

June 21, 2022

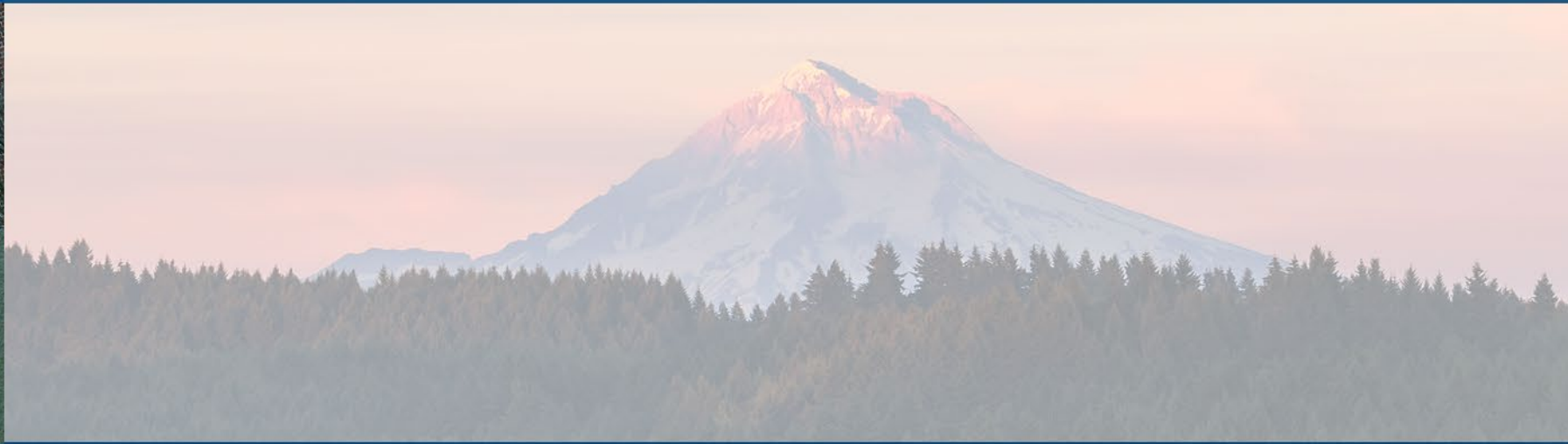
MEMORANDUM

On behalf of the Veterans Advisory Council (VAC), Adam Khosroabadi, current VAC chair, has important updates to share on the following topics:

- Recruiting new Veteran Advisory Council (VAC) members
- Progress Veterans Mental Health Summit
- Results of the veterans survey
- Veteran Service Office (VSO) update
- Outreach strategy to ensure that all Clackamas County Veterans and their families understand the role of the VSO in providing access to Veterans Administration benefits

Attachments:

BCC VAC Presentation June 2022



# Veterans Advisory Council Update

*Adam Khosroabadi; Veterans Advisory Council Chair*

*Gus Bedwell; Veteran Service Officer Supervisor*

# Presentation Topics

- Recruiting new Veteran Advisory Council (VAC) members
- Progress Veterans Mental Health Summit
- Results of the veterans survey
- Veteran Service Office (VSO) update
- Outreach strategy to ensure that all Clackamas County Veterans and their families understand the role of the VSO in providing access to Veterans Administration benefits



# VAC Recruitment

- Eight current vacancies with three applications pending
- Six new members
- Two VAC Member Orientations
- Upcoming Training:
  - Chair and leadership training
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



# Mental Health Summit

- Purpose Statement
  - Educate more non-VA mental health providers in military/veteran culture
  - Identify gaps in the local community on veteran's mental health care
  - Formulate deliverable outcomes around the first two and or other goals identified
- Inviting Mental Health Providers who are interested in assisting Veterans and their families navigate mental health concerns
- Working on confirmed location and time appropriate for commissioners' attendance



# Survey Results

- Collected data for six months
- Received 55 responses
- Two main themes; Need for mental health treatment and suicide prevention
- Twelve respondents requested follow up. All twelve were contacted by the VSO Office



# Survey Results Next Steps:

- Fewer survey questions
- Wider delivery of survey to increase and obtain a wider range of demographics of respondents
- Make all questions mandatory to answer
- Next survey out late 2022 early 2023



# Veteran Service Officer Update

- Two main methods of appointments
  - In person
  - Phone – Most are comfortable with phone
- 1229 appointments since November 2021
- Averaging two to three days out on appointments.
- **\$6.2 Million** brought into county for Compensation and Pension benefits since November 2021





# Outreach Efforts

- Formalization of VAC outreach sub-committee
- Outreach focused on education and information with VSO appointments available as a follow up
- Felicia Ridings VSO is four series into a six series virtual outreach
  - Eleven participants, four followed up for claims
- **Outreaches are starting to happen again**



# Contact Us

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*Chair of Veterans Advisory Council*

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