

Veteran's In Recovery, Inc. (VIR)

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Veterans In Recovery Overview and Background

Veterans in Recovery (VIR) is a 501c3 nonprofit which provides services to both Veterans, Non-Veterans and their families throughout Southern Oregon which includes Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties.

VIR provides professional services and assistance to all individuals through the Access to Recovery (A.T.R.3 program) and by making appropriate connections for referrals and community resources. Veterans In Recovery is an effective advocate for community development and relationship building. We provide the appropriate recovery and wellness support and services; resources for basic needs; case management and employment through Peer- Delivered Services.

Peer Delivered Services (PDS)

Veterans in Recovery Peer approach to peer delivered services for individuals is based upon the premise that an individual with a "lived experience" is uniquely able to contribute to the rehabilitation and recovery of a person needing services. Peer delivered services are an outgrowth of the consumer movement which emphasizes that mental health policies and services should embrace a philosophy of "nothing about us without us" and that there should be dignity, equity and mutuality in all helping relationships. There is evidence that peer delivered services, provided in a group context and one on one, can be effective in engaging individuals and in improving outcomes.

VIR Mission and Goal

Our Mission is to motivate and encourage positive life changes for Veterans, Non-Veterans and their families. Our goal is to ignite the desire for self –sufficiency and wholeness in each individual that will translate into a constructive lifestyle for themselves and their communities. We believe that each person has the ability and the right to have a successful reintegration into society.

To achieve our goal we utilize peer delivered services to create relationships with homeless and marginalized populations through outreach and engagement. We at VIR engage an individual or family who is struggling "and share **their** journey" in a way that leads to healing, wholeness and stability.

Roderick Evans, Founder and Executive Director of Veterans In Recovery, Inc., has been where many of those we serve have been. On any given day Rod, his staff and a dynamic group of volunteers can be found at Community Events, activities at SORCC and just about any place people "in need" tend to hang out.

Demographics of Target Population

Jackson County has a population of 206,412 documented in 2012. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that Jackson County Oregon has a 15.8% poverty rate and 21.3% of the population reported not living at the same residence for over a year. This means that approximately 32,613 people are living in poverty. This is about 5% worse than the national data average.

Estimated Jackson County Veterans 2013- 23,150...

Estimated target population- 35,410

Outreach Activities

Veterans In Recovery is one of the most effective partners for Outreach and Public Education awareness. VIR is integrity integrated with targeted population and Community Service Providers. Our service area covers the main cities of Jackson County - Medford and Ashland as well as the rural areas of Butte Falls, Shady Cove, Central Point, Eagle Point, Gold Hill, Phoenix, and Talent. In 2013 we have expanded to include other counties including Klamath, Josephine, Douglas, Coos and Curry.

Board of Directors

The Veterans In recovery Board of Directors currently meets every month. Our Board is a working Board comprised of community members, persons in recovery, professional and licensed mental health practitioners and members of community organizations and businesses.

As the organization grows and thrives financially our Board will meet less frequently, but for now, they are actively supportive and involved with our endeavors to secure funding and financial support. Many of our Board members volunteer in the VIR office and at community events and activities.

BOARD OFFICERS

Larry Jones, *Chair*

Teresa Evans, *Vice Chair*

Nikki Jan Street, *Treasurer*

Melinda Jones, *Secretary*

Rod E. Evans, Executive Director
Ellen P. Latimore, Administrator/Advocate
Belindy Bonser, Outreach Worker
Jessica Murray
Robert Barrett
Eric Richardson
Harold Nelson
Deenena Dean Nelson
Jennifer Nuss