

**MINUTES OF THE  
VETERANS' REINTEGRATION TASK FORCE**

Friday, December 7, 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  
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. Terry D. Schow  
Mr. Rick Schwermer  
Mr. Mark B. Steinagel

**Members Absent:**

Major Annette Barnes  
Mr. Brent Kelsey  
Mr. David Rudd  
Mr. Lincoln Shurtz

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Richard C. North, Policy Analyst  
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](http://www.leg.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and excused Rep. Cosgrove, Mr. Brian Garrett, and Mr. Jon Pierpont. Chair Ray welcomed Sheriff Todd Richardson, and acknowledged the presence of Mr. Joseph Demma, Director of Communications, Department of Workforce Services, in place of Mr. Jon Pierpont, and Ms. Patricia Henriquez, National Center For Veterans Studies, University of Utah, in place of Mr. David Rudd.

**MOTION:** Mr. Terry Schow moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2012, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Peterson and Mr. Steinagel were absent for the vote.

**2. Workforce Services/State Agencies Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Bart Davis presented a preliminary report from the Workforce Services/State Agencies Subcommittee, which was submitted by Mr. Garrett, and which was distributed in the mailing packet. Mr. Davis briefed task force members on some current programs being offered to assist veterans in the areas of education, employment, and other services, and discussed the subcommittee's recommendations.

Task force discussion followed about a central point of contact in the Department of Veterans' Affairs where veterans can go for assistance. LTC Baxter noted the additional funding that would be required to employ two full-time people within the department, and recommended the task force consider a back-up plan in the event there is not by the Legislature or the governor.

Chair Ray said that the governor and Lt. governor are in support of the recommendations being discussed by the task force.

No action was taken on this item.

### **3. Task Force Statutory Report: Draft**

Chair Ray briefed task force members on the contents of the "Veterans' Reintegration Task Force Draft Statutory Report - 2012," which was distributed in the mailing packet.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to authorize staff to make changes to the "Veterans' Reintegration Task Force Draft Statutory Report - 2012" based on the presentation and discussion of the previous agenda item, and to submit the report to the Government Operations Interim Committee and the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Peterson and Mr. Steinagel were absent for the vote.

### **4. Workforce Services Job Listing Amendment: Draft Legislation**

Chair Ray introduced draft legislation "Workforce Services Job Listings Amendments," which was distributed in the mailing packet.

Mr. North discussed the provisions of the legislation, which requires that all governmental entities and private companies that contract with a governmental entity advertise job openings on the state website.

Task force discussion followed during which several amendments to the bill were recommended.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved that the task force recommend draft legislation "Workforce Services Job Listings Amendments" (2013FL-0292/004) as a committee bill with the following amendments: (1) add a 72-hour priority for veterans to apply for job openings before the general public; and (2) on line 137, after "advertise all" add "Utah". The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Peterson and Mr. Steinagel were absent for the vote.

### **5. Coordination of Services for Veterans: Draft Legislation**

Mr. North discussed provisions of draft legislation "Coordination of Services for Veterans," which was distributed in the mailing packet. He said the bill creates a veterans' services coordinator position within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Task force discussion followed and several amendments to the bill were recommended.

Ms. Cathy Bolin, Director of Student Services, Ogden Weber Technical College, said that veterans want a contact specialist who is knowledgeable of veterans' needs.

Dr. Steve Allen, Salt Lake Veterans' Administration, suggested that the position within each department be an administrative one, where the person would bring veterans' issues to the specific department for discussion.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to recommend draft legislation "Coordination of Services for Veterans" (2013FL-0213/002) as a committee bill with clarifications made to lines 92 and 107. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Reauthorization of Veterans' Reintegration Task Force: Draft Legislation**

Chair Ray introduced draft legislation "Reauthorization of Veterans' Reintegration Task Force," which was distributed in the mailing packet.

Dr. Babitz recommended amending line 81 by deleting "military" and adding "uniform". Chair Ray was agreeable to making the change.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to recommend draft legislation "Reauthorization of Veterans' Reintegration Task Force" (2013FL-0413/004). The motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. 2013 Task Force Interim Study Topics**

Chair Ray invited discussion of possible study items for the 2013 interim by the task force.

#### **8. Other Business/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mr. Schow moved to add Dr. Steve Allen and Mr. Jared Haines as members of the task force. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Dr. Babitz moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.