



MINUTES
of the
TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
VETERANS COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 12, 2021
Texas Veterans Commission
Microsoft TEAMS
1-(512)-593-2908
Access Code # 205 145 254
10:30 a.m.

A meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee was held via Microsoft TEAMS at 1-(512)-593-2908 access code #205 145 254 at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Spenser Kimble at 10:36 a.m., Monday, April 12, 2021 and the following people were in attendance.

Committee Members in Attendance via Microsoft TEAMS

Laura Clark Melissa Castillo
Leo Gonzalez Spencer Kimball
Ruben Gonzalez Richard Sanchez
Michael Hernandez

Committee Members attending by Phone:

None

Committee Members not in Attendance

Ted Oats Al Dos Santos

Public attending in person:

none

Public attending by Phone:

Pat Patterson Juan De La Cerda
Juan De La Cerda Carl Dwyer
Eric Anders Kathryn Fasci
Linda Hargrove Lynda Reeves
Sherry Golden Cherry Peach

Luis Martinez III Frederick Jones

Jayson Swetnam

Texas Veterans Commission Staff in Attendance

Charles Cato – Director of Program Operations

John Goodell – General Counsel

Wes Bryant – Claims Director

Laura Bivens - VCSO Liaison

Gary Ivy, Northeast District Manger

Siobhan Kennon – Legal Assistant

- I. Call to Order. Spenser Kimball called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.
- II. No public comments. Salvador Gonzalez, VCSOAT President, filled out a form, however, was unable to attend due to other engagements.
- III. Michael Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Melissa Castillo second the motion.
- IV. Spenser Kimball introduced new Advisory Committee member, Sasha Mathews.
- V. Wes Bryant invited public relations to speak at the meeting. Other engagements did not allow them to attend. There are no new legislative updates currently.
- VI. Wes Bryant spoke about the reconstitution plan. TVC employees are starting to report to their offices.
Wes Bryant announced a TVC IT Specialists position is now posted. He encouraged anyone that qualifies for this position to apply for the job.
Spenser Kimball requested any information on the reopening of all the TVC offices. Wes Bryant explained there was not a date on when everyone will be back in their offices.
- VII. Melissa Castillo announced a VCSOAT meeting will be held this Thursday at 4pm.
- VIII. Spenser Kimball requested information about the members on the VCSO Training Subcommittee. Laura Clark stated that she and Al Dos Santos are the members on this committee.
Laura Clark reported that TVC is doing a great job with what TVC has due to limitations with COVID. Laura Clark and Spenser Kimball reported the online training TVC is providing is going well.
Wes Bryant reminded everyone that the next monthly training for VCSO's will be May 19, 2021 at 2:00pm. Via Microsoft Teams.
Wes Bryant reported Salvador Castillo is hosting a training in September. TVC has agreed to help with the training. A meeting is being held later this week, with Salvador Castillo, to find out the exact dates and what material will be covered for TVC to be able to support the training adequately.
Wes Bryant announced that if any VCSO has a training request to please let TVC know and we will fulfill the request as much as we can to TVC's ability.
- IX. Michael Hernandez reported there is no recommendations on improving the lines of communication with the Commissioners and TVC.
Spenser Kimball requested that anyone that is not getting all the information that Laura Bivens is sending out to please say something so that it can be addressed. There was not any report from anyone. Spenser Kimball reported if anyone knows of anyone else that has said they are not getting information to let Spenser Kimball or Laura Bivens know and it will be fixed.

X. Michael Hernandez requested information about any VCSO mentoring training. Spenser Kimball reported there has been some plans for mentoring however nothing has come to light at this point and there is no program in place for mentorship.

Sasha Mathews reported a sub mentoring committee would be beneficial to the VCSO's.

XI. Spenser Kimball reported since Sasha Mathews and Michael Hernandez are both in Hays county it may work best if they look at doing a mentoring subcommittee from their office.

Spenser Kimball requested a motion for a VCSO mentoring subcommittee. Melissa Castillo made a motion and a second was from Ruben Gonzalez.

Spenser Kimball requested support from TVC, and Wes Bryant stated, "absolutely we will support the program."

Laura Clark announced this would be her last meeting as she will be an Independent Agent and is retiring from Wise County soon.

XII. Michael Hernandez works with the VA Healthcare system and TVC healthcare advocates for any COVID updates. Michael Hernandez encouraged everyone to reach out to the VA and TVC for updates and best practice(s).

XIII. Spenser Kimball did not have anything to report other than he will be working with TVC and the Commissioners as to what they want to see in their reports.

XIV. Melissa Castillo reported she wants subgroups for each area. Spenser Kimball reported they will be working on creating the subcommittees.

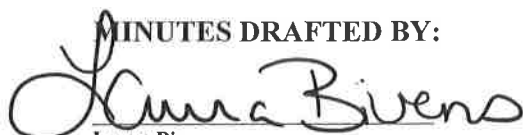
Ruben Gonzalez reported he wanted to go back to Item V and speak on the bills passed about claims. Ruben Gonzalez wants to have agenda items about anything that has passed so everyone can know if anything in the news takes place to provide guidance to others such as VA updates on Agent Orange.

XV. Discussion to set date, time, and location of the next Committee meeting.

Date and time are pending due to not having the exact date of the Commissioners Meeting date.

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m. by Laura Clark and Sasha Mathews second the motion.

MINUTES DRAFTED BY:



Laura Bivens
Texas Veterans Commission
VCSO Liaison

MINUTES APPROVED BY:



Spenser Kimball
Denton County
Chairperson

