

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

First Quarterly Meeting (FY 2013)
November 7, 2012

I. Call to Order

Chairman Cantu called to order the First Quarterly Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 8:04 a.m. on November 7, 2012, in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building at 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman
James H. Scott, Vice Chairman
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Secretary
Daniel P. Moran, Member

Absent:

J.K. "Jake" Ellzey, Member

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Secretary McLeon gave the opening prayer. Vice Chairman Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and Commissioner Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

Chairman Cantu welcomed visitors to the meeting. He introduced TVC new employee, Eric Escobedo, Senior Accountant in the Headquarters Finance Division.

II. Public Comment

Della Lopez, on behalf of Project Mend, gave her presentation to the Commission to approve their Fund for Veterans' Assistance grant application request.

Maxine Trent, Scott and White Military Homefront Services, gave her presentation to the Commission regarding combat stress services the organization would provide and expressed hope that the Commission approved their Fund for Veterans' Assistance grant application request.

Morgan Little, Texas Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representative, provided an update regarding the summary of cases for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. ESGR has handled 220 cases; 67 Admin closures; 92 cases have been resolved; and 61 cases are not resolved.

III. Approval of Minutes of the Fourth Quarterly meeting held August 22, 2012

The minutes were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting held on August 22, 2012, as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Internal Audits:

Russell Gregorczyk, Internal Auditor, presented an overview of the Audit of Training and Support provided to Veterans County Service Officers.

MOTION: Approve the Audit of Training and Support Provided to Veterans County Service Officers, as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Russell Gregorczyk, Internal Auditor, presented an overview of the Internal Audit Annual Report for FY 2012.

No motion to approve needed.

V. Report, Presentation and/or Action by Representatives of the Advisory Committees

A. Veterans Communications Advisory Committee - John Miterko, Vice Chair

John Miterko provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission. He also updated the Commission on the changes to the membership of the committee and requested to extend terms for an additional year

for five current members. He noted that the committee is coordinating a concept with the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) Advisory Committee to promote information about the lottery ticket and vehicle registration donations via flash screens at football games in Ft. Worth and San Antonio. A draft letter has been provided to committee members which would be sent to major corporations in Texas explaining the FVA, the lottery ticket, and vehicle registration donations. An email was sent to members of the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations explaining the FVA and methods of donating to the FVA.

B. Veterans Employment and Training – Richard Hatfield, Chair

Richard Hatfield provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission. He reported that the employer awards were given out at the TVC Fall Conference in Dallas with Mike Olen representing the advisory committee. The committee will review and decide if changes are needed in selecting the employer awards. The committee is working on a program to coordinate with Chamber of Commerce organizations.

C. Fund for Veterans' Assistance – Thomas Smith, Chair

General Smith provided a summary of activities of the committee since its last report to the Commission. He noted that at their last meeting the members prepared a recommendation list of grantees to be presented to the Commission. He also noted that the committee membership needed to be addressed with the resignation of one member and expiring memberships of three members. He requested to extend terms for an additional year for those three members. The committee is working with the Communications Advisory Committee to promote information about the lottery ticket and vehicle registration donations via flash screens at football games in Ft. Worth and San Antonio. He attended the Communities in Schools awards ceremony in Harker Heights with FVA staff on October 17th.

VI. Report, Presentation and/or Action on Annual Evaluation of Advisory Committees

Cruz Montemayor, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Annual Evaluation of Advisory Committees to the Commissioners. He gave a brief presentation on each committee and noted that all three committees were proven useful in advancing the agency's mission. He recommended that the Commission allow the committees to continue until the next Commission review. Mr. Montemayor noted that the TVC staff recommended approval of guidance for the advisory committees as follows:

- a) Elect a Chair from within their membership at their first quarterly meeting in 2013 to serve as Chair.
- b) Each advisory committee would meet on a standard quarterly schedule.
- c) Each advisory committee member would be limited to two (2) consecutive terms.

Commissioners discussed the Annual Evaluation of Advisory Committees report and expressed their approval to continue the three Advisory Committees as presented. The Commissioners did not approve of the three TVC staff recommendations presented by Mr. Montemayor.

Cruz Montemayor, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed the Commissioners regarding Agenda Item VI, revising the staff's recommendation to only include approval of the report on the Annual Evaluation of Advisory Committees, and to allow the committees to continue until the next Commission review. The following motion was called for:

MOTION: To approve the Annual Evaluation of Advisory Committees report, and continuation of the advisory committees.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Advisory Committees Membership

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the application review process and then provided the recommended members for the Advisory Committees. The proposed members were previously distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Palladino also noted that Patricia Murphy and Larry Todd resigned as TVC Advisory Committee members.

Mr. Palladino recommended the following committee members for reappointment:

- Bob Brown – Veteran Communication Advisory Committee
- James Cunningham – Veteran Communication Advisory Committee
- Tony Bowie – Veteran Employment Advisory Committee
- Richard Hatfield – Veteran Employment Advisory Committee
- Morgan Little - Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee
- William Meehan – Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee

MOTION: Approve the Advisory Committee members, as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Executive Director Report

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a review of his visits with staff, public speaking events, future meetings, accolades, and general information items. The current Texas and U.S. Casualty Report was previously provided to Commissioners. Mr. Palladino noted that he attended the Annual Conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in September.

IX. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Agency Programs and Divisions

The Commissioners reviewed the Quarterly Program Reports and Program Snapshots that were previously provided. Directors were provided the opportunity to brief the Commission on any new items or highlight significant items.

- A. Jim Richman, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling, reported on the success of the 2012 Fall Conference in Dallas. He gave an update on the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) project. Mr. Richman noted that he attended and provided testimony in Washington, D.C. along with Chairman Cantu and Jeff Williford at the U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA). Testimony was given regarding the State Strike Force (SST) team and Fully Developed Claims (FDC) teams in Texas. Mr. Richman announced that the first meeting of the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee met at the Annual TVC Fall Conference in Dallas. He cited the fiscal year performance measures show that the only measure not exceeded was the number of appeals filed due to the Nehmer cases and total pending claims in the Houston and Waco regions. Mr. Richman cited the Strike Force Team statistics showed files reviewed, files ready to rate, FDC's ready for VA review, and FDC's that have been finalized.
- B. Shawn Deabay, Director of Veterans Employment Services, reported on the awarding of 103 incentive awards and recognized 18 Veteran Service Organization VSO award winners during the TVC Annual Fall Conference in Dallas. Mr. Deabay noted that 23 out of the 28 Workforce Board contracts have been completed. He stated he would be accompanying Chairman Cantu and Jeff Williford to provide testimony on veteran employment in Washington, D.C. on November 15th for the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity on the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

- C. Rufus Coburn, Director of Veterans Education, reported that the staff had completed the VA assigned Compliance Visits for Fiscal Year 2012. He noted that he had attended the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Business meeting on July 29th through August 1st. He attended and provided testimony at the Veterans' Affairs and Military Installation (VAMI) public hearing in Killeen on August 28th. He noted that he attended and provided testimony at a briefing at the Texas A&M University Board of Regents briefing in Kingsville on November 1st. Anita Chism has been chosen to be the new Program Specialist in the Dallas/Fort Worth region and an additional Program Specialist will be hired to join the Veterans Education staff at TVC Headquarters.
- D. Kathy Wood, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA), reported that the staff had been working on the 117 applications that were submitted for Grant Cycle VIII; FVA staff had completed (4) on-site monitoring visits with grantee organizations and staff had attended (2) State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) fairs at state agencies. FVA staff provided training at the TVC Fall Conference and provided training for the FVA Advisory Committee for developing funding recommendations. She noted the staff had completed the Policies and Procedures Guide. The TVC and FVA staff met the Texas Lottery Commission staff to discuss marketing opportunities for the veterans' lottery ticket. FVA staff presented Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas with the Community Partnership Award in Killeen, Texas on October 17th.
- E. Cruz Montemayor, Chief Administrative Officer, reported on major activities and accomplishments. He reported that the Information Technology staff is on track to complete the conversion of all email addresses. The Women Veteran Coordinator has been active across the state with seminars and events and plans are in the works to have a Women Veterans Conference in the Spring of 2013. The seminar events for the Veterans Entrepreneur Program have been highly successful and booked solid in the San Antonio, Dallas and Arlington locations. The Communications staff began working with the FVA Veterans Cash campaign and has been working with the Texas Workforce Commission and VES to promote the Hiring Red, White and You events on November 15th.
- F. Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, reported on major activities and accomplishments. He reported that the staff had successfully closed the Fiscal Year 2012 with both the State and Federal systems; ABEST performance measures and the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) report were timely submitted in October. He gave a brief synopsis on the Finance performance measures and metric status and noted the ongoing process of cross training of Finance staff and will be developing training for all TVC field staff.

X. Report, Presentation and/or Action on FY 2012 4th Quarter Operating Statement

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 4th Quarter Operating Statement for FY 2012, which was previously provided to Commissioners. Mr. Osborne noted that the final report for 2012 will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

No motion to approve needed.

Chairman Cantu called for a 10-minute recess at 9:28 a.m.

Chairman Cantu reconvened the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

XI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding Request to Exceed the Full-Time-Equivalent Employee (FTE) Limitation for the Agency

Cruz Montemayor, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Request to Exceed the Full-Time-Equivalent Employee (FTE) Limitation for the Agency to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Request to Exceed the Full-Time-Equivalent Employee (FTE) Limitation for the Agency, as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Report, Presentation and/or Action to Propose Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 450.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training

Jim Richman, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling, presented the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 450.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training, which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 450.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training, as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott
SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Report, Presentation and/or Action to Propose Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 451.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation

Jim Richman, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling, presented the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 451.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation, which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 451.3, General Provisions regarding Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation, as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Report, Presentation and/or Action to Propose Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 460.2, Definitions regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program

Kathy Wood, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 460.2, Definitions regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program, which was previously provided to Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the Amendments to 40 TAC Chapter 460.2, Definitions regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding TVC Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grants

Kathy Wood, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented the Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) grant award recommendations made by the FVA Advisory Committee. Ms. Wood noted that 117 applications were received in response to the notice of solicitation posted in the *Texas Register* for this grant cycle, with \$30 million requested by the applicants. The approved grants will begin January 1, 2013. She stated that the recommendation of \$40,000 for Nueces County needed to be withdrawn due to the fact that the organization could not have two concurrent FVA grants, as they had just asked for an amendment extending their current grant. FVA staff, after discussion with the Chair of the FVA Advisory Committee, made a recommendation to award the \$40,000 to another organization and suggested either the Texas National Guard Foundation or the University of Texas Pan American Foundation. After review of the recommendations, a total of \$2,854,674.00 was awarded to the following 25 organizations:

1. National Alliance for Mental Illness-Texas (NAMI): \$250,564 recommended and approved.
2. Worklife Ministry, Inc.: \$129,902 recommended and approved.
3. Mental Health America of Greater Dallas: \$100,000 recommended and approved.
4. Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care: \$300,000 recommended and approved.
5. Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation: \$200,000 recommended and approved.
6. Northwest Assistance Ministries: \$173,410 recommended and approved.
7. Mental Health Mental Retardation Tarrant County (MHMRTC): \$250,000 recommended and approved.
8. United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. Vets-Houston): \$102,628 recommended and approved.
9. The Salvation Army-Waco, Texas: \$50,000 recommended and approved.
10. Hidalgo County Community Supervision & Corrections Department: \$62,851 recommended and approved.
11. Project MEND: \$100,000 recommended and approved.
12. Green Doors: \$100,000 recommended and approved.
13. Rocky Top Therapy Center: \$150,000 recommended and approved.
14. The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) Foundation: \$70,000 recommended and approved.
15. Skillpoint Alliance: \$100,000 recommended and approved.
16. Big Brothers, Big Sisters: \$50,000 recommended and approved.
17. Hale County Meals on Wheels, Inc.: \$31,356 recommended and approved.
18. USA Cares, Inc.: \$75,000 recommended and approved.
19. Lubbock Regional Mental Health: \$200,000 recommended and approved.
20. YWCA El Paso Norte Region: \$50,000 recommended and approved.
21. Presbyterian Night Shelter: \$123,703 recommended and approved.

22. Operation Relief Center, Inc.: \$25,000 recommended and approved.
23. El Paso County: \$75,000 recommended and approved.
24. Nueces County Community Supervision & Corrections Department: \$40,000 recommended and approved.
25. Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans: \$45,260 recommended and approved.

MOTION: Approve the Fund for Veterans' Assistance grant award recommendations as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners discussed the awarding of the extra available grant funds of \$40,000 due to the fact that Nueces County could not have two concurrent grants. After a brief discussion and review of all potential grantees by Commissioners the additional \$40,000 funds were awarded to Project MEND. The total amount awarded to Project MEND is \$140,000 for this grant cycle.

MOTION: Approve the Fund for Veterans' Assistance grant award \$40,000 to Project MEND.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Report, Presentation and/or Action regarding TVC Housing4TexasHeroes Grants

Kathy Wood, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented the Housing4TexasHeroes grant award recommendation made by the advisory committee. After review of the grantee request, the FVA Advisory Committee recommended that the Alamo Area Development Corporation be granted a total of \$200,000.00.

MOTION: Approve the Housing4TexasHeroes grant award recommendation as presented.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

XVII. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

XVIII. Discuss and take Possible Action on the Items considered in Executive Session

None.

XIX. Adjournment

Chairman Cantu reported the Second Quarterly Commission meeting for FY 2013 will be held on Wednesday, February 6th at 8:00am, SFA Building, Room 170. Other potential Commission meeting dates for future Quarterly Commission meetings in 2013 will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, Wednesday, August 7th, and Wednesday, November 6th. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to staff for all their support and hard work.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

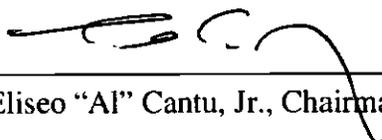
MOTION: Adjourn

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved by:



Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
1st Quarterly Commission Meeting
FY 2013 – November 7, 2012
8:00 a.m. Stephen F. Austin Bldg. -- Room 170
Speakers & Visitors

Shana Gooch
Governor's Advisor
Office of the Governor

Kurt Gore
Texas Workforce Investment Council

Russell Gregorczyk
CPA – Jansen & Gregorczyk
TVC - Internal Auditor

Richard Hatfield
Chair, Veterans Employment & Training Advisory Committee

Donald Jones
Scott & White Military Homefront Services

Morgan Little
Chair, Tx. Coalition of Veteran Organizations
Member, Communications Advisory Committee

Della Lopez
Project Mend

Angela McGehee
Scott & White Military Homefront Services

John Miterko
Legislative Liaison
Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations

Paul Moore
Executive Secretary
Texas Veterans Land Board

Lea Rosenauer
Project Mend

Casey Smith
Skillpoint Alliance

General Thomas G. Smith
Chair, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee

Maxine Trent
Scott & White Military Homefront Services

William (Bill) West
American Legion
Department Adjutant/Quartermaster

Bill Wilson
Committee Director
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs & Military Installations
Senator Leticia Van De Putte's Office

Matthew Wright
Scott & White Military Homefront Services