

Council on Veterans Employment

January 5, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary Scott Neitzel at 10:02 a.m. in the MacArthur Room at DOA.

Members Present: DOA Secretary Scott Neitzel, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Ray Allen; DWD Administrative Services Deputy Division Administrator Lynda Hanold; Division of Personnel Management (DPM) Administrator Greg Gracz; Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Secretary Daniel Zimmerman; University of Wisconsin (UW) State Relations Director Jeff Schoenfeldt

Also Present: DWD Deputy Secretary Chris Hagerup; OVES Local Veterans Employment Representative Joe Bauer; DPM Bureau of Merit and Recruitment Selection Director Thomas Sandine; DVA Division Administrator of Veterans Services Ken Grant; DWD ESA Chelsey Hamilton, UW Program and Policy Analyst Dennis Rhodes

Welcome: Secretary Neitzel welcomed attendees, introduced participants and welcomed comments.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 31, 2017 meeting were motioned for approval by Ray Allen, Secretary, Department of Workforce Development and seconded by Greg Gracz, Division of Personnel Management Administrator.

Tom Sandine, DPM, reported on improvements to the hiring process for disabled veterans. It was also reported that staff has successfully established new relationships with officials from the federal VA Madison and Milwaukee offices in an effort to expand the recruitment base.

Tom reported that his team has delegated authority to HR managers to make hires. This eliminates the previously required step of contacting him, essentially streamlining the hiring process.

Tom also reported on a new reporting function in STAR that went live in December 2017. This new function is an effective way to accurately track a report regarding how many non-competitive appointments were reported. So far, they have received positive feedback on this new function.

Joe Bauer, DWD OVES, reported numbers of applicants to date: 1,276 with 1,014 total veterans currently on the register. An average placement rate of \$21.46 was reported.

Tom Sandine, DPM, provided an update on agency plans included a need to continue training. Once programs are developed, technical training will be stepped up. Also anticipated will be new applicant management through the WISC Jobs site.

Joe Bauer, DWD OVES, conducted a presentation on WiscJobsForVets. Currently, the site is maintained by DPM and is in an enhancement phase with the goal to enhance the tools and resources for the veterans use. The enhancements will provide agencies with the tools and resources who are recruiting veterans to make the hires. Enhancements will also enable companies to pull up any vet hiring data, and provide veterans seeking jobs with nationwide outreach.

The site will serve as one comprehensive location for accessing all services that Wisconsin offers to veterans, linking them with training opportunities, public and private job opportunities, and career readiness services.

A suggestion was made to provide a link through DVA that will provide automatic information about the vet job seeker. This will auto verify eligibility of a veteran, saving time for DWD staff and the job seeker.

Secretary Zimmerman expressed concern regarding access to benefits and veterans viewing benefits when using the site.

DVA expressed the need to connect with veterans at the end of their length of service who are about to enter the job market, stressing that there is a strong need to connect with these veterans while they are still on military bases. DWD Secretary Allen spoke about a rolling job center, to be staffed with vets, that will have the ability to access military bases. The rolling center will be a full-service job center, providing assistance with resume building and assist veterans with searching and applying for jobs.

Secretary Zimmerman stressed the need to connect veterans with all jobs, not just state jobs, when the rolling center visits bases.

Ken Grant, DVA, inquired about the distribution of the 2017 Annual Report, stressing that this will allow agencies to see where they stand with numbers. DWD ensured that the report was distributed to agencies, but will follow up and redistribute it to a broader list of recipients.

Members of the public had the opportunity to address board members. They commended the board on the good work they have done, and asked that all agencies remain committed to the priority of hiring veterans.

Secretary Neitzel reiterated that hiring of both veterans and disabled veterans remains a top priority of the Governor.

Secretary Neitzel indicated that the board will reconvene on Friday, April 6 at 10:00a.m.

Meeting Adjournment: 10:53 a.m.