



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
THIRD QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2022)
Thursday, May 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
1700 N. Congress Ave, Room 170, Austin TX 78701

MINUTES

I. OPENING

- a. Chairwoman Laura Koerner calls the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- b. Roll call:

Secretary Dale informs Chairwoman Koerner that there is a quorum.

Chairwoman Laura Koerner, Commissioner Kevin Barber, Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, Secretary Mary Dale,
Also present was Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino.

- c. Commissioner Mike Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Vice-Chair Kimberly Shaneyfelt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- d. Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.
- e. Approval of the February 9, 2023, Second Quarter Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber, seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the minutes

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Dale, Senior Deputy Director of the Veteran Land Board, was introduced.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Internal Audit for this FY and the Internal Audit Plan presented by Cruz Montemayor.
- b. Advisory Committee Member Recognition,
Laura Clark, former Veteran County Service Officer Advisory Committee member
Carrie Sconza, former FVA Advisory Committee member, was not in attendance, but the certificate was still read.
- c. Quarterly Presentations from Advisory Committees.
 - i. **Ted Oates, Vice-Chair of Veteran County Service Officer**, provided a summary of the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.
 - ii. **Katherine "Kitty" Meyers, Chair of the Veteran Services Advisory Committee**, summarized the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.

IV. REPORTS

- a. Report on Agency Departments and Programs.
 - i. **Program Operations Division**. Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, provided the Commissioners with the department updates as well as department training attended and scheduled.
 - ii. **Resource Management Division**. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided the Commissioners with department updates.
 - 1. VMHD training, and the new A.P.I. software.
 - 2. ***Appropriation Year 2023 Second Quarter Operating Statement***: Coretta Brisco, C.F.O. of the T.V.C. Finance Department, gave a detailed brief to the Commissioners on the Appropriation Year 2023 Second Quarter Operating Statement.
- b. **Deputy Executive Director Report**. Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates.
 - i. Dr. Krystle Matthews, Women Veterans Program Director, briefed on the Women's Veteran Day Event in San Antonio on June 3, 2023.
 - ii. James Crabtree, Government Relations Director, briefed on legislative session updates, Commissioner Barber was reconfirmed, and upcoming events at the capitol.
- c. **Executive Director Report**. Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter, including meetings and events attended, and the upcoming past commissioner recognition. Starting the veteran benefit fairs with Texas Land Board, since the pandemic is over.

V. CONSIDERATIONS

- a. ***Acceptance of Gifts***. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, briefed that there were no donations.
- b. ***Action Regarding Texas Veterans Commission FY2023, PY2022 VES Employer of the Year Awards***. Anna Baker, Director of Veterans Employment, provided the Commissioners with the list of winners of the T.V.C.'s Employer Awards.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to accept the T.V.C. Employer Awards.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- c. ***Action Regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Re-adopt, Repeal, or Re-adopt with amendments the following provisions of Title 40, Part 15 of the T.A.C. Chapters 450 through 453***. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the Proposed Rulemaking to Re-adopt, Repeal, or Re-adopt with amendments the following provisions of Title 40, Part 15 of the T.A.C. Chapters 450 through 453.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- c.1. ***Action Regarding Chapter 450, Veteran County Service Officers Certificate of Training, to be re-adopted with amendments***. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to accept the readoption with amendments of Chapter 450, Veteran County Service Officers Certificate of Training.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

c.2. Action Regarding Chapter 451, Veteran County Service Officers Accreditation, to be re-adopted with amendments. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to accept the readoption with amendments of Chapter 451, Veteran County Service Officers Accreditation.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

c.3. Action Regarding Chapter 452, Administration General Provisions, to be re-adopted. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

No Action required.

c.4. Action Regarding Chapter 453, Historically Underutilized Business Program, to be re-adopted. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

No Action required.

d. Action Regarding Administrative Rule Title 40, T.A.C. Part 15, Section 452.2, Advisory Committees, to be adopted with amendments. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the adoption with amendments of Chapter 452.2, Advisory Committees.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

e. Action Regarding the Repeal of Administrative Rule 40 Title, T.A.C. Part 15, Chapter 459, Transportation Support Services. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to adopt the repeal of Chapter 459, Transportation Support Services.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

f. Action Regarding Administrative Rule Title 40, T.A.C. Part 15, Chapter 457.1, Protests of Agency Purchases. I will ask Cory Scanlon, General Counsel, to provide the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to accept the readoption with amendments of Chapter 457.1, Protests of Agency Purchases.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

Break from 2:00 -2:16 pm

g. Action Regarding Recommendations for 2023-2024 Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grants:

- i. Veterans County Service Officer.
- ii. Veterans Treatment Court.
- iii. Housing for Texas Heroes.
- iv. Veterans Mental Health.
- v. General Assistance.

VETERANS COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER

Craig Towlson, Interim F.V.A. Director, will present the grant renewals for the 23-24 grant cycle, and Chuck Wright, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Vice- Chair, will be presenting the committee's recommended 23-24 grant applications for award. Craig provided an overview of the grant cycle, and Chuck Wright provided an overview of the grant recommendation process.

Chuck Wright, Vice-Chair of the F.V.A. Advisory Committee, briefs, “on April 12, 2023, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for the grant cycle 2023-2024 Veteran County Service Office applications. The committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the R.F.A.

We recommend two grant renewal applications that meet all the criteria. Awarding, a total of \$350,000 in funding.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hidalgo County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance |
| Liberty County | \$ 50,000 | Financial Assistance |

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended V.C.S.O. grant applications.”

“Do I hear a motion to approve the two grant renewal applications that met all of the criteria?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Vice-Chair Wright will present the grants recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee. A total of eight applications are recommended for award, totaling \$2.80 million in funding.

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Harris County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance |
| San Patricio County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| El Paso County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance |
| Comal County | \$ 250,000 | Financial Assistance |
| Williamson County | \$ 210,000 | Financial Assistance |
| Cameron County | \$ 120,000 | Financial Assistance |
| Zapata County | \$ 300,000 | Housing for Texas Heroes |
| Cass County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance |

“Do I hear a motion to approve the grants recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee?”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant renewal applications recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chair Laura Koerner explained to the Commission to consider renewing grants that did not meet both renewal criteria. The Commission must waive the 2023-2024 R.F.A. provision that specifies the renewal criteria.

“Do I hear a motion to waive the 2023-2024 R.F.A. renewal criteria for all applications this cycle that did not meet the specified criteria?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to waive the renewal criteria in the F.V.A. R.F.A. to enable the Commission to renew additional grants today that did not meet the renewal criteria.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Craig Towlson briefed the Veteran County Service Office grants were in the renewal track but did not meet the renewal criteria. These grants were recommended by the Advisory Committee.

| Grantee Organization | Committee Recommendation | Service Category | Commission Awarded |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Webb County | \$ 150,000 | Transportation and Program Services | \$ 150,000 |

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for V.C.S.O. grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

“Do I hear a motion to approve to the V.C.S.O. grants for renewal but did not meet the renewal criteria?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner

to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

“Does anyone have any further motions?”

| Grantee Organization | Committee Recommendation | Service Category | Commission Award |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Willacy County | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$ 150,000 |
| Hays County | \$ 150,000 | Financial Assistance | \$ 100,000 |
| Zapata County | \$ 150,000 | Financial Assistance | \$ 100,000 |
| Val Verde County | \$ 75,000 | Transportation Programs and Services | \$ 50,000 |

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's amended recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Craig Towlson, F.V.A. Director briefs, the VTC grants that met the renewal criteria. Of the 13 grants seeking renewal only four met the renewal criteria as specified in the RFA totaling \$950,000.

Chuck Wright, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Vice-Chair briefs, “Chairwoman Koerner, on April 25, 2023, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2022-2023 Veteran Treatment Court applications. The committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the R.F.A.

We recommend 4 applications for the award, totaling \$950,000 in funding.

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Comments: |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Webb County | \$ 300,000 | |
| Montgomery County Veteran Treatment Program | \$ 200,000 | |
| Bexar County Misdemeanor VTC | \$ 300,000 | |
| Comal County | \$ 150,000 | |

“Chairwoman Koerner, F.V.A. is prepared to present the grants for the Commission's renewal consideration – after Vice-Chair Wright presents the committee's application recommendations for this grant category.”

“Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended V.T.C. applications.”

“Do I hear a motion to approve the 2022-2023 renewals for V.T.C. that met the renewal criteria?”

MOTION: Made by Commission Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the 2022-2023 F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant applications that met the renewal criteria.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Vice-Chair Chuck Wright will present the grants recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee. A total of six V.T.C. applications are recommended for award, totaling \$895,000 in funding.

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Comments: |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Williamson County | \$ 210,000 | |
| McLennan County | \$ 100,000 | |
| El Paso County | \$ 300,000 | |
| Guadalupe County V.T.C. | \$ 100,000 | |
| Brazoria County Veterans Court Program | \$ 75,000 | |
| Ellis County | \$ 110,000 | |

“Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended V.T.C. applications.”

“Do I hear a motion to approve the 2023-2024 V.T.C. applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Craig Towlson briefs, “If I could direct you to the top of the VTC Worksheet for the renewals that did not meet all of the criteria”:

| Grantee Organization | Committee Recommendation | Commission Award |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hays County | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| Dallas County | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| Collin County | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| Galveston County | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| Travis County | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Nueces County | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| City of Dallas | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Bexar County Commissioners Court Felony Court | \$75,000 | \$25,000 |
| Tarrant County | \$300,000 | \$150,000 |

“Pending your questions.”

“Does any Commissioner want to make a motion to renew any of the V.T.C. grants?”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee amended recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant renewal category for Hays County, Dallas County, Collin County, Galveston County, Travis County, Nueces County, and City of Dallas.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Koerner to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee amended recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant renewal category for Bexar County Commissioners Court Felony Court and Tarrant County.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (H4TX)

Craig Towlson, F.V.A. Director briefs, "Commissioners, if you would please refer to the top of Housing for Texas Heroes list, of the 15 grants seeking renewal, only three met the renewal criteria specified in the R.F.A., totaling \$1,030,000.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Panhandle Community Services | \$ 500,000 |
| Rusted and Weathered, Inc. | \$30,000 |
| Habitat for Humanity of Greater Garland, Inc. | \$500,000 |

“Pending your questions.”

“Do I hear a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Housing for Texas Heroes Grant Organizations that have met the renewal criteria set by the RFA?”

MOTION: Made by Secretary Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for Housing for Texas Heroes grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chuck Wright, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Vice- Chair briefs on recommendations for Housing for Texas Heroes applications for 2023-2024, “Commissioners, the Committee’s funding recommendations for 2023-2024 Housing for Texas Heroes applications is listed as the second group on your rollup list. We are recommending 11 applications for award totaling \$3,265,000 in funding.”

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Commission Award: |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Fort Worth | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 |
| Deep East Texas Council of Govts and Econ Dev District | \$ 235,000 | \$ 235,000 |
| Rebuilding Together Houston | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. | \$ 180,000 | \$ 180,000 |
| CLC Inc. | \$ 385,000 | |
| Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend | \$ 300,000 | |
| Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. | \$ 300,000 | |
| Meals and Wheels of Tarrant County | \$ 395,000 | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alamo Area Council of Governments | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Habitat for Humanity of El Paso, Inc. | \$ 55,000 | \$ 55,000 |
| Austin Habitat for Humanity | \$ 115,000 | \$ 115,000 |

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended Housing for Texas Heroes applications.”

Discussion regarding City of Fort Worth, which is a new Housing for Texas Heroes grantee and negotiation process.

Discussion regarding why the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommended those organizations for which home modification was not their primary wheelhouse.

“Do I hear a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Housing for Texas Heroes Grant Applications recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the following F.V.A. Housing for Heroes recommendations: the City of Fort Worth, Deep East Texas Council of Govts and Econ Dev District, Rebuilding Together Houston, and Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to fund Alamo Area Council of Governments for \$500,000, Habitat for Humanity of El Paso, Inc. for \$55,000, and Austin Habitat for Humanity for \$115,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

F.V.A. Director Craig Towlson briefed on the Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications, the Renewal Group, that did not meet all the renewal criteria. “Looking back at the first group”:

| Grantee Organization | Committee | Commission Award |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Meals on Wheels Central Texas | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Operation FINALLY HOME | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Easterseals Central Texas | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Meals on Wheels San Antonio | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| The Fort Hood Area Habitat for | \$250,000 | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Humanity | | |
| City of Laredo | \$300,000 | \$200,000 |
| Rolling Plains Management Corporation | \$300,000 | \$200,000 |
| Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Habitat for Humanity of Smith County | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| AYUDA, INC. | \$100,000 | |
| Interfaith Action of Central Texas | \$300,000 | |

“Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for Housing for TX Heroes grants seeking renewal for this grant period.”

Discussion regarding The Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity, which still has open findings.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to renew: Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels Central Texas, Operation FINALLY HOME, Easterseals Central Texas, Meals on Wheels San Antonio at the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve: City of Laredo for \$200,000, Rolling Plains Management for \$200,000, and Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity and Habitat for Humanity of Smith County for the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve AYUDA, INC., but hearing no second the motion failed.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

F.V.A. Director Craig Towlson presents, "Please refer to the Veteran Mental Health list. Of the 16 grants seeking renewal only four met the renewal criteria specified in the RFA and that totaled \$1,150,000.

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Service Category | Comments: | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| West Texas Counseling & Guidance | \$ 500,000 | Clinical Counseling | | |
| Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral | \$ 500,000 | Clinical Counseling | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Care | | | | |
| Grace After Fire | \$ 100,000 | Peer Support Services | | |
| South TX Afghan Iraq Vet Association (S.T.A.I.V.A.) | \$ 50,000 | Peer Support Services | | |

“Do I hear a motion to renew the 2022-2023 Veteran Mental Health Grant Organizations that met the renewal criteria?”

MOTION: So moved by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Secretary Mary Dale.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chuck Wright, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Vice-Chair, presented the Advisory Committee's recommended applications. “Commissioners, the Committee considered and discussed the Veteran Mental Health applications listed as the second group of V.M.H. rollups. We are recommending all 11 applications for awards totaling \$3,045,000 in funding.

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Service Category | Commission Award |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pecan Valley MHMR | \$ 300,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 300,000 |
| United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS) | \$ 150,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 150,000 |
| American GI Forum Nat'l Veterans Outreach Program | \$ 500,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 500,000 |
| PTSD Foundation of America | \$ 495,000 | Peer Support Services | |
| Spindletop Center | \$300,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$300,000 |
| Jake E's Riding Round Up | \$135,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$135,000 |
| Fort Bend County | \$135,000 | Peer Support Services | \$135,000 |
| Tropical Texas Behavioral Health | \$500,000 | Peer Support Services | \$500,000 |
| United Way of Denton County | \$200,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$200,000 |
| Lubbock Regional MHMR Center | \$235,000 | Peer Support Services | \$235,000 |
| Equest | \$95,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$95,000 |

“Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended V.M.H. applications.”

Chairwoman Koerner: “Do I hear a motion to renew the 2023-2024 Veteran Mental Health Grant applications that were recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee?”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve Pecan Valley MHMR, U.S. VETS, Spindletop Center, Fort Bend County, Tropical Texas Behavioral Health, United Way of Denton County, Lubbock Regional MHMR Center, and Equest at the amounts recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Secretary Mary Dale to fund Jake E’s Riding Round Up at the amount recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Koerner and seconded by Secretary Mary Dale to approve PTSD Foundation of America at the amount recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 4-1 [with Commissioner Kevin Barber opposing]: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner: “Now we will return back to the renewal section.”

Craig Towlson, F.V.A. Director presents the Veteran Mental Health grants that did not meet all the renewal criteria. “Commissioners, at the top of the V.M.H. worksheet, the Renewal Group lists 12 remaining Veteran Mental Health grants in the renewal track:

| Grantee Organization | Eligible Amount | Service Category | Commission Award | Comment |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Refuge Services, Inc | \$ 200,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 200,000 | |
| Baylor Scott & White Research Institute | \$ 500,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 300,000 | |
| Project Amistad | \$ 200,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$ 100,000 | |
| HOTRMHMR | \$ 300,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$215,000 | Entity requested |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | award to be reduced to \$215,000 and FVA concurs |
| Armstrong Community Music School | \$ 30,000 | Peer Support Services | | Entity requests to rescind their application and want to be removed from the renewal track. |
| Easterseals of Greater Houston, Inc. | \$ 300,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$300,000 | |
| Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors | \$ 500,000 | Clinical Counseling | \$500,000 | |
| Marriage Management Consultants | \$ 150,000 | Peer Support Services | | |
| Collin County | \$ 300,000 | Clinical Counseling | | |
| Caritas of Austin | \$ 50,000 | Peer Support Services | | |
| Rock, Ride on Center for Kids | \$ 100,000 | Clinical Counseling | | |
| Cenikor Foundation | \$ 300,000 | Clinical Counseling | | |

Pending your questions.”

Chairwoman Koerner: “Does anyone want to make any motion regarding these organizations for renewal?”

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve Refuge Services, Inc. at \$200,000, Baylor Scott & White Research Institute at \$300,000, Project Amistad at \$100,000, HOTRMHMR at \$215,000, Easterseals of Greater Houston, Inc. at \$300,000, and Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors at \$500,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner: “We will move on to the next section, which is the General Assistance Grants.”

Craig Towlson, F.V.A. Director presents the material from the RFA: “There are 23 General Assistance grants that met the renewal criteria totaling \$5,250,000, and they are:

| Grantee Organization | Current Grant | Service Category | Commission Award | Comments |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|

| | Amount | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Meals on Wheels Montgomery County | \$ 300,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| Community Council of South-Central Texas | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County | \$300,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| The Salvation Army San Antonio | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Caritas of Austin | \$75,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Veterans Center of North Texas (GI Forum) | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| The Salvation Army-Grayson County | \$100,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Tropical Texas Behavioral Health | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas, Inc. | \$300,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston | \$250,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| Fort Bend County | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| The Salvation Army-Waco | \$200,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | | |
| The Salvation Army-Corpus Christi | \$300,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | | |
| Honor Veterans Now | \$500,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| Grace After Fire | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Volunteers of America Texas | \$200,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| The Salvation Army-El Paso | \$200,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | | |
| Families in Crisis, Inc. | \$300,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | | |
| Burnet County | \$ 75,000 | Transportation Programs and Services | | |
| Project Amistad | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Bring Everyone in the Zone, Inc. | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Caritas of Waco | \$200,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc. | \$150,000 | Pro Bono Legal Services | | |

Chairwoman Koerner: “Do I hear a motion to renew the General Assistance Grants that met the renewal criteria?”

MOTION: So moved by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Secretary Mary Dale to approve the renewals at the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Craig Towlson, F.V.A. Director, presents the recommended General Assistance applications for 2023-2024. “We have 21 applications that the F.V.A. Advisory Committee has recommended, and that totals \$5,325,000 in funding. They are:

| Grantee Organization | Current Grant Amount | Service Category | Commission Award | Comments |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Rolling Plains Management Corporation | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$ 300,000 | |
| Pecan Valley MHMR Region | \$ 300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$ 300,000 | |
| Northwest Assistance Ministries | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Goodwill Industries of | \$115,000 | Employment Support | \$115,000 | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| South Texas, Inc. | | | | |
| Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Citizens Development Center dba Achieve | \$235,000 | Employment Support | \$235,000 | |
| Ark Tex Council of Governments | \$5,000 | Financial Assistance | \$5,000 | |
| Community Action Corporation of South Texas | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Fort Bend Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels & Much More | \$180,000 | Support Services | \$180,000 | |
| East Texas Council of Governments | \$250,000 | Transport Programs & Services | \$250,000 | |
| Hale County Meals on Wheels | \$80,000 | Support Services | \$80,000 | |
| Lone Star Legal Aid | \$300,000 | Pro Bono Legal Services | \$300,000 | |
| Family Support Services of Amarillo, Inc. | \$265,000 | Support Services | \$265,000 | |
| NPower Inc. | \$300,000 | Employment Support | \$300,000 | |
| Dept. of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation | \$500,000 | Financial Assistance | \$500,000 | |
| City of Fort Worth | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Impact a Hero | \$145,000 | Financial Assistance | \$145,000 | |
| Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Concho Valley Center for | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Human Advancement | | | | |
| East Texas Veterans Community Council | \$250,000 | Support Services | \$250,000 | |
| Alamo Area Council of Governments | \$300,000 | Transport Programs & Services | \$300,000 | |

Pending your questions on Part 1.”

Chairwoman Koerner: “Do I hear a motion to approve the 2023-2024 General Assistance Grant applications that were recommended by F.V.A. Advisory Committee?”

MOTION: So moved by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Secretary Mary Dale to approve the 2023-2024 General Assistance Grant applications that were recommended by F.V.A. Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

F.V.A. is prepared to present the other General Assistance grants that did not meet the renewal criteria to the Commission for renewal consideration. “So Commissioners at the top of the GA worksheet the renewal group lists 17 renewal grants that were in the renewal track but did not meet the criteria listed in the RFA. They are:

| Grantee Organization | Current Grant Amount | Service Category | Commission Award | Comments |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Meals on Wheels – San Antonio | \$300,000 | Supportive Services | \$300,000 | |
| Catholic Charities of Central Texas | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Houston Area Urban League | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$300,000 | |
| Katy Christian Ministries | \$200,000 | Financial Assistance | \$200,000 | |
| Nueces County | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | \$150,000 | |
| Goodwill Central Texas | \$150,000 | Employment Support | \$150,000 | |
| San Antonio Metropolitan | \$300,000 | Homeless Veteran | \$300,000 | |

| Ministry | | Support | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| The Salvation Army – Lufkin | \$100,000 | Financial Assistance | \$100,000 | |
| SPAN, Inc. | \$20,000 | Transport Programs & Services | \$20,000 | |
| Panhandle Community Services | \$300,000 | Financial Assistance | \$200,000 | |
| Family Endeavors dba Endeavors | \$300,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | \$300,000 | |
| Hope for the Warriors | \$250,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc. | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Operation Homefront, Inc. | \$100,000 | Supportive Services | | |
| United Way of Denton County | \$150,000 | Financial Assistance | | |
| Alliance of Border Collaboratives | \$200,000 | Homeless Veterans Support | | |
| City of Laredo | \$75,000 | Financial Assistance | | |

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for General Assistance grants seeking renewal for this next grant period.”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Koerner to approve: Meals on Wheels – San Antonio for \$300,000, Catholic Charities for \$300,000, Houston Area Urban League for \$300,000, Katy Christian Ministries for \$200,000, Nueces County for \$150,000, Goodwill Central Texas for \$150,000, San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry for \$300,000, The Salvation Army – Lufkin at \$100,000, SPAN, Inc. for \$20,000, Panhandle Community Services for \$200,000, and Family Endeavors for \$300,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner: “All the other applicants that we have not funded is up for discussion. If you would like to make a motion to [fund any applicants in any category].”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to fund Liberty County Veteran Treatment Court at \$45,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve Rebuilding Together Austin at \$205,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Chairwoman Koerner to fund CLC, Inc. at \$385,000 for home modification.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to renew Marriage Management Consultants at \$75,000.

VOTE: 4-1 (with Commissioner Mike Hernandez opposing): Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Koerner and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to fund Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend at \$50,000, Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star at \$100,000 in the General Assistance Category for Support Services.

Discussion regarding process of ranking grantees by the Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Chairwoman Koerner to fund Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation at \$300,000, the Austin Bar Foundation at \$130,000, and Austin Travis County MHMR Center at \$260,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Koerner to approve U.S. Vets for \$300,000, CLC, Inc. for \$500,000, Community Services of Northeast Texas for \$300,000, Precinct Together for \$160,000, San Antonio Legal Services at \$135,000, Concho Valley Community Action Agency for \$300,000, El Paso Coalition for the Homeless at \$130,000, YWCA of El Paso for \$300,000, Child Crisis Center of El Paso at \$197,000, Bandera County Committee on Aging at \$300,000, Santa Maria Hostel at \$75,000, Spindletop Center at \$300,000, Opportunity Center for the Homeless at \$300,000, and Lubbock Regional MHMR at \$255,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to fund the United Way of Tarrant County at \$275,000.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Koerner and seconded by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

to fund Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas at \$100,000 for referral services and City of El Paso for \$50,000 for Transportation Program Services.

VOTE: 3-2 (with Commissioners Commissioner Kevin Barber and Secretary Mary Dale opposing): Motion Passed

VI. Executive Session. None.

VII. Discuss and take action on the items considered in Executive Session. There were no items to act on.

VIII. Discussion about setting the date, time, and location of the next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed that the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting of F.Y. 2023 would be held on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin TX, William B. Travis Bldg. room 1-111.

IX. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.


Each Commissioner and the Executive Director extended their gratitude to the Texas Veterans Commission staff, Chairwoman Koerner, and the participating organizations for their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans. Chairwoman Koerner provided closing remarks as well.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Mary Lopez Dale, Secretary