

**LAURA KOERNER**  
US Navy Veteran  
Chairwoman

**MARY LOPEZ DALE**  
US Army Veteran  
Secretary

**MIKE P. HERNANDEZ**  
Corporal, US Marine Corps (Retired)  
Member



**KEVIN BARBER**  
US Army Veteran  
Member

**CHUCK WRIGHT**  
US Marine Corps Veteran  
Member

**THOMAS P. PALLADINO**  
Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
Executive Director

## TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

### Fund For Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee (FVAAC) Presentation Meeting

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 & Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 8:30am**  
**George H.W. Bush Building, 1801 Congress Ave, Board Room 4.300, Austin, TX, 78701**

**Feb 27:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83388531409>

**Feb 28:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87872112117>

**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called by Chair, Kerry Reyna at 8:34a.m., on February 27, 2024, at the George H.W. Bush Building, 1801 Congress Ave., Suite 14.101, Austin, TX 78701.

**II. Roll call of Committee members.**

Kerry Reyna, Chair, declared, "With 7 members present during roll call, a quorum has been met (5 or more establishes a quorum)."

- Jamilah James, virtual, "here"
- Dan Ball, not present.
- Luis Martinez, "here"
- John Perez, virtual, "here"
- Pete Rispoli, virtual, "here"
- James "Dusty" Johnson, "here"
- Omar Williams, "here"
- Richard Delgado, Jr., virtual, "here"
- Kerry Reyna, "here"

**III. Public comment.**

There was no public comment.

**IV. Approve minutes of the January 17, 2024, FVAAC Annual Training Meeting Minutes.**

Luis Martinez motioned to approve the minutes. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. No discussion. Minutes were approved – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

**V. Annual Election of Vice Chair.**

Chair, Kerry Reyna re-explained the role of the Vice Chair. The role of the Vice Chair is to step into the Chair's role when that individual is not available. Therefore, this year's Vice Chair should be able and willing to attend meetings in Austin, Texas, in person for

both Advisory Committee meetings as well as TVC Vice Chair meetings. The chairperson ultimately plays a crucial role in facilitating productive meetings within the framework of the relevant rules and regulations that our General Counsel provides.

- Jamilah James motioned to nominate Mr. Peter Rispoli as the Vice Chair. Chair, Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion approved – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

#### **VI. Committee Discussion of Application Materials.**

- FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, asked how everyone is able to work with the Fluxx system and the Excel spreadsheet sent out. Jamilah, Kerry, Omar, and Richard explained that they had no issues with the program.
- The chair, Kerry Reyna, asked for any additional comments prior to presentations. No questions.
- FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, provided additional instructions and guidance regarding the Fluxx system and provided notes regarding the presentations today and upcoming key dates.
- Chair, Reyna asked the committee if April 10<sup>th</sup> would work for the next FVAAC meeting (recommendation meeting). She reiterated the importance of committee members attending in person. All members indicated that April 10<sup>th</sup> is a good date for the Recommendation Meeting.
- Mr. Palladino, Executive Director of TVC, welcomed the presenters today. He thanked them for participating and is looking forward to a great funding recommendation for the Vice Chairs in May. He reiterated the Commission's appreciation for the nonprofits, counties, and cities that have applied for grants that will continue the Texas legacy of taking care of veterans and their families.

#### **VII. 2024-2025 Eligible Applicant Presentations.**

##### **VCSOs**

1. Zapata County VCSO (presented later in the day)
2. Bexar County Vice Chairs Court
3. Hays County Veteran Services
4. Harris County

##### **Treatment Courts**

1. Dallas County Veterans Treatment Program
2. Hays County Veterans Treatment Court
3. Eugene E. Hooper Veterans Treatment Court of Comal County
4. Bexar County Felony Veterans Treatment Court
5. Montgomery County VTC
6. Bexar County Misdemeanor Court

##### **Mental Health**

1. Easter Seals of Greater Houston
2. Family Service Center of Galveston County
3. Refuge Services, Inc
4. Riding Unlimited, Inc.
5. Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care, Inc.
6. Castle Cares Community Ministries
7. K9s For Warriors Inc
8. Austin-Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation
9. Project Amistad
10. Baylor Scott & White Research Institute
11. Defenders of Freedom

12. Austin Dog Alliance
13. Volunteer Services Council of Texoma Community Center
14. Endeavors
15. American Odysseus Sailing Foundation
16. Outdoor Association for True Heroes, Inc
17. SoleAna Stables
18. Bexar County Military and Veteran Services
19. West Texas Counseling & Guidance, Inc
20. Canine Companions
21. Marriage Management Consultants
22. Catholic Charities of San Antonio Archdiocese
23. Grace After Fire

#### **Housing for Texas Heroes**

1. Habitat for Humanity Greater Garland
2. Operation Finally Home
3. Central Texas Opportunities (Cornerstone)
4. The Salvation Army- Waco

#### **Housing for Texas Heroes (Continued)**

1. Adult and Youth United Development Association Inc
2. Meals on Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County
3. Meals on Wheels San Antonio
4. Panhandle Community Services
5. Zapata County (VCSO)

#### **General Assistance**

1. Catholic Charities of Central Texas - Veterans Program
2. Alliance of Border Collaboratives (ABC)
3. Dance for Dreams
4. Hidalgo County Community Service Agency
5. Services Of Hope Entities, Inc
6. Easter Seals of Greater Houston
7. Deep East Texas Council of Governments
8. Burnet County
9. Project MEND
10. The Salvation Army, Grayson County
11. Legacy Institute for Financial Education
12. United Way of Denton County
13. Volunteers of America Texas

#### **VIII. Adjournment (Day 1)**

Chair, Kerry Reyna, called a recess at 5:31p.m., until 8:30am tomorrow, Wednesday, February 28th.

#### **IX. Day 2 called to order at 8:45a.m. by Kerry Reyna, Chair.**

All FVAAC members were present, and member Dan Ball was present today.

#### **X. Administrative Announcements**

Chair, Kerry Reyna, outlined next key dates:

- March 31 2024, Rankings due.
- April 10, 2024, Recommendation Meeting. She would like all members to be in-person. The meeting will begin at 8:30a.m., travel day will be 9 April 2024.

**XI. Continue with agenda item 7, 24-25 Eligible Applicant Presentations****General Assistance (Continued)**

1. Honor Veterans Now
2. Houston Area Urban League
3. Transition Skills Training
4. Bring Everyone in The Zone Inc.
5. USA Cares
6. Span Incorporated
7. Texoma Area Paratransit System Inc
8. Trinity County
9. Combined Arms
10. American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program
11. Foundation Communities
12. Central Texas Opportunities
13. Veterans Stand Together
14. Central Texas Council of Governments
15. Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas
16. The Salvation Army Waco
17. Project Amistad
18. Veterans Center of North Texas
19. Wheelchairs for Warriors
20. Katy Christian Ministries
21. TBI Warrior Foundation
22. Community Council of South-Central Texas
23. Caritas of Austin
24. The Salvation Army Amarillo
25. Panhandle Community Services
26. Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County
27. Feonix - Mobility Rising
28. Houston Volunteer Lawyers
29. Adult and Youth United Development Association Inc.
30. The Salvation Army
31. Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County
32. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.
33. San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc.
34. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation
35. After Military Service, DBA Camp Shield
36. My Possibilities
37. Meals on Wheels San Antonio
38. The Salvation Army Corpus Chris
39. Goodwill Central Texas
40. Next Step Inc

41. The Salvation Army El Paso
42. RISE Center for Independent Living
43. Nueces County
44. Goodwill North Central Texas
45. Heroes Night Out
46. The Salvation Army Midland
47. Grace After Fire
48. West Central Texas Regional Foundation
49. Community Partnership for the Homeless DBA Green Doors
50. Goodwill Houston
51. Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas
52. Endeavors
53. Making Dreams Real Inc.
54. Hope For the Warriors

**XII. Discuss the date, time, and location of the next FVA Advisory Committee Meeting.**

- There was discussion on the expectations on ranking the organizations for the upcoming Presentation Meeting.
- The committee agreed to Wednesday, April 10, 2024, starting at 8:30a.m., for the Recommendation Meeting.
- The meeting will be held for one day with April 9, 2024, being the travel day. Committee members who live exceptionally far away may communicate with the FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, to request an additional travel day on April 11, 2024.

**XIII. Adjournment (Day 2).**

Luis Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan Ball seconded the motion. Motion passed, meeting (7 yeas and 2 abstained) adjourned at 6:00p.m., February 28, 2024.

  
 Signed – Chair, Kerry Reyna

  
 Date