

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

August 20, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

PRESENT: Commissioners Leslie Lewis, Kathy George, and Mary P. Stern.

Staff: Rick Sanai, Laura Tschabold, Pat Anderson, Jerry Wilson, Paul Partridge, and Silas Halloran-Steiner.

Guests: Nathalie Hardy, News-Register; Tom Mann, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs; and Elan Wilson, Oregon National Guard.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Leslie called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

* Personnel - Pat Anderson presented personnel requests from various departments. See formal session agenda for details.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Veterans Summit - Silas Halloran-Steiner discussed plans for the upcoming summit, stating that the two main goals are to introduce Jerry Wilson to the community and to get the community to galvanize around the county's efforts to serve its veterans. Ewan Wilson, Special Projects Officer for the Oregon National Guard, stated that he has done a semi-annual summit in Salem for years, and has been listening to practitioners for a long time, but is now trying to listen more to the needs of veterans and their families. He said that with the new Joining Community Forces directive, the break-out sessions will now focus on real-life scenarios, and each session will have a trained facilitator. He said that reintegration has always focused on families, but will now include a focus on single veterans.

Tom Mann, Administrator of Veterans' Services for Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, stated that one of the key points of the summit is to make the county's Veteran Services Officer the center of gravity for all things related to veterans in the community, and to bring non-traditional partnerships together to identify service gaps and coordinate solutions. He explained that it is much more effective and efficient if providers can help meet veterans' needs at the top of the sliding scale (e.g. help fix their car so they can get to work) before they lose their jobs, become homeless, or enter the criminal justice system.

Ewan discussed community covenants with the Oregon National Guard and shared examples of the different ways that signing ceremonies can be done. He said that he does a similar summit specific to faith-based organizations, and would like to discuss that idea with the county later. He suggested having a regional Joining Community Forces meeting quarterly to make sure the efforts continue.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary