

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
FUND FOR VETERANS' ASSISTANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FY21 TRAINING MEETING
December 11, 2020

I. Meeting called to order

The FVA Advisory Committee FY21 Training Meeting was held virtually. 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:

Thomas Palladino	Laura Koerner
Madeleine Connor	Siobhan Kennon
Jim Bracken	Elisabeth Webster
Erv Leos	Julie Dillard
Allegra Geller	

Chair Kerry Reyna welcomed all in attendance. Committee Member Carrie Sconza led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. Vice Chair Charles W. Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

II. Welcome address to Committee by TVC Executive Director Thomas Palladino and Commission Chair Laura Koerner.

- III. Chair Reyna *skipped Agenda Item III*: Discussion and/or review of Advisory Committee Members annual training topics and proceeded with Agenda Item IV.
- IV. Discussion and/or review of policies and statues regarding conflicts of interest and non-disclosure by General Counsel Madeleine Connor. Ms. Connor announced her resignation, and introduced Siobhan Kennon, who will assist TVC staff until a new Counsel is appointed.

Chair Reyna *returned to skipped Agenda Item III*: Discussion and/or review of Advisory Committee Members annual training topics.

Agenda Item III topics discussed and/or reviewed by Director Bracken: FVA Grant Application and Award Processes, Application Review and Scoring Schedule, Eligible Applicant and Renewals for 2021-2022, Application Recommendations vs. Renewals, COVID-19 Impact on Grantee Performance.

BREAK CALLED by Chairman Reyna at 8:40am

MEETING RECONVENED AT: 9:40am

(Continued) Agenda Item III topics discussed and/or reviewed by Director Bracken: 2021-2022 RFA Outline and Orientation, Changes to FVA Program and RFA 2021-22, 2020 Statewide Veteran Needs Assessment, Role of FVA Advisory Committee.

Question asked by Committee Member Dale Wallace regarding COVID vaccine distribution to Committee Members. Additional question asked by Member Wallace regarding grant recommendation/application prioritization for higher risk groups. Director Bracken answered the first question by stating that he is unaware of Commission or Committee Members receiving higher prioritization regarding vaccination, but he will contact the Committee if any new information arises.

Regarding the second question, Director Bracken explained that due to the uncertainty of COVID, that between now and the end of February there will be an ongoing discussion on recommendations and priorities/grading COVID performance of current grantees. Director Bracken stated that he will respond to Committee with any adjustments/recommendations just prior to the March 2021 FVAAC recommendation meeting.

Chair Reyna opened the floor to questions. Vice Chair Charles Wright discussed grant application ranking process and asked if the Committee is going to change the current tranche system that is in place. Director Bracken responded that he is willing to discuss Members opinions regarding the system (through Chair Reyna), to make the process as accurate as possible. Chair Reyna confirmed that the tranche system will be discussed.

Clarification requested by Member Carrie Sconza regarding VMH percentage of funding put toward grant salary vs. client services. Director Bracken explained that if grant applications have VMH components, they will have licensed therapists that are contracted/case managers, which will require salaries.

Chair Reyna opened the floor to questions. No questions.

Discussion and/or review of Evidence-Based Practices in Mental Health, and therapies and treatments relevant for grants that provide a mental health component, by VMHD Director, Dr. Blake Harris.

- V. Discussion and/or review of GovGrant portal system to facilitate Committee Members' roles in the grant recommendation process. Director Bracken stated that FVA will provide Committee Members with a GovGrants step-by-step user guide prior to the January FVAAC Presentation Meeting.
- VI. Discussion and/or review of current grant cycle key dates, meetings and events by Director Bracken and Chairman Reyna. Director Bracken encouraged Committee Members to submit any questions.

- VII.** Discussion to set the date, time, and location of the next Advisory Committee meeting.
The next required Advisory Committee meeting will be the FVAAC Presentation Meeting on Jan 28-29, 2021. The meetings will begin at 8:30 am and will be held virtually. The FVAAC Recommendation Meeting in March 2021 may be held in San Antonio or may be virtual (date and location to be determined).

Chair Reyna opened the floor to questions. No questions.

VIII. Adjournment.

Motion: Adjournment of Advisory Committee meeting

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Action: Motion passes unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Minutes Approved: _____

Kerry Reyna, Chairman