

Veterans Workforce and VetsFirst! Webinar

Slide 1 - Introduction

Welcome to the first of a series of webinars designed to present information and resources you may utilize when assisting veterans and other eligible persons. The first webinar focuses on being the overview and from this next webinar going forward will be resources available. The webinar is scheduled to last for an hour today. I ask that if you have any questions to please send them to me and if time permits I will answer a few. Once the webinar is over I will be putting together a Frequently Asked Questions sheet to ensure all questions receive attention. When the webinar is over you will be receiving a survey through Survey Monkey, and I ask that each of you to complete the survey so that we can improve future webinars. The end of the webinar will have my contact information if needed.

Slide 2 – Purpose of the Webinar Series

The purpose of the webinar is assist with identifying and development of a veteran workflow in the OhioMeansJobs Centers. The second point is to provide technical assistance in the establishment of veterans Priority of Service. The third point is the sharing of information and resources available to assist veterans.

Slide 3 – Background

Prior to April 2014 the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOPS) could assist veterans that have a perceived barrier to employment. In April 2014 the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training (DOL/ VETS) services released Veterans Program Letter (VPL) 03-14 and Veterans Program Letter 04-14, which identified seven Significant Barriers to Employment. September 2014 DOL/VETS released VPL 08-14 which identified additional veteran populations that can be served by the DVOPS. February 2015 the DOL/VETS released VPL 03-14 Change 1 which clarified and expanded the definition of Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE). Over the next few slides I will inform you of the SBE's as defined by DOL/VETS.

Slide(s) 4-6 Workflow Example

The provided WorkFlow example can be slightly different depending on the OhioMeansJobs Center. The Local processes are driven by the OMJ Center operator and partners. The Workflow starts as the customer enters the OMJ Center. The customer then flows down to staff-assisted or self-assisted services. If the customer identifies as wanting to utilize the self-service then follow the arrow to the OMJ Center. The customer states that they need staff assisted services or self attests of being a veteran, and then have them fill out JFS Form 01863 Veterans Questionnaire. If

the customer is a veteran, eligible spouse or a caregiver of a veteran in a military treatment facility or a Warrior Transition Unit refer the customer to the VetsFirst! Liaison for review of the Veterans Questionnaire. If the customer is identified as a non-veteran then refer the customer to the services of the local OMJ Center along with OhioMeansJobs.com. Once the Veterans Liaison reviews the questionnaire and determines that the customer does not have a SBE, then the next step would be for a referral to the appropriate services within the OMJ Center. The services could include registration in Ohio Works Case Management System (OWCMS), OhioMeansJobs, or referral to partner services. If the customer has a SBE the referral to the DVOP will occur to complete an assessment of the veteran's needs and concerns. If the veteran does not need intensive services then they will be referred back to the appropriate services. If the veteran has a SBE then the DVOP will develop an Employment Development Plan and provide Intensive Services.

Slide 7 – Veterans Questionnaire

The Veterans Questionnaire assists with the referral process within the OMJ Centers. The Veterans Questionnaire determines if there is an SBE, and allows staff to route veterans to correct services for their need or concerns.

Slide 8 – JFS 01863 Veterans Questionnaire

The requested information on this Veterans Questionnaire is intended to better assist the veteran for their employment and training needs. The information is provided on a voluntary basis and in accordance with the law will be kept confidential unless approval is granted to disclose necessary information for the coordination of services at the OMJ Center. The first question is designed to identify if the customer is a veteran. The following questions are designed to identify the correct course of action for the customer. Any question that is marked yes, after the initial question, should be referred to the Veterans Liaison for further review. Utilizing the Workflow example, once the Veterans Liaison identifies the SBE is marked then the customer will be referred to the DVOP. The Veterans Questionnaire

Slide 9 – Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE)

A special disabled or disabled veteran, as those terms are defined in 38 U.S.C § 4211(1) and (3); Special disabled and disabled veterans are those: who are entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs; or, were discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability. The veteran will know for certain if they are a special disabled veteran or a disabled veteran as they will have a letter stating they are service-connected by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Slide 10 – Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE)

Another SBE for a service member consists of lacking a permanent, nighttime residence (or lives in a shelter).

A recently-separated service member, who at any point in the previous 12 months has been unemployed for 27 weeks or more in the previous 12 months. VPL 03-14 Change 1 updated this SBE as before the service member would have to been unemployed 27 consecutive weeks. The change in the VPL allowed for clarification of this SBE.

The service member is currently incarcerated or has been released from incarceration. VPL 03-14 Change 1 also clarified this SBE by removing the phrase “within the last 12 months” requirement.

Slide 11- Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE)

The service member can also be lacking a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.

Low income individual as defined by WIOA Section 3 (36))2.

We stated earlier in the presentation TEGL 20-13 and VPL 04-14 included an additional veteran population to be served:

Any veteran or Transitional service member ages 18-24 year old.

Slide 12 – Significant Barriers to Employment

Transitioning Service Members in need of Intensive Services; and Wounded, Ill, or Injured Service Members Receiving Treatment at Military Treatment Facilities or Warrior Transition Units (MTFs – WTUs); and the Spouses and Family Caregivers of such Wounded, Ill, or Injured Service Members:

*While transitioning mean still on active military but about to leave the military as their time is up due to retirement, enlistment is over or other items. Each service member will receive a (DD-2958) to showcase this event.

*Once separated, the veteran will need to meet SBE #3 which is a recently-separated service member, who at any point in the previous 12 months has been unemployed for 27 weeks or more in the previous 12 months.

Slide 13 – Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)

DVOP specialist provides intensive services and facilitates placements to meet the employment needs of veterans, prioritizing service to special disabled veterans, other disabled veterans, and other categories of veterans in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Slide 14 – Veterans Liaisons

Veterans' Liaisons can serve as a point of contact for **all** veterans within the OMJ Centers assisting the veterans to be referred to the appropriate program for services to assist with implementation of Priority of Service.

Slide 15 – Veterans Program Managers (VPM)

The VPM's are a great partner as they can serve as local subject matter experts for Veterans Workforce Services. The VPM's can also provide technical assistance in the development of local procedures and policies. Each area has a Veterans Program Manager to assist with questions and concerns about the Veterans Workforce Services.

Slide 16 – What is VetsFirst!??

VetsFirst! provides first service to those veterans who have risked their lives for our freedom, giving them Priority of Service (POS) as both Federal and State policies enforce POS. Title 38 United States Code (USC) 4215 states, provide information and Priority of Service to covered persons regarding benefits and services that may be obtained through service providers and other entities.”

Slide 17 – Future Webinars

Here is a list of the future webinars in the series that we will be conducting. The webinars are: OhioMeansJobs.com/Veteran Resources, Department of Veterans Affairs eBenefits site, National Veteran Training Institute Resources and Navigating Veterans Affairs (Education, Benefits, etc.). The Veterans Affairs webinars will be presented in segments as there are many resources that veterans may utilize. As stated earlier in the presentation the next webinar going forward will be resources available.

Slide 18 – Review

The topics that we covered in this presentation consist of the identification and development of a veteran workflow in the OhioMeansJobs Centers. Also, the Veterans Program Managers able to provide technical assistance in the establishment of veterans Priority of Service. Sharing of information and resources available to assist veterans will benefit everyone. Just like President Lincoln stated, “Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.”

Slide 19 – Questions

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to participate in this webinar. If you would like to review this webinar please visit the following link:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/WorkforceProf/WFDtraining.stm>

I have also included a references page with direct links of the Veterans Program Letters and Title 38 United States Code 4215 if you would like to have for future use.

Slide 20 – References

VPL 03-14 <http://www.dol.gov/vets/VMS/VPLs/VPL-03-14.pdf>

VPL 04-14 <http://www.dol.gov/vets/VMS/VPLs/VPL-04-14.pdf>

VPL 08-14 <http://www.dol.gov/vets/VMS/VPLs/VPL-08-14.pdf>

VPL 03-14 Change 1 <http://www.dol.gov/vets/VMS/VPLs/VPL-03-14-Change-1.pdf>

Title 38 USC 4215 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2008-title38/pdf/USCODE-2008-title38-partIII-chap42-sec4215.pdf>