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Corporal, US Marine Corps (Retired) Member

**MARY LOPEZ DALE**

US Army Veteran Member

**THOMAS P. PALLADINO**

Colonel, US Army (Retired) Executive Director

**Veteran Services Advisory Committee Meeting**

Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Stephen F. Austin Building

1700 North Congress Ave, Suite 800,

Austin, Texas 78701

1. **Call to order.**
	1. Earl Newsome, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
2. **Roll call of Committee members.**
	1. Elaine Zavala took roll.
		1. Lee Rivas - GoToWebinar
		2. Sara Henly - GoToWebinar
		3. Jim Cunningham – In Person
		4. Jim Brennan – In Person
		5. Kitty Meyers – In Person
		6. Shelly Mencacci – In Person
		7. Earl Newsome – In Person
		8. Greg Gomel – Not in attendance
		9. Larry Wallace – joined the meeting at 10:20am
	2. Thomas Palladino - Executive Director, John Goodell – General Counsel, and James Crabtree – Government Relations Director introduced themselves to the Committee.
3. **Public comment.**
	1. There were no comments from the public.
4. **Approve the minutes of the VSAC meeting held August 5, 2021.**
	1. Changes: There were no public comments and made 2 revisions to names.
	2. Jim Cunningham made a motion to approve the August 5, 2021, minutes and Jim Brennan seconded the motion.
5. **Update from the Justice Involved Subcommittee Meeting held September 21, 2021.**
	1. **Earl Newsome** - provided an overview of the recommendations.
	2. **Blake Harris** – discussed the jail cards connecting veterans who are incarcerated to TVC services. TVC is getting access to the veterans reentry search service, which just identifies if that individual served. The VRSS does not get the veteran connected with services. TVC does track the number of cards but does not know how many services the veteran accesses. Most connected service is VA Healthcare and local peer service coordinators.
	3. **Jim Brennan** – there was legislation about the consistency of intake questions for county facilities that will be brought up again.
	4. **Lee Rivas** – Where will the TVC staff be located throughout the state with the VRSS access?
	5. **Larry Wallace –** Where is the first point of contact for veterans.
	6. **Shelly Mencacci** – Do we know how many incarcerated veterans have used their Halzlewood Benefits?
	7. **Chip Osborne** – VMHD does not have a strategy or performance measures. The current recommendations made by the committee will help make create an exceptional item for VMHD. February 2022, the LBB will give instructions for the strategic plan. TVC performance measure should be more outcome vs. output measures.
6. Review, discuss, approve recommendations made by the Justice-Involved Subcommittee.
	1. **Recommendation #1: The Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) of TVC will ensure that downloadable copies of the following documents are provided on the TVC website during its current update:**
* **A Guidebook for Veterans Incarcerated in Texas** [IVP 3 (texasjailproject.org)](http://www.texasjailproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TX-Guidebook-May-2016.pdf)
* **Department of Veterans Affairs Justice Involved Veterans Fact Sheet** [Justice Involved Veterans (va.gov)](https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/misc/JusticeInvolved.pdf)
* **Department of Veterans Affairs Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors** [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors - Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (va.gov)](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)
	1. **Recommendation #2: The Veterans Mental Health Department (VMHD) of TVC will develop an annual outreach report that reflects the following:**
* **Number of visits to correctional facilities**
* **Number JIVs provided assistance**
* **Number of outreach events conducted**
* **Number of JIVs identified in the** Veterans Reentry Search Service in the course of assisting Texas law enforcement personnel.
1. Discussion on agenda items and date/time for the Justice-Involved Subcommittee meeting with TVC Executive Leadership for feedback.
	1. **Earl Newsome –** Elaine to send out TVC Strategic Plan to members.
	2. **Summary:** The committee added two more recommendations to the 2 that the JIV Subcommittee came up with.
		1. **Recommendation #3:** Recommend legislation for consistency in JIV Intake Process
		2. **Recommendation #4:** Development of performance measures for JIV
	3. **Motions:** Kitty Meyers motioned, and Jim Brennan seconded the motion to add two more recommendations to the JIV.
2. **Review of TVC Suicide Preventions efforts by Blake Harris.**
	1. Blake Harris provided an overview of the Veterans Mental Health Department and Suicide Prevention.
3. **Discussion on agenda items, date/time for the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee meeting.**
	1. TBD based on Blake’s agenda.
4. **Discussion on agenda items, date/time, and location for the next Veteran Services Advisory Committee meeting.**
	1. Based on Open Meeting Requirements for posting agenda, once the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee meets.
5. **Adjournment.**
	1. **Motions:** XXXXX motioned, and XXXX seconded the motion to adjourn.