Incorporating Veterans into Rural Health Employment



Needs Assessment

- Washington State is 10th in the nation for the number of returning veterans reentering the civilian workforce
- At Joint Base Lewis-McCord (Tacoma, Washington) returning soldiers are re-entering civilian life at a rate of 600 per month for the next 5 years
- Many of the returning veterans were trained in a health care field.
 Of those returning, 32% are unemployed. Of those veterans returning
 with healthcare specific skills, education and experience 39% are
 unemployed.
- According to the VA Office of Rural Health about 3.4 million veterans (41% of total) enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System live in rural areas of the country.

Goal of the NOSORH Grant

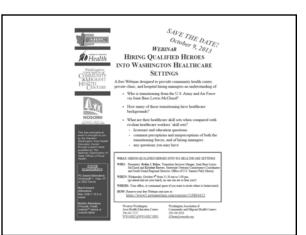
- Integrate military veterans with healthcare related skills and expertise into the rural healthcare workforce of Washington State.
- Create a program which can be easily replicated by other states
- Build collaboration through a cooperative effort of the SORH, healthcare training/certification entities, rural healthcare organizations, and the state's military and veteran organizations

Accomplishments

- In conjunction with the SORH and a non-profit organization, Hire America's Heroes, identified and formed an advisory committee which has met 6 times beginning in April
- Reviewed draft gap analysis between military training and state licensure requirements
- Identified the percent of separating military personnel in each healthcare occupation in Washington

Accomplishments

- Developed relationships with military and VA personnel divisions in Washington
- Identified training opportunities to bridge potential gaps in training
- Launched first webinar for HR managers
- Steering committee members are assisting Hire America's Heroes to host a reverse career fair on base and at Madigan Army Medical Center.



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Next steps and Contact Information

- Committee prioritized goals and has agreed to continue to meet!
- SORH revised WWAHEC contract to include staffing the committee
- Jodi Perlmutter, CEO/Executive Director, Western Washington Area Health Education Center Jodi@wwahec.org



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