

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
FVA ADVISORY COMMITTEE FY23-24 ANNUAL TRAINING MEETING
March 1-2, 2023

I. Meeting called to order

The FVA Advisory Committee Meeting was held in person at 1700 North Congress Ave Suite 170, Austin, TX. Chairman Reyna called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The following were present:

Advisory Committee Members

Mr. Brian Allen
Mr. Dan Ball
Mr. Bobby Ehrig
Mrs. Jamilah James
Mr. Luis Martinez, III
Mr. John Perez
Mr. Pete Rispoli
Mrs. Kerry Reyna
Mr. John Perez
Mr. Charles Wright

TVC Staff

Mr. James Bracken
Mr. Craig Towlson
Mr. Erv Leos
Ms. Julie Dillard
Mr. Cory Scanlon

Chairman Reyna welcomed all in attendance and then asked Mr. Luis Martinez to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and Mr. Dan Ball to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

II. Introduction of all FVA Advisory Committee Members

All FVAAC members introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

Chairman Reyna opened the floor to members of the public. In person public comments were as follows:

1. No public comments.

IV. Approval of the January 13, 2023, FVA Advisory Committee minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the January 13, 2023, Training Meeting.

Motion made by: Kerry Reyna

Motion made by: Dan Ball

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

V. Five-minute presentations from Eligible General Assistance Applicants followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Chairman Reyna provided overview of the 2023-2024 grant programs and asked Director Jim Bracken to explain how the presentations will proceed. He reviewed how the grantees will present both in person and virtually. He explained the presentation 5-minute time limit followed by questions and answers, and lastly stated that breaks and lunch were scheduled. Before the General Assistance presentations began, Chairman Reyna stated that Mr. Chuck Wright is recusing himself for this portion of the grant presentations. Mr. Craig Towlson acted as the moderator and began introducing the General Assistance grant applicants:

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	Hanna	Adams	Executive Director
Impact A Hero	Rick	Miller	Director
BANDERA COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING INC	Arthur	Crawford	CEO
Community Action Corporation of South Texas	Joshua	Guerra	Social Worker
TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT FOUNDATION	Gabriel	Zamora	President
Pecan Valley Mh-Mr Region Director of Fiscal Services	Joshua	Morrison	Veteran Services Program Manager
Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County	Tracey	Burnett-Greenup	Program Support Manager
El Paso Coalition for the Homeless	Alejandro	Vasquez	Director
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FOUNDATION	Miles	Nelson	Veterans Assistance Program Coordinator

BREAK CALLED at 10:30 am by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 10:45 am

The meeting resumed with the following General Assistance grant applicants presenting:

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement	Richard	Rodriguez	Veteran Peer Specialist
Concho Valley Community Action Agency	Sarah	Negovetich	Self-Sufficiency & Development Associate
Community Services of Northeast Texas Inc	Michelle	Morehead	Deputy Executive Director
C L C Inc	Amy	Hall	Deputy Executive Director
Rolling Plains Management Corporation of Baylor Cottle Foard	Ashley	Larry	Community Services Supervisor
Lubbock Regional MHMR Center	Steven	Lara	Veteran Programs Director
Citizens Development Center	Diane	Jones	Director, Grants and Wage Services
NPower Inc.	Jonathan	Pride	Executive Director
Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc.	Juan	Munguia	Vice President of Mission Services

LUNCH BREAK CALLED at 12:12 pm by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 1:20 pm

The meeting resumed with the following General Assistance grant applicants presenting:

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Opportunity Center for the Homeless	Christopher	Meissner	Grant Writer
Austin-Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center	Cooper	Coleman	Practice Manager
Austin Bar Foundation	Joseph	St. Clair	Veteran and Legal Intern
Lone Star Legal Aid	Andrew	Moore	Managing Attorney
San Antonio Legal Services Association	Sarah	Dingivan	Executive Director/CEO
United Way of Tarrant County	Regina	Williams	Executive Vice President & Chief Impact Officer
Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas Inc	Ken	Watterson	President

BREAK CALLED at 2:52 pm by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 3:02 pm

The meeting resumed with the following General Assistance grant applicants presenting:

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Project MEND	Dexter	Moon	Chief Operations Officer
East Texas Veterans Community Council	Travis	Gladhill	Executive Director
Young Women's Christian Association El Paso del Norte Region	Rocio	Castruita	Chief Operations Officer
Council On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend	Darak	Tate	Case Manager
Child Crisis Center of El Paso	Brenda	Durner	Senior Grant Writer
Family Support Services of Amarillo, Inc.	Jim	Womack	Chief Executive Officer
East Texas Council of Governments	Vince	Huerta	Director of Transportation
Alamo Area Council of Governments	William	McKnight	Director of Aging and Military Affairs
City of El Paso	Astrid	Bunner	Managing Assistant Director

BREAK CALLED at 4:27 pm by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 4:32 pm

VI. Five-minute presentations from Eligible Veteran Mental Health Applicants followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Before closing the General Assistance applications for the day, Chairman Reyna turned the floor over to Mr. Chuck Wright to explain his recusal during the General Assistance presentations. Mr. Wright explained that he recused himself due to having a conflict of interest with the Homeless Veterans Service of Dallas.

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
United Way of Denton County	Elishia	Baxter	Veteran Center Coordinator

American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program	Jennifer	Heifner	Lead Clinician
Equest	Joan	Cutler	Veterans Program Manager
Pecan Valley Mh-Mr Region Director of Fiscal Services	Joshua	Morrison	Veteran Services Program Manager
UNITED STATES VETERANS INITIATIVE (U.S.VETS)	Dr. Lawrence	Taylor	Director of Behavioral Health
Jake E's Riding Round Up	Jana	Ewing Syvrud	Executive Director
PTSD Foundation of America	Ron	Youngblut	Direct National Outreach
Lubbock Regional MHMR Center	Steven	Lara	Veteran Programs Director

Upon completion of Veteran Mental Health presentations, Chairman Reyna closed out this application group and then proceeded to ask Mr. Bracken to provide the committee an update on presentations for the following day. Mr. Bracken explained that the order of the presentations will not match the published agenda due to presenter availability.

BREAK CALLED at 5:58 pm by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 8:30 am, March 2nd, 2023

VII. Five-minute presentations from Eligible Veteran Treatment Court Applicants followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Williamson County	Brenda	Staples	Court Coordinator
El Paso County	Yvonne	Whitaker	Program Director
Guadalupe County Veterans Treatment Court	DOREEN	LUEHLFING	EXECUTIVE ASST./VETERANS TREATMENT COURT COORDINATOR

VIII. Five-minute presentations from Eligible Veteran County Service Officers followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
VCSO Financial Assistance	Rutilio (Rudy)	Guzman	Veteran County Service Officer
VCSO Financial Assistance	Travis	Ransom	County Judge
VCSO Financial Assistance	Ken	Egersheim	Veteran County Service Officer

BREAK CALLED at 9:41 am by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 10:51 am

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Harris County	Dave	Lewis	Veteran County Service Officer
El Paso County	Julio Cesar	Martindelcampo	El Paso County Veterans Grant Manager

Zapata County	Adolfo	Gonzalez Jr	Zapata County VSO
Willacy County	Cynthia	Perez	Grant Outreach Specialist

IX. Five-minute presentations from Eligible Housing for Texas Heroes applicants followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District	Lonnie	Hunt	Executive Director
Meals On Wheels Of Tarrant County	Alissa	Deaton	Vice President of Client Services; Meals On Wheels Inc., of Tarrant County
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	Hanna	Adams	Executive Director

BREAK CALLED at 10:50 am by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 11:00 am

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Austin Habitat for Humanity	John	Poynor	Home Repair Project Manager
Alamo Area Council of Governments	Alicia	Avila-Penalver	Weatherization Program Manager

BREAK CALLED at 11:11 am by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 11:20 am

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Council On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend	Darak	Tate	Case Manager
C L C Inc	Amy	Hall	Deputy Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of El Paso, Inc.	Thelma	Ramos	Executive Director

BREAK CALLED at 11:31 am by Chairman Reyna
MEETING RECONVENED at 11:41 am

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
Rebuilding Together Houston	Christine	Holland	CEO
Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity, Inc	Vicki	Johnson	Executive Director

X. Five-minute presentations from a Eligible General Assistance Applicant followed by Questions and Answers from FVAAC

Chairman Reyna closed out the Housing for Texas Heroes presentations and proceeded to reopen Agenda Item V to accommodate a late addition in the General Assistance program.

Grantee	Presenter First Name	Presenter Last Name	Presenter Title
(U.S.VETS) INITIATIVE	Dave	Lopez	Program Manager

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

Mr. Bracken discussed the Commission’s goals and outlined the Committee’s tasks leading into the Recommendation Meeting, scheduled for 8:30 am April 12th, 2023, at the Stephen F. Austin Building, room 172.

XII. Adjournment

Motion: Adjournment of FVA Advisory Committee meeting

Motion made by: Mr. Wright

Motion seconded by: Mr. Rispoli

Action: Motion passes: 9 Y; 0 N

Meeting was adjourned at 12:54 pm

Minutes Approved: _____

Kerry Reyna, Chairman