

**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**  
**VETERANS' SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 29, 2021**

**I. Meeting called to order**

The Veterans Services Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually via GoToWebinar and started at 10:08 am. The following were present:

**II. Advisory Committee Members**

Kathryn Meyers

Sara Henly

Lee Rivas

Greg Gomel

Jim Brennan

Earl Newsome

Jim Cunningham

Shelly Mencacci

Larry Wallace

**TVC FVA Staff**

Laura Koerner (Chairwoman)

Thomas Palladino (Executive Director)

Elaine Zavala

Cindy Kendrick

Blake Harris

**III. Public Comment**

The floor was opened to members of the public.

Rose Dunaway

**IV. Chair & Executive Director Welcome:**

Laura Koerner, Chairwoman welcomed the Advisory Committee members to their inaugural meeting. Looks forward to working with each member to improve the quality of life for veterans, their families, and survivors. Thanked them for their commitment.

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director welcomed the Advisory Committee members and gave an overview of the Agency, its leadership, and the departments within the agency.

**V. Committee Member & Staff Introductions:**

Each Advisory Committee member took turns introducing themselves and gave a brief overview of their work and military experiences.

Staff Members introduced themselves and gave a summary about their work experience.

*11:12 – Break called by Elaine Zavala*

*11:17 – Meeting reconvened*

**VI. Review of administrative rules and requirements of the Committee by TVC General Counsel.**

John Goodell, General Counsel gave a detailed legal briefing on the Open Meetings Act, Conflicts of Interest and other Ethical issues and the Public Information Act.

**VII. Report regarding legislative updates from Government Relations.**

Greg Talamantez, Manager Government Relations gave an update on the current Legislative Session and matters affecting veterans in the state of Texas.

**VIII. Purpose and priorities of the Veteran Services Advisory Committee.**

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director discussed the purpose and priorities of the Veteran Services Advisory Committee. The Commissioners had some issues for the members to focus on, to include Homeless Veterans, Justice Involved Veterans program, and Suicide Prevention/Awareness.

**IX. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

Elaine Zavala explained the voting process and the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations.

Chair and Vice chair were voted by the Advisory Committee.

Earl Newsome – Chair of the Advisory Committee

Larry Wallace – Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee

**X. Discussion on agenda items for the next Committee meeting.**

Recommendation to have TVC staff come in and give background information on the items discussed earlier by the Executive Director as items to focus, Homelessness (Jose Ramirez), Justice Involved Veterans Program (Erin McGann), Suicide Prevention - Awareness (Blake Harris).

**XI. Discussion to set the date, time, and location of the next Advisory Committee meeting.**

Proposed date of 18 March 2021 at 10:00 am, unanimously approved by the Committee.

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion: Adjournment of Advisory Committee meeting

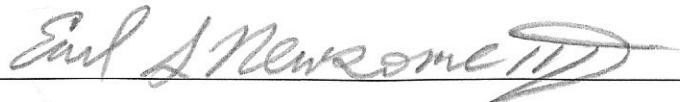
Motion made by: Lee Rivas

Motion seconded by: Kitty Meyers

Action: Motion passes:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Minutes Approved:



Earl Newsome, Chairman