

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
FVA ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS MEETING
March 25, 2021

I. Meeting called to order

The FVA Advisory Committee Meeting was held virtually via GoToWebinar. Chairman Reyna called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The following were present:

Advisory Committee Members

Kerry Reyna

Charles W. Wright

Dan Ball

Robert O'Reilly

Dale "Gene" Wallace

Carrie Sconza

Bobby Ehrig

Brian Allen

Luis Martinez

TVC Staff

James Bracken

Michael Bardis

Elisabeth Webster

Allegra Geller

Erv Leos

Julie Dillard

Chair Reyna welcomed all in attendance, then called Committee Member Luis Martinez to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Committee Member Brian Allen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Reyna opened the floor to members of the public. No public comments.

III. Approval of the January 28, 2021 FVA Advisory Committee minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the Jan 28, 2021 meeting

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

**IV. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2021-2022
Veterans County Service Officer (VSCO) grants**

Discussion: FVA Director Jim Bracken discussed TVC grant program goals and priorities, including the 2020 Needs Assessment.

Motion: Recommend full funding of the four VCSO organizations that received *unanimous* recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Luis Martinez

Motion seconded by: Carrie Sconza

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

VCSO organizations voted on: *Harris County Community Services Department \$300,000; El Paso County Veterans Services Office \$300,000; Willacy County Veterans Service Office \$300,000; Bell County Veteran Service Office \$300,000.*

Motion: Recommend funding of the one VCSO organization that that received less than 9 recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Brian Allen

Action: Motion fails: 3 Y; 6 N

VCSO organization voted on: *Cameron County \$300,000.*

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 VCSO grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commission for their approval.

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Dan Ball

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

VCSO organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Harris County Community Services Department \$300,000; El Paso County Veterans Services Office \$300,000; Willacy County Veterans Service Office \$300,000; Bell County Veteran Service Office \$300,000. **Non-recommended:** Cameron County \$300,000.*

V. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2021-2022 Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) grants

Motion: Recommend full funding of the three VTC organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Bobby Ehrig

Motion seconded by: Dan Ball

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

VTC organizations voted on: *Bell County \$30,000; El Paso County \$300,000; Guadalupe County Veterans Treatment Court \$100,000.*

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 VTC grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval.

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

VTC organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Bell County \$30,000; El Paso County \$300,000; Guadalupe County Veterans Treatment Court \$100,000. **Non-Recommended:** None*

**VI. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2021-2022
Housing for Texas Heroes (H4TH) grants**

Motion: Recommend full funding of the three H4TH organizations that received *unanimous* recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Chuck Wright

Motion seconded by: Dan B

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

H4TH organizations voted on: *Rebuilding Together Houston \$500,000; Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity Inc \$75,000; Meals on Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County \$200,000.*

Motion: Recommend full funding of the one H4TH organization that *did not receive unanimous* recommendation for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 6 Y, 3 N

H4TH organization voted on: *Rebuilding Together Austin \$200,000.*

Motion: Approval of the 2020-2021 H4TX grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval.

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Carrie Sconza

Action: Motion passes: 7 Y, 2 N

H4TH organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Rebuilding Together Houston \$500,000; Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity Inc \$75,000; Meals on Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County \$200,000; Rebuilding Together Austin \$200,000.*
Non-Recommended: *None*

BREAK CALLED at 9:45am by Chairman Reyna

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:55am

VII. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2021-2022 recommendation for Veterans Mental Health (VMH) grants

Motion: Recommend full funding of the five VMH organizations that received *unanimous* recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Bobby Ehrig

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organizations voted on: *Pecan Valley MHMR Region \$300,000; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \$300,000; ANEWENTRY, INC. \$150,000; Equest \$100,00; Emergence Health Network \$300,000.*

Motion: Recommend full funding of the three VMH organizations that received 7 of 8 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 7 Y, 1 N, 1 recusal

VMH organizations voted on: *Jake E's Riding Round Up \$75,000; United States Veterans Initiative \$300,000; 22Kill \$300,000.*

Motion: Recommend full funding of the two VMH organizations that received 4 of 8 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion fails: 1 Y, 7 N, 1 recusal

VMH organization voted on: *Rise Recovery \$75,000; The Council on Recovery \$300,000.*

Motion: Recommend full funding of the VMH organizations that received 2 of 8 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process. The first of the two organizations - Harris County Sherriff's Office

Motion made by: None

Motion seconded by: None

Action: Motion fails.

VMH organization voted on: *Harris County Sherriff's Office \$150,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of Veterans Freedom Retreat

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Dale Wallace

Action: Motion passes: 4 Y, 4 N, 1 recusal – VOTE IS TIED

VMH organizations voted on: *Veterans Freedom Retreat, Inc. \$150,000*

BREAK CALLED at 10:20am by Chairman Reyna

MEETING RECONVENED at 10:31am

Motion: Recommend full funding of Veterans Freedom Retreat (re-vote)

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 6 Y, 2 N, 1 recused

VMH organizations voted on: *Veterans Freedom Retreat, Inc. \$150,000*

Motion: Approval of the 20201-202 VMH grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval.

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Brian Allen

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Pecan Valley MHMR Region \$300,000; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \$300,000;*

*ANEWENTRY, INC. \$150,000; Equest \$100,00; Emergence Health Network \$300,000; Jake E's Riding Round Up \$75,000; United States Veterans Initiative \$300,000; 22Kill \$300,000; Veterans Freedom Retreat, Inc. \$150,000. **Non-recommended:** Rise Recovery \$75,000; The Council on Recovery \$300,000.*

Motion: To assign a status of *non-recommended* to *Harris County Sherriff's Office*

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recused

VMH organizations voted on: **Non-recommended:** *Harris County Sherriff's Office \$150,000*

VIII. Discussion/Action on recommendations to Commission for FVA 2021-2022 General Assistance (GA) grants

Motion: Recommend full funding of the fourteen GA organizations that received *unanimous* recommendations from the Committee members during the preliminary ranking process

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Carrie Sconza

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels and Much Much More \$200,000; Citizens Development Center DBA Achieve \$200,000; ANEWENTRY, Inc. \$150,000; Hidalgo County Community Service Agency \$300,000; Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation \$200,000; Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County \$300,000; Rolling Plains Management Corporation \$300,000; YWCA El Paso del Norte Region \$300,000; Texas VFW Foundation \$500,000; City of Fort Worth \$300,000; Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc. \$100,000; Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth \$300,000; Ark-Tex COG \$5,000; Northwest Assistance Ministries \$300,000.*

Motion: Recommend the committee vote as a tranche on the nine GA organizations that received 8 of 9 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

Motion: Recommend full funding of the nine GA organizations that received 8 of 9 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Bob O'Reilly

Motion seconded by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *NPower Inc. \$300,000; East Texas Council of Governments \$150,000; Hale County Meals on Wheels \$75,000; Lone Star Legal Aid \$300,000; CLC Inc. \$500,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star \$100,000; Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Inc. \$150,000; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \$300,000; Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center \$150,000.*

Motion: Recommend full funding of the one GA organization that received 7 of 9 votes for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion fails: 2 Y, 7 N

GA organization voted on: **Non-Recommended:** *East Texas Veterans Community Council \$150,000.*

The remaining GA category applications were voted on one by one.

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Skill Point Alliance* for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion fails: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Skill Point Alliance \$50,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Family Service Association of San Antonio* for awarding during the preliminary ranking process.

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Family Service Association of San Antonio \$200,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement*

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Brian Allen

Action: Motion fails: 2 Y, 7 N

GA organization voted on: **Non-Recommended:** *Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement \$300,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Pecan Valley MHMR Region*

Motion made by: Dan Ball

Motion seconded by: Carrie Sconza

Action: Motion passes: 7 Y, 2 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Pecan Valley MHMR Region \$300,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Family Eldercare*

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 6 Y, 3 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Family Eldercare \$200,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *South East Texas Regional Planning Commission*

Motion made by: Dan Ball

Motion seconded by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *South East Texas Regional Planning Commission \$300,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.*

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Dale Wallace

Action: Motion passes: 6 Y, 3 N

GA organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. \$300,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Metroplex Military Charitable Trust*

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion fails: 1 Y, 8 N

GA organization voted on: **Non-Recommended:** *Metroplex Military Charitable Trust \$100,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *The Council on Recovery*

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *The Council on Recovery \$250,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Combined Arms*

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion fails: 4 Y, 5 N

GA organization voted on: ***Non-Recommended: Combined Arms \$200,000***

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Worklife Ministry, Inc. DBA Worklife Institute*

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *Worklife Ministry, Inc. DBA Worklife Institute \$200,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS)*

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS) \$200,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Comfort Crew for Military Kids*

Motion made by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *Comfort Crew for Military Kids \$100,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *U.G.M of Dallas*

Motion made by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *U.G.M Dallas \$200,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Operation Blue Shield, Inc. DBA One Community USA*

Motion made by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *Operation Blue Shield, Inc. DBA One Community USA*
\$112,614

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coastal Bend*

Motion made by: None

Action: Motion fails.

GA organization voted on: *Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coastal Bend \$300,000*

Motion: Recommend moving the seven applications that *did not receive a motion or seconded motion* to the non-recommend list.

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

GA organizations voted on: **Non-Recommended:** *The Council on Recovery \$250,000; Worklife Ministry, Inc. DBA Worklife Institute \$200,000; United States Veterans Initiative (U.S VETS) \$250,000; Comfort Crew for Military Kids \$100,000; UGM Dallas \$200,00; Operation Blue Shield \$112,614; Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coastal Bend \$300,000*

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 GA grant *non-recommendations* made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Dan Ball

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 GA grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval

Motion made by: Bobby Ehrig

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 8, 0 N, 1 abstention

GA organizations voted on: **Recommended:** *Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels and Much Much More \$200,000; Citizens Development Center DBA Achieve \$200,000; ANEWENTRY, Inc. \$150,000; Hidalgo County Community Service Agency \$300,000; Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation \$200,000; Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County \$300,000; Rolling Plains Management Corporation \$300,000; YWCA El Paso del Norte Region \$300,000; Texas VFW Foundation \$500,000; City of Fort Worth \$300,000; Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc. \$100,000; Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth \$300,000; Ark-Tex COG \$5,000; Northwest Assistance Ministries \$300,000; NPower Inc. \$300,000; East Texas Council of Governments \$150,000; Hale County Meals on Wheels \$75,000; Lone Star Legal Aid \$300,000; CLC Inc. \$500,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star \$100,000; Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Inc. \$150,000; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \$300,000; Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center \$150,000; Skill Point Alliance \$50,000; Family Service Association of San Antonio \$200,000; Pecan Valley MHMR Region \$300,000; Family Eldercare \$200,000; South East Texas Regional Planning Commission \$300,000; Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. \$300,000. **Non-Recommended:** *East Texas Veterans Community Council \$150,000; Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement \$300,000; Metroplex Military Charitable Trust \$100,000; Combined Arms \$200,000; The Council on Recovery \$250,000; Worklife Ministry, Inc. DBA Worklife Institute \$200,000; United States Veterans Initiative (U.S VETS) \$250,000; Comfort Crew for Military Kids \$100,000; UGM Dallas \$200,00; Operation Blue Shield \$112,614; Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Coastal Bend \$300,000.**

BREAK CALLED at 12:01pm by Chairman Reyna

MEETING RECONVENED at 12:40pm

The Committee returned to the previous agenda item to re-visit votes by tranche in the VMH grant category.

Motion: Recommend re-voting on *Rise Recovery* (VMH) and *The Council on Recovery* (VMH) separately, as individual grant applicants.

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

Motion: Recommend full funding of *Rise Recovery* (VMH)

Motion made by: Charles Wright

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organization voted on: **Recommended:** *Rise Recovery \$75,000*

Motion: Recommend full funding of *The Council on Recovery*

Motion made by: Carrie Sconza

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organization voted on: **Recommended:** *The Council on Recovery \$300,000*

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 VMH *non-recommendations* made by the Committee to take to the Commission for approval

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Charles Wright

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organizations voted on: **Non-recommended:** *Harris County Sherriff's Office \$150,000*

Motion: Approval of the 2021-2022 VMH grant recommendations made by the Committee for approval

Motion made by: Brian Allen

Motion seconded by: Bob O'Reilly

Action: Motion passes: 8 Y, 0 N, 1 recusal

VMH organizations voted on: **Recommended:** Pecan Valley MHMR Region \$300,000; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \$300,000; ANEWENTRY, INC. \$150,000; Equest \$100,00; Emergence Health Network \$300,000; Jake E's Riding Round Up \$75,000; United States Veterans Initiative \$300,000; 22Kill \$300,000; Veterans Freedom Retreat, Inc. \$150,000; Rise Recovery \$75,000; The Council on Recovery \$300,000. **Non-recommended:** Harris County Sherriff's Office \$150,000.

IX. Discussion to set the date, time, and location of the next FVA Advisory Committee meeting.

The next required FVA Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27th at 8:00am, in the Stephen F Austin Building. Chairman Reyna opened the floor to questions. No questions.

X. Adjournment

Motion: Adjournment of FVA Advisory Committee meeting

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion seconded by: Carrie Sconza

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y, 0 N

Meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm

Minutes Approved: _____

Kerry Reyna, Chairman