



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
VETERANS SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Official Minutes of the Veterans Services Strategic Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting Date and Time: January 22, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting Location: West Conference Room
 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT
Corinne Russo, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services	Division of Planning
Kim Ripoli, Co-Chair, Associate Director, Division of Veterans Affairs	Rhode Island Board Of Education
Corinna Roy, on behalf of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals	Division of Elderly Affairs
Elizabeth Dwyer, Associate Director, on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation	Commerce RI
James White and Scott Greco on behalf of the Department of Labor and Training	
Chuck O'Connor, on behalf of The Adjutant General, MG Kevin McBride	
Ryan Stys, on behalf of Peter Kilmartin, Attorney General, Department of the Attorney General	
Maureen Ewing, on behalf of Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea	
Leonard Green, on behalf of Director Michael Fine, M.D., Department of Health	
Also in attendance: Dan Evangelista	

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1. Call to Order

Associate Director of Veterans Affairs Kim Ripoli called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. Those present introduced themselves. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting. It passed without objection. She also commented on how the last meeting was very productive.

2. Continuing our SOAR

Dr. Gene Knott and Lori Herz from URI continued leading the group about the strategic planning process. The committee reviewed Chuck O'Connor's two handouts. The first was entitled "Do you need direction to your benefits?" The second was a bubble chart that illustrates how his Transition Assistance Program is the center of activity for the services available to veterans and their families.

Dr. Knott then spoke about the focus groups that Kim Ripoli set up for him. One was made up of residents from the Veterans Home. Dr. Knott found their comments were pretty consistent. The other group consisted of a list of veterans provided by Kim. They were a much more varied group. Dr. Knott captured their comments and provided them in a handout for the group.

The next handout was a document that contained the RI Senate Policy Office Recommendations Checklist of February, 2013. He asked the group to review it to see if any of its recommendations common themes to our VSSP process.

Dr. Knott provided us with the last handout "Closing the Gap: The A-B-Cs of RI Veterans Services" which he calls his proposal to us to getting us to the R in SOARs. He alluded to past meetings we have had and what we have put together so far. Using this handout and the "Action Grid for Results Planning" handout, we separated into groups from "access" to "healthcare." Dr. Knott mentions that striving for a five-year plan is what we will likely opt for although mentions that a three-year plan is optimistic.

We then separated into interest groups to come up with goals in each area. He reminded us of the "funnel approach" to the process we have been putting ourselves through. He called what we're about to do the template for the Plan.

Before we started there was a discussion about us having the US Department of Veterans Affairs at the table. Kim Ripoli suggested that they will be part of the plan but it's our plan. Kim commented that other Rhode Island agencies will be necessary for the success of the plan because of what services they could provide for a veteran and/or their family.

The various subject groups reported out on what goals are suggested for the plan, which included who should lead, and what indicators and timelines that will probably bring success. The discussion was lively and informative. Dr. Knott collected all the material from this session and will put it in subject matter form for the next meeting.

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3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next VSSP Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. It will be held at the Department of Business Regulation, 1511 Pontiac Ave, Bldg. 69, Cranston, RI.