

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

3rd Quarter Commission Meeting

(FY 2020) May 14, 2020

I. **Call to order.**

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on May 14, 2020 via live [gotowebinar](#).

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 Laura Koerner and Vice Chair Dan Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag. Chip Osborne led the opening Prayer.

II. **Public Comment.**

Members of the public were encouraged to register for the webinar.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/600793350933011471>.

No public comment was received.

III. **Approve the minutes of the 2nd Quarterly Meeting held February 11, 2020, Emergency Meeting held March 20, 2020, and Emergency Meeting held April 23, 2020.**

The minutes for the 2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting held February 11, 2020, Emergency Meeting held March 20, 2020, and Emergency Meeting held April 23, 2020, were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the 2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting held February 11, 2020, Emergency Meeting held March 20, 2020, and Emergency Meeting held April 23, 2020

MADE BY: Commissioner Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

IV. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Agency Programs and Division.

The Commissioners reviewed the Quarterly Program Reports that were previously provided.

- A. **Charles Catoe**, Director of Program Operations – brief the Commission on the transition of Programs personnel working from home due to the recent Corona Virus Pandemic. In accordance with Governor Abbott executive order of March 19,2020, all programs are at 100% work from home capable except VES which is 70% capable due to supply of equipment coming in to IT. Program Operations is continuing to serve veterans and their families with our new remote capabilities.
- B. **Chip Osborne**, Director of Resource Management – Reported to Commissioners that Tim Shatto our Emergency Management Coordinator has completed FEMA online courses and resident courses for Corona Virus. DRM is 100% working from home and are very productive. On April 14, 2020 LBB and Governor’s Office adopted all your recommendations changes for the performance measures, they will be labeled non-key. On the next Commission meeting we will be recommending the performance measure to be converted from non-key to key.
- C. **Shawn Deabay**, Deputy Executive Director, provided and update on the Communication department is moving all their services to virtual, they have updated our website with up to date information on our Agency’s program services. Women Veterans Day was on June 12th, the women veteran program is working on a plan to coordinate and participate in supporting women veteran’s day. IT department has ordered and delivered 260 cellphones, ordered and configured 215 computers and peripherals. Installed a VPN portal to safely access information when working from home. IT has enabled communication software like TEAMS, GOTOMEETING and SharePoint.
Sunset Deliverables – provided an update to the Commissioners on Sunset Management Recommendations, Sunset Deliverables, and other Agency Deliverables. Identified all the implemented (green) deliverables and partially implemented (yellow) deliverables and gave updates of their status.

V. Quarterly Reports from Advisory Committees (Veterans Communication Advisory Committee, Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee and Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee)

Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee, Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee, and the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee since their last report to the Commission.

VI. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Texas Veterans Commission “Veterans Employment Services Employer Awards.

Jim Martin, Interim Director, Veterans Employment Services gave a report of the Employer Awards. VES staff scored 28 nominations in 7 categories for the annual TVC VES Employer Awards program. The commissioners are requested to approve the winners as indicated.

MOTION: Approve the TVC “Veterans Employment Services Employer Awards.
MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Dan Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

VII. Report, presentation and/or action on New Advisory Committee's Membership Applications and Ranking process.

Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, presented the Commissioners with the current Advisory Committee Membership Applications and Ranking process. Demonstrated the Application and Ranking forms and how they will be implemented to our Advisory Committee Memberships.

MOTION: Approve the New Advisory Committee's Membership Applications and Ranking process.
MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

VIII. Report, presentation and/or action to Adopt Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees..

Madeleine Connor, General Counsel, provided a summary of the proposed amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC, §452.2. The amended rule is adopted to eliminate, pursuant to commission vote, two existing advisory committees: (1) "The Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee" and (2) "The Veterans Communication Advisory Committee," and add a committee addressing veterans' needs, to be named "The Veterans Services Advisory Committee."

MOTION: Approve the proposed Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC, §452.2. Advisory Committees.
MADE BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

IX. Report, presentation and/or action on Agency Strategic Plan FY2021 – FY2025.

Greg Talamantez, Manager of Government Relations, gave a detailed brief to the Commissioners on the Texas Veterans Commission's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2021 – 2025. Every state agency submits this plan to the Legislative Budget Board, Governor's office, and Lt Governors office every 2 years. All TVC programs are contained in the plan and you should use it as a reference for TVC's mission, goals and services to our veterans.

MOTION: Approve the Agency Strategic Plan FY2021 – FY2025
MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

X. Report, presentation and/or action on Appropriation Year 2020 Second Quarter Operating Statement.

Michelle Nall, Chief Financial Officer, provided Agency Summary regarding Appropriation Year 2020, 2nd Quarter Operating Statement and a summary of financial activities by the programs since its last report to the Commission.

XI. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Acceptance of Gifts.

Chip Osborne, Director of Resource Management, gave an overview of TVC's accepted \$640 donation.

MOTION: Approve the Acceptance of Gifts
MADE BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

XII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Internal Auditor contract services for Fiscal Year 2021.

Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director gave a report on the Internal Auditor contract services. The initial term of the contract begins on September 1, 2017 and continues in effect through Fiscal Year 2018, ending on August 31, 2018, unless terminated earlier or extended by its terms. Option to Extend. At the option of TVC, a resulting contract may be renewed for an additional period not to exceed three years, subject to available funding by the Legislature and approval by the TVC Commissioners, beginning with the first full Fiscal Year after the expiration of the initial term.

MOTION: Approve the Internal Auditor contract services for Fiscal Year 2021
MADE BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

XIII. Report, Presentation and/or action regarding update for the FVA Emergency Assistance Grant funding amendments.

Jim Bracken, Director of Funds for Veteran Assistance gave an update on the FVA Emergency Assistance Grant funding amendments. Since the Special Commission meeting held on March 20, 2020, the Executive Director has approve 20 Emergency Funding Requests totaling 987,288. Commissioners authorized a ending point to the Emergency Funding on May 15, 2020.

10:34 Break – 10 minutes
10:44 Return from break

XIV. Report, Presentation and/or action regarding recommendations for 2020-2021 Fund for Veterans' Assistance grants:

- A. Veterans Treatment Court;**
- B. General Assistance;**
- C. Housing for Texas Heroes;**
- D. Veterans Mental Health; and**
- E. Veterans County Service Officer grant funding.**

(FVA Director presents Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) Renewals)

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 renewal for the eligible Veteran Treatment Court grant(s) that met the performance and expenditure requirements during the 2019-2020 grant cycle?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director & FVA Advisory Committee Chair presents)
(Veteran Treatment Court - VTC)**

(VTC – Unanimous Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 Veteran Treatment Court grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee, and that received 5 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners, as presented by the FVA Director?"

MADE BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director presents Veteran Treatment Court)
(VTC – 4 of 5 Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 Veteran Treatment Court grant applications that received 4 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director presents Veteran Treatment Court)
(VTC – 3 or less Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve any of the 2020-2021 Veteran Treatment Court grant applications which received less than 3 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**Vice Chair Moran recused himself from the General Assistance cycle.

(FVA Director presents General Assistance (GA) Renewals)

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 renewal for the eligible General Assistance grant(s) that met the performance and expenditure requirements during the 2019-2020 grant cycle?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director & FVA Advisory Committee Chair presents General Assistance)
(GA – Unanimous Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 General Assistance grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee, and that received 4 out of 4 recommendations from the Commissioners?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director presents General Assistance)
(GA – 3 of 4 Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 General Assistance grant applications that received 3 out of 4 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director presents General Assistance)
(GA – 2 or less Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve any of the 2020-2021 General Assistance grant applications which received less than 2 out of 4 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(FVA Director & FVA Advisory Committee Chair presents)
(Housing for Texas Heroes)
(H4TH – Unanimous Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)

MOTION: Approve any of the 2020-2021 Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee, and that received 5 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners?"

MADE BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(FVA Director presents Housing for Texas Heroes)
(H4TH – 4 of 5 Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications that received 4 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(FVA Director & FVA Advisory Committee Chair presents)
(Veteran Mental Health)
(VMH – Unanimous Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 Veteran Mental Health grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee, and that received 5 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(FVA Director presents Veteran Mental Health)
(VMH – 4 of 5 Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)

MOTION: Approve 2020-2021 Veteran Mental Health grant applications that received 4 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners, in the amounts requested by the grant applicants?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Laura Koerner
SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

**(FVA Director presents Veteran Mental Health)
(VMH – 3 or less Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve any of the 2020-2021 Veteran Mental Health grant applications which received less than 3 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

ACTION: Motion was withdrawn

*** Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt withdrew her recommendation for funding and agreeing with other Commissioners not to consider for funding. No motion is needed.**

**(FVA Director & FVA Advisory Committee Chair presents)
(Veteran County Service Office)
(VCSO – Unanimous Commissioner Grant Recommendations for 2020-2021)**

MOTION: Approve the 2020-2021 Veteran County Service Office grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee, and that received 5 out of 5 recommendations from the Commissioners?"

MADE BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

XV. Executive Director report.

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter, meetings and events he has attended to include relationships with other State and Federal veteran agencies.

XVI. Executive Session.

None.

XVII. Discussion and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session.

There were no items to take action on.

XVIII. Discussion to set date, time, and location of next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed that the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY20 would be held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via gotowebinar.

XIX. Adjournment.

Chairman Cantu asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.

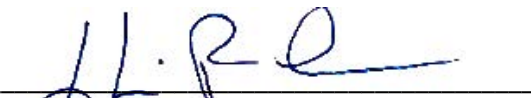
Each Commissioner extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all of their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans.

Chairman Cantu provided closing remarks as well.

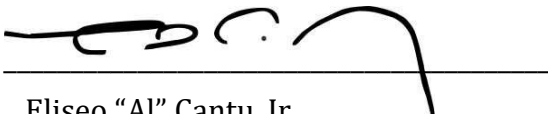
MOTION: Adjourn 3rd Quarter Meeting FY20
MADE BY: Vice Chair Daniel Moran
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Kevin Barber, Commissioner
Commission Secretary



Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr.,
Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting
FY 2020 – May 14, 2020
9:00 a.m. – via gotowebinar
Speakers and Visitors

Darlene Brown
Auditor, McConnell & Jones LLP