

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

July 23, 2020

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:

Kayla Williams, Chair

Gregory Green, Assistant DFO, DOL VETS

Gary Harter, Utah Dept. of Vets and Military Affairs

Darrell Roberts, SMART Union

Keith Nattrass, Military & Veterans Affairs, GMC

Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership

Tony Lowe, Veterans of Foreign Wars

James Schmeling, Student Veterans of America

Jeff Hall, Disabled American Veterans

Pamela Johnson, Goodwill

Lori Adams, NASWA

John Lowry, Assistant Secretary of Labor, DOL VETS

Eric Eversole, Hiring Our Heroes

Tim Green, SBA

Stan Kurtz, SBA

Wendi Safstrom, SHRM

Debbie Ball, ODEP

Stephen Parker, NGA

Mark Toal, Director, Office of Strategic Outreach, DOL VETS

Roxann Griffith, RVEC

Mike Miller, DOD

The virtual meeting of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) took place on July 23, 2020. **Mark Toal** of VETS introduced **John Lowry**, Assistant Secretary of Labor, who officially welcomed **Kayla Williams** as the new ACVETEO

chair, and thanked previous **Chairman Eric Eversole** for his contributions.

Mr. Lowry spoke on veterans unemployment figures-very low in early 2020, up into double digits in the spring, and back down somewhat in May and June. COVID-19 has of course had a major negative impact. He also stressed the importance of strategic partnerships, and touched on the new employment navigator pilot, still in its' early stages, as well as giving a TAP update.

Chairperson Kayla Williams spoke of her excitement over her new Chair position, and also the differences between the current employment situation, as opposed to the last ACVETEO meeting on April 1 of this year. Again, the pandemic has had an obvious impact. She also spoke of the racial justice movement sweeping the nation.

Tim Green, former head of DOL VETS, is now affiliated with the Office of Veterans Business Development of the SBA. As he explained, the OVBD does pretty much what VETS does - making sure veterans, especially the underserved population, are getting their fair share of services. Mr. Green spoke of several SBA programs whose goals are exactly that, and how they work.

Lori Adams of NASWA spoke of the difficulty individual states are having processing rising unemployment claims, mainly due to COVID. Along with the huge number of claims, unemployment fraud is also on the rise. Also, as more and more people realize that working from home, or virtually, can actually be successful, there is the issue of outdated

equipment and technology, as well as the lack of Internet access in rural areas.

Roxann Griffith, the Veterans Employment Coordinator of the Dallas region, also spoke of the negative impact of the pandemic on the job market. However, she has seen an increase in jobs in the healthcare industry, IT, and logistics, as well as the construction career field. Many employers seek out military veterans due to their versatility and self-discipline. The Spectrum company, for instance, has over 10,000 veteran employees nationwide, and a registered apprenticeship program with the DOL.

Debbie Ball of DOL ODEP updated the group on the Customized Employment Program, as well as the Return to Integrated Competitive Employment, or RICE. These programs try to match up available job openings with veterans whose skills and situations fit a certain, particular job. She shared a couple of success stories where unique individual veterans were thriving in their new jobs.

Chairwoman Williams announced that subcommittee chairs should schedule meetings within the next 30 days if possible. The group as a whole will meet again sometime in September, based on Doodle poll results. Subcommittee chairs provided updates, and **Lori Adams** agreed to replace **Ms. Williams** as co-chair of the underserved veteran population committee.

Mr. Toal is excited about the new Eightfold program will soon be online, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.