

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

June 8, 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:

Kayla Lopez, ACVETEO Chair, Vigtory

Gregory Green, ACVETEO, Designated Federal Officer

Jim Lorraine, America's Warrior Partnership

Jason Kuroiwa, Japanese American Veterans Association

Gregory Kelly, Disabled American Veterans

Lori Adams, Policy Director & NLx Senior Advisor, National
Association of Workforce Agencies

Tim Carlton, Legislative Director, Government Relations

James Walker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Yashika Neaves, Chief, Strategic Plans & Initiatives, Office of
the Secretary of Defense

James Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary, DOL VETS

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

Michael Colman, Boston Regional Administrator, DOL VETS

The virtual meeting of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) took place on June 8th, 2023. **James Rodriguez**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) opened the meeting by thanking **Darrel Roberts**, former ACVETEO chair, for his two year term, and agreeing to stay on as a committee member. He then congratulated **Kayla Lopez**, ACVETEO chair, on her appointment as the new chair of ACVETEO. **Mr. Rodriguez** then spoke about a few big events coming up, including his testimony at the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Development on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and protections for military spouses, which he elaborated on. He also touched on the lack of additional budget they had hoped for in fiscal year (fy) '24 and '25.

Gregory Green, Designated Federal Officer, ACVETEO then went over a few administrative items before announcing that the meeting would be about the subcommittees briefing the full committee on ideas they have been working on. **Ms. Lopez** then made a quick statement before **Mr. Green** introduced the Service Delivery Subcommittee and gave **Tim Carlton**, Legislative Director, Government Relations, the floor.

Mr. Carlton gave his update on the Service Delivery Subcommittee, speaking about a long briefing they had between the DOL VETS and the VA Office of Apprenticeship that discussed how the GI bill treats apprenticeships vs other programs. He spoke about how the GI's housing allowance scales back over the time of a veteran's apprenticeship, and how they should possibly make a recommendation that it remain a 100% benefit for the entire duration. He also spoke about the Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot (ENPP) and stated they are having ongoing conversations about the program and are developing recommendations to be shared at a later date.

Mark Toal, Director, Office of Strategic Outreach, DOL VETS then jumped in and explained more about how the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) works and why it is different for veterans in college vs. those who choose an apprenticeship and agreed their recommendation to cover apprenticeship in the same way they would school is a good idea.

Lori Adams, Policy Director & NLx Senior Advisor,

National Association of Workforce Agencies, then spoke on behalf of the Underserved Populations Subcommittee. She talked about how the subcommittee is very passionate about ensuring American Job Centers are capable of serving veterans who need additional services. She covered briefly the recommendations they made for 2022 and said for 2023 a focus will be the PACT Act and how it may be another recommendation for the year with updated statistics, information, and anecdotes as well. She also explained that they will be using the Customer Experience Project findings to determine who isn't using American Job Centers so they can make recommendations on how to engage those underserved populations.

She talked about a few more areas of interest for the subcommittee that year including how to help military spouses, veterans with disabilities that they never reported, which is also being looked into by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Veterans Affairs Committee. They also discussed increased messaging for Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) as its own program. **Ms. Adams** also explained the subcommittee is discussing a possible recommendation that VETS works with DOD in an effort to increase communication and information sharing especially regarding the DD-214. She finished by mentioning that Senator King of Michigan may be trying to find a way to make all transitioning service members eligible for JVSG regardless of career readiness standard level.

Ms. Adams then fielded a couple of questions and comments before asking **Jim Walker**, Branch Chief, Current

Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, about which sub-populations they cover, and which they done. **Mr. Walker** explained that smaller populations get covered at more of a national level, while what they do looks at the state level and generally covers larger demographics. He spoke about the best way to find the information they might be looking for and thanked them for their feedback. He took a couple of questions and explained that as Americans become less willing to respond to government surveys, the data is becoming less representative of the larger population.

There was then a larger discussion about how to go about recommending that a date be set by which to end the current veteran population set and start a new transition point for collecting data on newer military personnel and transitioning veterans. And then a conversation about the growing interest in the LGBTQ subset and the best ways to go about getting that information with so many limitations in place.

After a short break, **Mr. Green** introduced **Jim Lorraine**, America's Warrior Partnership, to speak on behalf of the Innovative Veteran Training and Employment Subcommittee. **Mr. Lorraine** started by talking about some of the overlapping recommendations between the subcommittees including the ENPP expansion giving veterans the ability to opt in and understand the value of providing their information. Their subcommittee also agreed with the expansion in Housing Coverage for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, and the increase support needed for veteran spouses. He then moved on to areas his subcommittee had been discussing that had not yet come up, including

SkillBridge and why it isn't owned by Department of Labor (DOL) instead of DOD. They have also looked at ways to bundle services to make the transition from active duty to full employment easier and more efficient, rather than breaking it up into many separate services.

Mr. Lorraine finished up and received a few positive comments and questions before ending his presentation, including a longer discussion on SkillBridge, where it currently resides, and ways to improve the collaboration between DOL and DOD. Following the discussion, **Mr. Green** opened the meeting up for public comments, and after receiving none, he thanked everyone for joining, and adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.