Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes Emergency Meeting (FY 2020) March 20, 2020

I. Call to order.

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the Emergency Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:03 a.m. on March 20, 2020 via live teleconference.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman Daniel Moran, Vice Chairman Kevin Barber, Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner Laura Koerner, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director. Also

present: See the attached list.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Commissioner Kevin Barber and Commissioner Koerner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag. Chip Osborne led the opening Prayer.

II. Public Comment.

Members of the public participated by dialing 877 226-9790 and enter access code 5138892.

No public comment was received.

III. Report, presentation and/or action regarding TVC's response to and remedies for COVID-19's effects on the Fund for Veterans' Assistance 2019-2020 grant program. This item will include an update to the Commission from TVC staff regarding current grantees and may result in deliberation and/or action on emergency grant funding procedures being put in place immediately to ensure the continued provision of services to Texas Veterans.

James (Jim) Bracken, Director, Funds for Veterans Assistance briefed the Commission regarding the current status of the TVC grantees as they continue to provide services to veterans during this crisis. He also proposed a FVA policy provision in the form of an Emergency Funding Amendment request, that if approved by the Commissioners, would help our grantees continue providing critical services to Texas veterans, their dependents and surviving spouse.

The document provided for the Commissioners (FVA 19-20 Grantee Status Board) shows that to date, 3 of the 100 grantees have suspended their services, while 7 of the 100 grantees modified their service delivery methods to leverage web based, virtual or

other types of remote platforms. FVA has developed a Grantee Status Report (GSR) for grantees to submit to FVA when their statuses change (e.g. from "full operational" down to "reduced services", or from "reduced services" down to "suspended services".)

The current Amendment process and approval Authority outlined in the FVA's application and awards policies as well as the request for application are well documented. The Commissioners delegated Approval Authority to the TVC Executive Director for the following types of Grant Amendment requests: changes in scope, budget, and period of performance., (i.e. an extension).

The Commissioners have not delegated the approval Authority for changes in the total grant award they have not delegated the authority to approve amendments that include additional funding. Because funding related Amendment requests are specified in the RFA and the other policy document as requiring commissioner level approval, the grantees are aware that a request for additional funding would require a scheduled commission meeting and a Quorum for a vote. The COVID-19 crisis may generate inquiries or perhaps requests from our grantees for additional funding, especially from those grantees who will continue to provide these critical services. Important to note here is that FVA currently has the policy in place for grantees to request funding adjustments or increases, but we do not have a provision of that policy in place to address special, unique, emergency-based Amendment requirements or request. So therefore, FVA proposes, an emergency funding request amendment process.

An "Emergency Funding Request (EFR) amendment form along with the job aide on how to fill it out, is ready to distribute to select grantees, pending the outcome of today's meeting. FVA recommends that all organizations and units of local government who currently have grants in General Assistance, Veteran County Service Office and Housing for Texas Heroes be eligible to request emergency funding if they experience a dramatic service request increase from their veteran beneficiaries. All those Grantees will be invited to apply if they so feel compelled. These three Grant programs that address those critical services that our veterans and their dependents and surviving spouses may need quickly and immediately in this crisis. In this particular COVID-19 emergency, FVA recommends that requests for additional funding be in increments of 25% of the current Grant award, we believe from history and what we've seen that that is about the optimum output that they can explore especially when their own staff are affected by this environment.

We recommend Commissioners approve delegating the authority to the TVC Executive Director, Thomas Palladino as the approver for emergency fund request(s) and the Executive Director authorize grantees to request 25% of their total Grant award in iterations and in numbers required to keep that grantee operating and serving veterans until the crisis or emergency circumstances end. No limit on the number of requests at 25% for per action.

MOTION: Approve the TVC's response to and remedies for COVID-19's

effects on the Fund for Veterans' Assistance 2019-2020 grant

program.

MADE BY: Commissioner Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Possible selection of next regularly called Commission meeting (Third Quarterly meeting, fiscal year 2020), and whether the date of that meeting could be affected by increased or decreased projections and data of the pandemic.

May 14, 2020

MOTION: Approve to keep May 14, 2020 for the Third Quarterly meeting

MADE BY: Secretary Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment.

Chairman Cantu asked each Commissioner for closing statements. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas Veterans.

MOTION: Adjourn

MADE BY: Commissioner Shaneyfelt SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

Kevin Barber

Secretary

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr.,

Chairman