



October 22, 2015 GWG Meeting Minutes

Present: William Abb, John Albertson, Terry Allebaugh, Wesley Alston, Dale Badgett, Saskia Barnard, Archie Barrow, Catherine Barker, Ann Marie Beall, Michael Bishop, Ronald Bogle, Chris Brandenburg, Lena Brokob, Mary Catherine Brown, Jesse Brunson, Erica Buckley, Ray Cerda, Nancy Chastain, Jennifer Chauncey, Jeff Cleland, Kimberly Conley, Gerardo Cruz, Kelli Davis, Jeff Doyle, Lacy Dwyer, Lane Dyer, Khan Eakin, Wei Li Fang, Ph.D., Pat Fitzgerald, Reginna Ford, Shaina Gaines, Dee Gardner, Moses Gloria, Emily Godfrey, James Gorham, Diana Graham, Daniel Hackley, Judy Harmon, John Harris, Mark Haupt, Dana Hendrickson, Troy Hershberger, Phillips Hewett, Dan Hoffmann, Harsha Holalu Ramakrishna, Katrina Holley, Gail Horn, Andrae Howard, Dr. Pam Howse, Dr. Greg Inman, Charlene Irvin, John Iverson, Andrew Jackson, Teresa Johnson, Rob Jones, Terri Kane, Jessi LaCosta, Wilson Lester, Rachel Libelo Zeitler, Kimberly Lindsay, Jerome Malloy, Ursula Mannix, Alice McCall, Angel Menendez, Maureen Merkl, Dr. George Millsaps, Brian Mingia, Betsy Minto, Sandy Moonert, Patrick Murtha, Blair Myhand, Laura O'Shea, Terry Nichols, Joshua Palmer, Ilario Pantano, Tim Peedin, Melanie Piedra, Rob Pigg, Toni Pinkston, Brian Propst, Cheryl Rawls, Jean Reaves, Sue Roberson, Jeremy Schmidt, Kristy Schwartz, Betty Jo Shephard, Rob Sherwood, Anne Showalter, Jeff Smith, Tony Sowards, Bruce Sprecher, Richard Stancel, Flo Stein, Annette Stevenson, Kristin Sulewski, Donald Swiney, Dr. Cindy Swinkels, Doug Taggart, Mark Teachey, Kevin Tolson, Mike Vogel, Kathleen Volandt, David Wallace, Susan Watkins, Richard Welton, MD, Jan White, Joy White, Brandon Wilson, Robin Winneberger, Bobby Womack, Matthew Young

Ms. Stein welcomed all and thanked them for attending. She noted that NC's reputation is growing and that we have provided consultation to the states of PA, KY, and MI. A representative from MD joined us on the line today.

Mr. Pantano relayed greetings from Secretary Wilson. He was sworn in on October 20.

Today marks the last meeting for the calendar year. The next meeting will feature VA leadership and will be on January 28 in the NC National Guard auditorium upstairs.

Dr. Howse tapped into State's employment rock stars and put together today's panel. The bios are online; she chose to tell something interesting about each panel member. Ms. Lindsay is getting married on November 28. Her daughter is a marine.

Ms. Lindsay works on the NC4ME (NC for military employment) initiative. Unlike other programs that focus on recruitment, her program focuses on the employer. The employer needs to understand the value of hiring Veterans—that Veterans are proven results for the biggest employer in America. On March 5, the Governor kicked off the NC4ME initiative in Camp Lejeune. It has 4 program elements: (1) educate strategic leaders across State on hiring Veterans because they are high performers; (2) educate HR professionals in the 18 chapters in the State; (3) involve the 60 small business centers across the State; and (4) work with bases across the State to make sure they understand what we're doing to value the military experience of their candidates. So far, NC4ME has conducted three hiring events, which results in 558 job interviews and 321 job offers. Scheduled events include the following: Charlotte on November 6, Winston-Salem on February 10, Raleigh on May 18, Asheville on August 17, and Charlotte on November 16. For more information, click on <http://NC4ME.org>.

Mr. Cruz is married to a third grade teacher. He recently caught his biggest fish at 40" long. He is a Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) and visits employers to increase employment opportunities by giving them reasons for hiring Veterans. He assists Veterans in gaining and retaining meaningful employment. He sees

the military as the melting pot of the world, with different races, ethnic groups, and genders. In addition, he spoke of incentives for employers to hire Veterans: the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, on-the-job (OTJ) training and apprenticeship programs; bond insurance coverage through federal bonding program; and the Jobs Club.

Ms. Horn received highest volunteer award in Onslow County. She is a Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and provides intensive services (case management) and facilitates placements to Veterans with significant barriers to employment (SBE), whether it is assisting with writing a resume or getting a home address for a Veteran. "It takes a village to save a Veteran." Through her work, she conducts community outreach by collaborating with community-based services, the VA, housing officials, Family Endeavors (SSVF program), HUD-VASH vouchers, and educational opportunities. She tries to capitalize on local services to implement employment services. She noted that Walmart has helped fund Wheels for Freedom through the donation and repair of bikes. Suits for Success is another successful initiative.

Mr. Barrow serves as Gunny Claus every Christmas. Last year, seven Santas saw 14,000 military children. He found that the kids asked for stuff for others, not for themselves. He then presented on Operation Stand Down, which has gone from 5 to 20 Stand Downs in the past year. In 1988, two Vietnam Veterans started the first Stand Down in San Diego. It is now designed to help homeless Veterans "combat" life on the street. Stand Downs require partners, and vendors and corporate sponsorships help. The location must be big enough to have it. In NC, the National Guard Armories have been hosting through support, staff, and tents. Mr. Barrow would like to cover the entire state and is almost there.

Mr. Dyer walks 14,000 steps, 7 miles a day. He works for the Veteran Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the Transition Assistance Program. One of their tasks is to enforce the USERA program (discrimination against employees). He is also responsible for implementing the 5-day mandatory program which resulted from 2011 VOW Act. Known as the Transition Assistance Program/DOL Employment Workshop (largest component), they are held in 6 locations in NC. Over 18,000 transitioning service members participated in about 600 workshops (about 30 in a workshop) last year. The workshop is also available online, and spouses are eligible to take it.

Mr. Cleland presented on America Serves, a community-based initiative. As a staff member of the Institute on Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University, they have developed a template for other communities to use. The IVMF is collaborating with Unite Us (cloud-based technology platform), Accenture, and NC4VETS on NC Serves. NC4VETS serves as a simple single entry point in NC, whether it is by phone or website. It is a public/private partnership, that is data driven, where a local agency coordinates the services. The VA and DoD also involved. In Charlotte, Charlotte Bridge Home was selected (4 caseworkers who make the referrals), and it is about to come to the Raleigh/Durham area. There is a \$2M per year investment. While they would like more federal and state dollars, they have not been allocated. Thus, partnership is crucial. The two-year pilot in NYC is almost up, but it looks like the City will take it over when the current funding ends.

Mr. Allebaugh noted that the Task Force on Ending Veterans Homelessness is collaborating with the Rapid Results Institute (RRI). The RRI has helped states such as CT and NH implement sustainable plans through 100-Day Projects centered on homelessness.

Mr. Teachey said that November 4 marks the first anniversary of the Veterans Treatment Court in Harnett County. They have enrolled 100 Veterans. To date, 14 graduates are employed and there have been no new arrests.

Mr. Gloria said that the Raleigh Vet Center is hosting an Open House Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 8851 Ellstree Lane, Suite 122, in Raleigh on October 28 from 11:30 to 2:00 pm. He invited all those present to attend. The Vet Center conducts outreach as well as provides onsite counseling services.

On November 6, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Veterans Entering Transition (VET) team will host a mini job fair and information on resources, programs, and workshops. It will be held at the Hope Community Church, 821 Buck Jones Road, Raleigh. For more information, call 919/525-7752.

Mr. Womack, Omega Care Council, said that they are holding lunch and learns at Cary office on October 29 and November 12. For more information, call 919/552-3111.

The Greenville Stand Down will be held at the Eppes Center tomorrow from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Operation GoodJobs, in collaboration with Goodwill and the Walmart Foundation, is providing free employment services at locations in the counties of Buncombe, Catawba, Davidson, Forsyth, Iredell, Rowan, Surry, and Wilkes. For more information, email VeteranServices@goodwillinc.org or call 336/724-3625, ext. 1289.

Ms. Rawls said that the Winston-Salem regional office of the Veterans Benefits Administration currently has an inventory of about 25,000. They will be conducting a Claims Clinic and town hall meeting with Goodwill. The VBA would like to host these clinics around the State.