



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: February 19, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.
 Meeting Location: Department of Business Regulation
 1511 Pontiac 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	Department of Labor and Training
Steve Katz, on behalf of Commerce RI	Secretary of State
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	
Abby Swienton, Office of the Governor	
Leonard Green, on behalf of the Department of Health	
Also in attendance: Dan Evangelista	

Official Minutes
Veterans Services Strategic Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting of February 19, 2015
Page 2

1. Call to Order

Associate Director of Veterans Affairs Kim Ripoli called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Those present introduced themselves. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting. It passed without objection.

2. Continuing our SOAR

Director Ripoli passed out her “Line of Action” chart and asked if we should add or subtract from its makeup. The object is to find out what services other Departments in Rhode Island State government provide veterans. Corinna Roy commented about BHDDH and Ryan Stys about the Veterans Treatment Court. Previous to the meeting Steve Katz provided the committee with information on Veteran Business Programs in other states.

Director Ripoli reminded us that the VSSP report must get to the General Assembly in April with no specific required date. Deb Mathews from URI’s Center for Human Services will have a report for Director Ripoli.

Deb Mathews then turned our attention back to the ‘Action Grid’ document. She passed it out so we could put some finishing touches to it and we did. The committee reviewed URI’s summary notes about our work on the “Action Grid” from the VSSP meeting of January 22. We again separated into strategy groups to finish up on the grid. Each group reported to the full committee on what each added to the plan. Work mostly concentrated on the columns of the grid that are concerned with lead roles, indicators and timelines. That was accomplished.

We mentioned the use of an “Assessment Tool” although nothing conclusive.

We talked about the “Pocket Guide”. Chuck O’Connor suggested it be an electronic guide so we can easily make changes and updates to it.

We may want to use the 211 system to get the information out to the public—another vehicle in getting the word out.

Also, the notion of having “Town Hall “meetings for the citizens of RI about the VSSP.

The Division’s website was discussed and how we can improve on it.

Lastly, there was a discussion about have a marketing plan for the VSSP. Should there be a press conference and when should we roll out the VSSP.

Official Minutes
Veterans Services Strategic Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting of February 19, 2015
Page 3

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next VSSP Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2015. It will be held at the Department of Business Regulation, 1511 Pontiac Ave, Bldg. 69, Cranston. Meeting 9 to 11.