

EXSUM - MILITARY TRANSITION COUNCIL

November 17, 2015 – 10:00 – 12:00
Olympic College, Bremerton, WA

Focus - Statewide Military Downsizing, Track Workgroup Goals, and the JBLM September Transition Summit Results. In addition to WSMTC topics, representatives from University of Washington Tacoma discussed programs and initiatives that focus on veterans.

Agenda, presentation slides, and EXSUM can be found on the WDVA Website under the Military Transition Council-Documents: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/washington-state-military-transition-council-wsmtc>

One ASK was presented by the Career Technical Track Workgroup – Assistance in preparing professional marketing materials that will be used to support the efforts of the workgroup. This includes videos, and marketing materials that would be used to highlight the success stories to help promote the programs within the CTT Track.

One ASK was presented by the Higher Education Workgroup – Funding to support the communications platform for the council. They would also like to see the development of a better WSMTC website to help get information to our veterans that need it.

Attendance – 72 people signed the register in Tacoma, and 19 participated via GoToMeeting Webinar and a number of people called into the conference call.

Briefing Summaries:

Opening Comments – Alfie Alvarado- Ramos, Director, Washington Department of Veteran Affairs. Director Ramos spoke about the growing partnership between all services in the State of WA. She mentioned how the partnership started at JBLM and has grown across the state.

Navy Region Northwest Update – CAPT William Bulis Chief of Staff Navy Region Northwest thanked Olympic College for hosting the event. CAPT Bulis spent some time talking about the relationship that the college and the Navy has in that area. He congratulated the college for receiving the 2015 Aspen Prize which is given out to only 1% of community colleges in the nation. He gave a brief overview of all the Naval facilities that encompass the WA State area, he also provided some POCs for the region so that members of the council can ask any questions they may have in regards to the Navy and how they can get more involved in their transition process.

Host Comments – President Mitchell spoke about the success of Olympic College and how it has the 2nd largest veteran population in the state just beheld JBLM with well over 1,500 veterans, and around 2,000 total including students and spouses putting. This puts them at a veteran/dependent student population of 25% which is one of the highest in the nation.

Career and Technical Track Workgroup Update – Mable Edmonds gave a brief introduction of herself and Peter Lahmann and how they tie into the Career and Technical Track Workgroup. She then proceeded to go right into briefing the goals of the track.

- Goal #1 Increase access to high demand apprenticeship & training resources to meet WA state skill gaps
 - Focus on Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Construction, and Information Technology
 - Build on VIE25 and identify existing federal/state programs that align to sectors
 - Develop fact sheet for each sector; target audience is transition staff

During her Goal #1 Brief she spoke about the VIE25 program that extends education for the 7 industries for veterans within a 25 mile radius of JBLM. She also stated that the workgroup has identified the top 10 short term training programs and that they are sharing that information with JBLM to provide training opportunities for transitioning service members and veterans.

- Goal #2 Educate installation transition staff on focus opportunities from Goal #1
 - Leverage MTC and state agencies to disseminate material
 - Engage installation transition staff to ensure understanding of material
 - Identify subject matter expert cadre available to support transition staff

Mable spoke about their Goal #2 and how they have identified a team of cadre within their workgroup that can serve as experts to transition staff that are available to help share information.

- Goal #3 Highlight individual success stories
 - Identify military Veterans who have been successful in focus program from Goal #1
 - Develop public affairs marketing material to supplement initial marketing material
 - Add success stories to VIE25 and Career Pathways sites, ideally as video clips

Success Stories:

- Oct 23 WG identified/escalated emergent VBA education policy advisory affecting Veterans in higher education flight training programs.
 - Oct 30 SBCTC Executive Director formally addressed issue to VBA stating, “We believe the current version of the advisory will have a negative impact on pilot safety, opportunities for veterans, and Washington's aerospace industry.”
 - Sub-groups mapping programs that build on VIE25 in support of Goal #1
 - WG leadership team briefed JBLM SFL-TAP staff on VIE25 Nov 12

Ask – Assistance in preparing professional marketing materials that will be used to support the efforts of the workgroup. This includes videos, and marketing materials that would be used to highlight the success stories to help promote the programs within the CTT Track.

Small Business Entrepreneurship Workgroup Update – Cheryl Fambles spoke about how their workgroup focuses on taking existing ecosystems and utilizing them rather than creating additional resources. She went over their progress with SFL-TAP and how they have built a strong presence there. Part of their work is figuring out what it is they need to have in the ecosystem in order to provide a strong link for veterans looking for quality information on starting their own business. Cheryl also spoke about their partnership with Boots 2 Business and the small business administration, this partnership helps ensure that the most current information is available to veterans who are interested in starting their own business and it gets into their hands during the SFL-TAP Process.

Employment Track Workgroup Update – Before Shellie Willis started her presentation Alfie announced that WDVA will be hiring a FTE to help support the employment track workgroup. Shellie Willis started off by announcing their video briefing that was posted and sent out on YouTube. She also explained the intent of that process allowing people to view the video and come to the quarterly meetings to ask questions and provide input to the employment track goals and focus for FY16.

Shellie Briefed the following updates:

Website Presence and Functionality

- Develop a map that shows all of the counties that can be clicked on to display (1) a calendar of all career/hiring fairs in that local area and (2) information on the endorsed career/hiring events – can use

the 12 Workforce Development Council areas as a way to organize this information. Allow partners to update and populate this calendar.

- A design team can be formed to help design this functionality
 - Locate this map on the WDVA site but have the link be very obvious on the main page – right now you have to really dig to find the link to the employment track committee’s information
 - Locate retention training videos on the WDVA site for businesses to access at any time
 - Locate this map and videos on WorkSource WA as well
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- Service Member Transition Training and Retention Training for Businesses
 - Funding and other resources to sustain and increase capacity of the Northwest Edge Plus Program on JBLM and to replicate it widely statewide.
 - Coordinate (s) to recruit trainers, provide trainer training, using the train the trainer curriculum and manage the overall replication statewide – build in quality assurance processes.
 - Retention Training for Business
 - Coordinator(s) to develop and manage an outreach plan to engage businesses statewide, identify trainers, and train the trainers – build in quality assurance processes for train the trainer piece.
 - LVERs across the state are core partners in reaching out to businesses and can participate on the trainer team
 - Outreach strategies need to include messages that mitigate business perceptions that veterans are a liability because they suffer from PTSD related issues

Higher Education Track Workgroup – Michael Farnum gave a quick overview of the tracks discussion during the JBLM Soldier for Life Transition Summit. He spoke about their efforts for a development of a communications plan that will help reduce the overlap between tracks, this in turn will enable all the tracks to better synchronize their efforts within the council. He also spoke about leveraging existing multimedia platforms to get their information out to veterans as well as share that information with other tracks. He also spoke about their efforts to connect with education centers, and using google analytics to help determine where the veterans are gravitating to post education or post transition tracks they can focus their attention to the needs of the veterans. Michael covered their desire to assist with expanding the North West Edge program, the workgroup will be assisting with helping capture the programs curriculum to help facilitate the program across the state.

Asks – Funding to support the communications platform for the council. They would also like to see the development of a better WSMTC website to help get information to our veterans that need it.

Washington State/ JBLM Transition Summit After Action Review – Robin Baker gave a brief overview of the summit results. Robin gave a great overview of the summit Partnership announcements with the Schultz Family Foundation’s Onward to Opportunity, Veterans Industry Education (VIE 25). Robin talked about the new Airframe and Power plant certification that was not announced at the summit. Robin mentioned day two and the 7 industries panel (Maritime/Transportation/Logistics; Healthcare/Life Sciences/Global Health; Information Comm; Clean Tech; Gov/Public Sector; Retail; Advanced Manufacturing) and how it relates to the transition council. She then transitioned to day 3 of the summit which consisted of the hiring fair, as a result of day 3 there were 161 job offers that day from various employers, the next day WA State DSHS stayed on site and offered another 50 positions. She also announced a partnership with DSHS and SFL-TAP, starting in December DSHS will provide a liaison during the 5 Day program to talk about programs and resources available to service members in WA. This builds upon the partnerships already in place with WA State ESD and DVA that already participates during those mandatory transition classes.

Camo2Commerce – Sean Murphy gave an operation update on the successes on the Camo2Commerce programs. Sean stated that currently they have had 878 enrollments, 574 placements, this is an 85.73% placement rate, with an average wage of \$27.46 dollars per hour. He also mentioned that even with a 85.73% placement rate, the remaining percentage encompasses service members that are now going to school (9%), or have followed their spouse overseas does not currently work. Sean wanted to ensure that everyone understood that the remaining 15% is not the unemployment rate but consists of those in the mentioned examples above. Sean also touched on the economic benefit generated from the estimated annual income of Camo2Commerce program, because of the partnership effort it has generated over \$27,000,000 in economic benefit for the State of Washington. Sean also gave a brief overview of the growth of the program and how it has started to expand at other installations across the country, such as Ft. Bliss, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Hood, and Ft. Carson to name a few.

ESD Update – Kelly Lindseth from Employment Security Division (ESD) gave a brief overview of how they are focusing on transitioning service members. She mentioned the partnership they have created with JBLM and will have a representative on site during the 5 day SFL-TAP classes to help assist service members during the transition process. This includes assisting them with getting enrolled in the new worksource.wa.com system to get a jump start on the job process. Kelly also touched on how they will work with other states to do a warm handoff for service members that decide to not to stay in WA, this gives these service members a better opportunity to be successful as they transition to their new location.

Veterans' Service Program Data Evaluation Plan – Dave Coughran from OFM gave an overview of his data collection goal outcomes. He has spent the last 45 days or so collect as much data on transitioning service members in the state of Washington to help measure the most impactful programs within the state. His goal is to perform a cost benefit analysis on programs supported by the state, public, and private institutions. During his brief he was able to use Camo2Commerce as an initial pilot program to help validate his collection program. The results he briefed were detailed and showed significant value for example, it was determined that C2C has generated over \$11.7M in economic activity within the state of Washington, it has saved the US Government \$1.3M in UCX claims, and has allowed service members who complete the program to attain a livable wage approximately 5 months faster than their counterparts. He did mention that he is still looking for data from other services to help complete his metrics.

Please follow the link below to the November 17, 2015 WSMTC Meeting Slides:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/WSMTC%20Meeting%20Slides%2017%20Nov%202015%20.pdf>

Next WSMTC meetings – Looking for volunteers to host the quarterly council meeting.

February 23, 2016 – Location (TBD) – Tacoma

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Input and edits provided by each presenter

Approved by: WSMTC Strategic Planning Committee