

ACVETEO - ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT,
TRAINING AND EMPLOYER OUTREACH

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

October 19, 2023

SUMMARY MINUTES

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, AND
EMPLOYER OUTREACH (ACVETEO)

Virtual Meeting

U.S. Department of Labor
Frances T. Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

PARTICIPANTS:

Gregory Green, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer
James Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary, DOL VETS
Laurel Devine, Director of Communications, DOL VETS
Kellen Leech, Strategic Communications Advisor, DOL VETS
Joe Wynn, National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS)
Lori Adams, Policy Director & NLx Senior Advisor, National
Association of Workforce Agencies
Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership
Cody Nicholls, Associate Director for National Security
Programs, University of Arizona
Michael McDermott, Founder and President, Arcadia Group

The virtual meeting of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) took place on October 19th, 2023. **James Rodriguez**, Assistant Secretary, DOL VETS, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and speaking about his experience in front of the Senate Armed Service and Senate Veteran Affairs Committees. He explained that they were happy with how everything went and added that it was reflective of the great work ACVETEO is doing. He told them that he spoke about the value of apprenticeships, the off-base transition training program, and the employment navigator partnership.

He mentioned that while the afternoon session did not occur, one of the main discussion points was going to be the suggestion to move DOL VETS under the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), to which he thanked **Lori Adams**, Policy Direction & NLx Senior Advisor, National Association of Workforce Agencies (NASWA), for spearheading a letter of

non-support for that initiative. He mentioned other non-profits and agencies that are also against it. He explained that the supporters for this want to create a fourth administration within the VA which would allow for education, and training to all fall under the same deputy undersecretary for the VA, however the legislations for this do not include moving DOL VETS under it. He finished by asking everyone to keep an ear out on this topic and thanked them before opening up for questions.

After a brief discussion where some members of ACVETEO reiterated their lack of support for moving DOL VETS, Mr. Rodriguez passed the floor back to **Gregory Green**, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer, who introduced **Kellen Leech**, Strategic Communications Advisor, DOL VETS, who spoke to committee about the work the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) interagency working group has been doing. He explained that this year they have been focusing on better identifying who their partners are. Through this, they decided to find out who is missing in the academic conversation, especially minority veterans, military connected individuals who serve minorities at the institutions, and minority serving institutions (MSIs).

Mr. Leech told them about their current initiative which is the HBCU coaching program which will bring on about 10 scholars from each participating HBCU to be coached through a 6-week cohort program about how to become a public servant or how to be in public service. Ultimately, the program would teach the students how to apply and interview for federal jobs, internships, fellowships, or other federal opportunities. He added that

the goal for the following year is to expand the program to help target military-connected veterans, spouses, or veteran children who use their GI benefits on the HBCU campuses. There were no questions for **Mr. Leech** following his presentation, however, he did provide his contact information for any follow-up questions, comments, or ideas on how to expand.

The meeting then broke into private subcommittee sessions. When they came back, **Mr. Green**, asked each subcommittee to give a quick brief on their recommendation summaries. **Ms. Adams** began with the underserved populations subcommittee. She ran through the four main recommendations they have come up with. The first is that they should use their authority to ask the Secretary of Labor to identify additional populations that would be eligible for service from the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOPs). Second is that the DOL VETS customer experience project be used to identify who is not currently using American Job Center JVSG services to develop policy and procedure recommendations on how to engage those underserved populations. Third they are asking that priority or service be expanded to widows and widowers of service members killed in action. Fourth, they do not believe the current name of the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program accurately reflects who is eligible for program services of the staff that provides those services. **Ms. Adams** concluded her presentation by going into more detail on which underserved populations they think should be allowed to benefit from DVOPs services.

Next, **Joe Wynn**, National Association for Black

Veterans (NABVETS), presented on the recommendations of the service delivery subcommittee. He explained that their goal this year was to see if they could move forward and recommend permanency for the Off-Base Transition Training program (OBTT) or the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot program (EMPP). What they found for EMPP was that they like the program, but there is additional research and feedback needed before they can make a final recommendation, and may first focus on ways the program can be improved or make it more effective. For OBTT, they also like the program, but feel there is a limitation to the amount of personal guidance and assistance the individuals in the program can receive, and there may be ways to improve this aspect. He finished by saying they are still working on how to make these into recommendations.

From the innovative veteran training and employment subcommittee, **Jim Lorraine**, America's Warrior Partnership, explained their first recommendation was also about EMPP. They think the program should be expanded to more installations, should be fully funded, should remain a fully DOL program, and should incorporate **Ms. Adam's** national workforce agencies. **Cody Nicholls**, Associate Director for National Security Programs, University of Arizona, gave the next subcommittee recommendation which is to enhance DOL VETS' participation in the DOD Skillbridge program, and then he touched on the ways they believe they can accomplish this. To finish, **Michael McDermott**, Founder and President, Arcadia Group, gave their final two recommendations. The first was that they should find a way to improve the way the GI bill gets used to support folks that decide to ho down an apprenticeship path and take a

trade job versus going for a four-year degree. The second was that Skillbridge and other similar transition programs should be expanded for use by spouses in an effort to include the whole family unit in the process.

Following the subcommittee's summaries there was no additional discussion, so **Mr. Green** opened up for public comment and receiving none, he adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.