

Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Meeting
December 15 - 16, 2008
The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans
21 Canal Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
Room: Copper

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans met on December 15 - 16, 2008 at The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans Room: Copper.

Committee Members Present:

Chairman
Roosevelt Thompson
Sam Galbreath
Ralph Cooper
Joseph Smith
Kathy Spearman
Craig Burnette
Joseph Autry
Sandy Miller
John Hilgert
Beryl Love
Carlos Martinez

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Battaglia
Leslie Lightfoot
Paul Moore (special consultant)
George Basher

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO) was present

Monday, December 15, 2008

Peter Dougherty called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Pete Dougherty briefed members that George Basher could not make the trip to New Orleans due to weather in Albany, NY. Introduced Craig Burnette as acting Chairman for the committee. Mr. Dougherty asked for introductions from around the table and introduced the two new committee members: Mr. Beryl Love and Mr. John Hilgert.

Mr. Burnette introduced the Director of New Orleans VAMC Julie A. Catellier and she gave a presentation on before and after Hurricane Katrina service to veterans and announce the new site for the medical center. She was followed by a presentation by the Regional Office VBA Director.

Mr. Burnette introduced an invited guest Mr. Thomas L. Enright Jr. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs. Mr. Enright discussed local issues.

Ken Rocky the Homeless Coordinator for Homeless Veterans gave a presentation on before and after issues from Hurricane Katrina. Presentations from mental health office NO VAMC on local issues, Homeless Program Coordinator fro VISN 16 on synopsis of services, and the RO VBA gave an update on claims.

Carol Yakima, Assistant Director, Homeless Veterans Dental Program Chair, Dental Hygiene Professional Standards Board VHACO Office of Dentistry gave an update presentation on the ongoing initial dental program for homeless veterans.

Jim McGuire NEPEC Director/CHALENG Evaluator on Incarcerated Veterans was introduced and he provided an estimate of veterans which are 10% of prison population. Updated on the Secretary's AdHoc working group on Incarcerated Veterans recommendations.

Mr. Dougherty thoroughly reviewed the Advisory Groups 2008 report.

Ex Officio Reports

Mr. Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant, Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Provided an update of VA's Homeless Programs presentation:

Grant Per Diem program.

Mental Health issues and successes.

OIF/OEF statistics

Women Veteran issues

Length of stay in transitional housing

Training

HUD/VASH statistics and issues

Supportive Services

Incarcerated Veterans – Justice Initiative

Research and Technology Policy

Strategic Plan

Bradford Underwood C&P Service, Veterans Services Chief, Outreach Staff (VBA)

Outreach Claims presentation

Don Green Office of Community Planning and Development (HUD)

Discussed HUD/VASH vouchers and Community Grants

Gordon Burke, Director of Operations, Office of Grants and Transition Programs Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) (DOL)

Discussed priority service of veterans measures, to grant awards early, VRA revitalizing, and a formal roll out of Assistant Secretary of Labor Technical assistance video.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Mr. Burnnete called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Continued with Ex Officio reports.

Bryant Monroe, Project Manager Office of Economic Adjustment (DoD)

Discussed ratings of BRAC

Gave descriptions of surplus land on military bases

Commented on swapping land for land or cash for homeless concerns

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Ms. Cheryl Beversdorf, President & CEO

Issues: Policy rules –service provi

GPD safety requirements

Funding for transportation, dental

Gave favorable comment on Committee's recommendation to increase to 200 million in GPD and eliminate offset

Commented on HUD/VASH said landlords are reluctant

Recommendations on OIF/OEF: Develop Log, create Drop in Center, Streamline Services, women veterans

Working Groups

Sam's-Permanent Housing: Multifamily money reallocated, rental guarantees, enhance use lease on VA campuses, foreclosure forbearance, GPD Centralized inspection safety

John's-Economics: Performance indicators, check list, better coordination and collaboration, Pilot project

Craig's-VBA Claims: Accountability, Web Advertising, Call Center, Contingency

Dr. Autry's VHA/MH Handbook, screening, DoD on TBI screens, outreach advertising, Integration DoD and VA best practices, Seamless transition, common disability rating

The Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.