subcommittee wants to look at policies around how DVOBs are able to serve everyone and what restrictions are DVOBs limited to; and also provide training not only to DVOB, but also to corporate partners.
4. Policy changes relevant to USERRA.

INNOVATIVE VETERAN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
BRIEFING

Mr. Michael McDermott, ACVETEO, presented the Innovative Veteran Training and Employment Subcommittee's two (2) recommendations to the Committee.

1. Get some sort of reconciliation from the internship from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FSLA) and how to make it safer for employers to employ active duty service members and other populations to take advantage of job opportunities. The subcommittee recommended programs like Air Explorer Fellowship Program and innumerable others.
2. Another area of focus is figuring out how to make the SkillBridge Authority something that is more useful, more accessible, and how to leverage apprenticeship models more usefully and more successfully.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Ron Drach, a Veteran with hearing loss, gave the Committee an overview of his experiences working with Clear Communication

Coalition to provide hearing impaired Veterans with telephonic captioning.

Mr. Drach stressed that the top two top rated disabilities by the VA are tinnitus and hearing loss. A lot of veterans with hearing loss, like him, don't know sign language because they lost their hearing later in life. This telephonic captioning service gives vets and their spouses more freedom. In the past, his wife would have to stay to pick up any of his phone calls. But with the captioning phone, he is able to take the phone calls himself while reading the transcript. This gives **Mr. Drach** more independence and frees up his wife's time.

The telephonic captioning is a free service for the person with hearing loss, whether they are vet or non-vet. **Mr. Drach** explained that all one needs to do is obtain certification from their audiologist that they have a hearing problem in order to qualify for the service. The captioning telephone is not provided by the VA, but through one of the providers that **Mr. Drach** works with.

Mr. Drach also explained his experiences with setting up the phone. The provider he worked with came to his house to set up the phone for him, provided a tutorial about how the phone worked, and left an instruction manual for him to refer to. The phone installer also provided **Mr. Drach** with his business card in the event that he needed more help operating the phone.

A core feature that **Mr. Drach** praises is being able to save phone call transcripts for future reference. For instance, if he's on the phone with his doctor or his accountant, he can save the transcript for later in the event that he's not clear about something or needs to remind himself of an important detail.

Mr. Bill Offut, Victory, asked two clarifying questions for the Committee.

First **Mr. Offut** inquired about changes made to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). He wanted to know when the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance (MDAA) introduces the bifurcated TAP on October 1, 2019, will the old instructors teach the old curriculum and wait until the new contractor has a new curriculum or will the TAP program immediately implement new contractors with the new curriculum.

Next, **Mr. Offut** commented that at the June 11, 2019 meeting, the Committee talked about the role of DVOBS and the decrease in population of number of Veterans going to American Job Centers. He asked if there is a chance at some point in the future that this is under discussion can change the role of the DVOB so the DVOB, if the DVOB is not working with the hard to place Veterans he may be better served with another vendor. **Mr. Green** responded that DVOBS is one of the recommendations that the underserved population, diversity and inclusion subcommittee is working on and this recommendation is not yet finalized.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Prior to closing out the meeting, **Chairman Eversole** provided updates to the Committee. He announced that the next ACVETEO meeting will take place on October 15, 2019 and that it is already in the Federal Register. He stressed that he wants each subcommittee to have their recommendations as close to finished as they possibly can by then so they can discuss all the recommendations in that meeting.

Next, he stressed that by October 31, 2019, the Committee will submit each of the each of the subcommittee's finalized recommendations to him so that the committee can then put those together and then distribute them for one last quick look with the goal of getting this to the DOL Vets a finalized paper with all these recommendations together around November 8th.

Lastly, at the October 15 meeting, **Chairman Eversole** wanted to focus on discussing what the subsequent meeting dates will look like for 2020 to accommodate for the Board's busy schedule.

Ms. Kayla Williams, ACVETEO, asked clarifying questions about whether the Board could schedule future site visits to local American Job Centers. **Chairman Eversole** responded that provided that there's enough money in the budget, that could be arranged.

Before the meeting broke for lunch, **Mr. Green** introduced **Ms. Laurel Devine**, Vets' new Communication Director, to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.