

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)
**MINUTES OF THE
VETERANS' REINTEGRATION TASK FORCE**
Friday, October 19, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Major Annette Barnes
Mark E. Babitz, M.D.
LTC Brent Baxter
Mr. Blair K. Carruth
Mr. Bart Davis
Mr. Brian Garrett
Mr. Frank Maughan
Mr. Jon Pierpont

Mr. David Rudd
Mr. Terry D. Schow
Mr. Rick Schwermer

Members Absent:

Mr. Brent Kelsey
Mr. Lincoln Shurtz
Mr. Mark B. Steinagel

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. Maughan moved to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Cosgrove and Rep. Peterson were absent for the vote.

Mr. Steinagel was excused from the meeting. Ms. Patricia Henriquez was present in the place of Mr. David Rudd.

2. Needs and Services Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Al Yardley, Outreach Program Coordinator, Utah Department of Veterans' Affairs, presented a video entitled "Thank You." Mr. Yardley also distributed "Veterans Team Recommendations to the Veterans Reintegration Task Force" and "From Combat to Classroom."

Mr. Schow noted that the most common request by veterans is to provide one central place they can go for information and assistance.

Mr. Maughan discussed the need to help the families of veterans. He also commented on other state models that have a single point of contact program, such as the Texas Veterans' Commission.

Mr. Garrett briefed task force members on the Workforce Services/State Agencies/ Veterans' Organizations' Subcommittee, which he is chairing, on insights gained from a broad group of veterans and to engage them in the activities of the task force.

Mr. North noted that a bill file has been opened to address a single point of contact for veterans' services within the Utah Department of Veterans' Affairs. He discussed provisions being considered in the draft.

Task force members discussed the viability of providing a single point of contact program, models in other states, funding issues, and the impact such legislation could have for veterans in the state.

Mr. William Armstrong, retired Air Force Master Sergeant, spoke on the value of education and internship opportunities for veterans.

LTC Baxter distributed and reviewed "Veterans' Needs and Recommendations."

3. Military Occupational Specialty - College Credit Translation Process

Mr. Carruth distributed and discussed "Veterans Support Services at Institutions Within the Utah System of Higher Education" and "Overview of Memorandum of Understanding for Utah System of Higher Education, Utah Department of Veteran's Affairs."

Mr. Mark Simpson, Registrar, Weber State University, described the process of assessing prior credits at Weber State University and how those credits are written into a student's records. Mr. Simpson noted that academic credit is also given for experience related to the student's major course of study. Mr. Simpson also distributed "ACE Military Guide Online" and "ACE CREDIT College and University Network" and responded to task force members' questions.

Mr. Jared Haines, Vice President, Instruction and Student Services, Utah College of Applied Technology, distributed and commented on "Utah College of Applied Technology Annual Report, October 2011."

Ms. Cathy Bolin, Director, Student Services, Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College, explained that the college assesses acquired skills through a demonstration of competency, then assigns the student to the next level course work.

4. Veterans Courts

Mr. Schwermer distributed and discussed "Veterans Treatment Court Issues." He highlighted the benefits and concerns of veterans' courts and recommended that, while an evaluation of interest and ability to provide appropriate veterans' courts in Utah continues, there should remain a focus on other effective treatment options for veterans who find themselves in the judicial system.

5. Other Business / Adjourn

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 30, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. Maughn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne, Mr. Babitz, and Mr. Pierpont were absent for the vote.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.