

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Second Quarterly Meeting (FY 2018)
February 7, 2018

I. Call to order.

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the 2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2017 at the Stephen F. Austin Building, Room 170, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr. Chairman
Richard McLeon, Vice Chairman
Jake Ellzey, Secretary
Dan Moran, Commissioner
Kevin Barber, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See attached list.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Commissioner Dan Moran and Secretary Jake Ellzey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag. Commissioner Richard McLeon led the opening prayer.

II. Public Comment.

None.

III. Approve the Minutes of the 1st Quarterly Commission Meeting held November 8, 2017 and Special Meeting held December 13, 2017.

The minutes for the 1st Quarterly Meeting held on November 8, 2017 and Special Meeting held December 13, 2017, were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the 1st Quarterly Meeting held on November 8, 2017 and Special Meeting held December 13, 2017 as presented.

MADE BY: Secretary Jake Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Dan Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Report, Advisory Committee Quarterly Report (Veterans Communication Advisory Committee, Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee and Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee)

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee, Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee, Fund for Veterans Assistance Advisory Committee and the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee since their last report to the Commission.

V. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding Appropriation Year 2018 First Quarter Operating Statement.**

Michelle Nall, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the method of finance and expenditure on each program for the 1st Quarter of FY2018 ending on December 30, 2018. There were no issues and budget is on target at this time.

VI. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees.**

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director provided a summary of proposed Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees. The amended rule is proposed to implement General Appropriations Act, Article I, Texas Veterans Commission Rider IX, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, which authorizes the commission to reimburse advisory committees. Other amendments to this rule implement Recommendations established by the commission during the Special Commission Meeting held December 13, 2017, regarding the administration of its advisory committees.

MOTION: Approve the Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees
MADE BY: Vice Chairman Richard McLeon
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 450. Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training.**

Victor Polanco, Director, Claims Representation and Counseling provided a summary of proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 450, Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training. The purpose of the proposed amended rules is to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 544, 85th Legislature, Regular Session (2017). SB 544 amended §434.038 of the Texas Government Code, relating to the required training for Veterans County Service Officers and Assistant Veterans County Service Officers. SB 544 requires the Commission to approve training provided by public or private entities to fulfill initial and continuing training requirements established by the commission.

MOTION: Approve the Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 450, Veterans County Service Officers Certificate of Training.
MADE BY: Commissioner Dan Moran
SECONDED BY: Secretary Jake Ellzey
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 451, Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation.

Victor Polanco, Director, Claims Representation and Counseling provided a summary of the Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 451, Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation. The purpose of the proposed amended rules is to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 544, 85th Legislature, Regular Session (2017). SB 544 amended §434.038 of the Texas Government Code, relating to the required training for Veterans County Service Officers' and Assistant Veterans County Service Officers' Accreditation. SB 544 requires the Commission to approve training provided by public or private entities to fulfill initial and continuing training requirements established by the commission.

MOTION: Approve the Proposed Amendments to Administrative Rules 40 TAC, Chapter 451, Veterans County Service Officers Accreditation.
MADE BY: Secretary Jake Ellzey
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Adoption of New Administrative Rule: 40 TAC, Chapter 460, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program, Subchapter A, General Provisions Regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program: §460.17. Veterans County Service Office Grants.

Madeleine Connor, General Counsel provided a summary of the Adoption of New Administrative Rule: 40 TAC, Chapter 460, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program, Subchapter A, General Provisions Regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program: §460.17. Veterans County Service Office Grants. The proposed new rule was published in the November 24, 2017, issue of the *Texas Register* for 30 days to allow interested persons an opportunity to submit comments. The comment period ended on December 27, 2017. The commission received no comments from the public.

MOTION: Approve the regarding Adoption of New Administrative Rule: 40 TAC, Chapter 460, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program, Subchapter A, General Provisions Regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program: §460.17. VCO Grants
MADE BY: Secretary Jake Ellzey
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Dan Moran
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

X. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding Executive Director Report.**

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter. Mr. Palladino noted all his meetings and events he has attended to include relationships with the Veterans Administration. Discussed developing technological innovations across the agency including: CAPPs for HR, FVA Grant software (electronic applications and payments), Paperless disability claims case management system., DOD Defense Personnel Records Image Retrieval (DPRIS) System, On-line training and testing for claims and other programs.

XI. **Report, presentation and/or action regarding Agency Programs and Division.**

The Commissioners reviewed the Quarterly Program Reports that were previously provided. Directors were provided the opportunity to brief the Commission on any new items or highlight significant items that occurred within their program or division.

- A. **Chip Osborne**, Director of Resource Management **in the absence of Shawn Deabay**, Director of Program Operations, introduced the Claims Representation and Veterans Entrepreneur programs that will provide their individual reports to the commissioners.

Victor Polanco, Director of Claims Representation and Counseling, brief about the D2D program, the evaluators have scored the one received bid and we are on track to award the bid on the projected date of 1/31. Initial Training E-Learning; The training team has met with the designated Claims team several times and have begun the storyboarding process. New office, office closures, office changes; We have posted for new office locations for Big Spring, TX and Bonham, TX. The counselors will be located in the VAMCs.

Tim Shatto, Director of Veterans Employment Services, brief about moving forward on the Harvey Response modification, we received funding and approval, going into the final stages of the program. We received \$344,000.00 of additional funds to support this effort and it will be on a temporary basis. We are getting ready to conduct interviews to get a team out in the Houston area to assist with providing services.

- B. **Chip Osborne**, Director of Resource Management, introduced the Veterans Education and Communications programs that will provide their individual reports to the commissioners.

Sue Jevning, Training and Event Planning Manager, provided her report. The training team continues to support a variety of events and training activities, this include providing logistical support to curriculum development to delivering actual training in various regions. The Claims Spring Training is a 3-day session Web-based training

being developed for VCSOs so they don't have to travel to another location and meet their annual training requirement. Currently we have 50 personnel registered. The 2018 Fall conference is coming and we are in full swing in preparation for the event. Tycin Thompson has been appointed as our interim manager for the training and events program, Tycin joined the TVC IN 2013, started with the employment division and joined the Training and Events management team in March of 2016.

Elaine Zavala, Manager, Communications and Outreach addressed the commission and stated that we had success in getting into the Texas Rodeo to be free for Veterans, we will be there on February 28th for the Armed Forces Military Appreciation and working with the Chair Committee in San Antonio to see if we can get Veterans in for free in 2019., spaces that would usually run for \$40,000. We are working on our benefits booklet to get them printed in Spanish to reach a different demographic. By the next commission meeting I should have a Communications plan for the next fiscal year.

- C. **Cruz Montemayor**, Deputy Executive Director, provided an update regarding audit. Our Sunset review is in its closing stages of information gathering and we will have our exit meeting scheduled for March 5th. Requested Mental Health and Government Relations programs to provide their individual reports.

Tim Keesling, Director, Veterans Mental Health Program, highlighted the Veteran Treatment Court Summit that we recently conducted, we convened working groups from VTCs across the state to create an operations model for VTCs. We invited all the Judges, probationers, Veterans Outreach Officers, Mentors, Prosecutor and Defense Lawyers to come to the workgroup and work around simple subjects, and had incredible participation.

Justin Coleman, Manager, Government Relations, the GR team has been the primary point of contact for Sunset Commission staff and all information requests have gone through Government Relations and working with 9 program areas to fill those requests. Interim charges were released last fall from the Lt Governor and speaker, those hearings have started at Joint Airforce Base San Antonio. Collaborative forum is March 8th, we are looking to strengthen the partnerships we have through TCCVS by looking at best practices and learn from each other and improve service delivery to veterans. We have 100 to 120 attendees scheduled to attend and we will be breaking into workgroups. Later in the quarter we will have instructions from the Governor's Office for a strategic plan, that usually come end of March or April.

XII. Executive Session.

None.

XIII. Discussion and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session.

There were no items to take action on.

XIV. Discussion to set date, time, and location of next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed for the 3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY18 be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Stephen F. Austin Building, room 170.

XV. Adjournment.

Chairman Cantu asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks. Vice Chairman Scott addressed his retirement and appreciation of the Commissioners and TVC Staff.

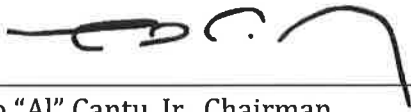
Each Commissioner extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas Veterans.

Chairman Cantu provided closing remarks as well.

MOTION: Adjourn
MADE BY: Commissioner Dan Moran
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting
FY 2018 – February 7, 2018
9:00 a.m. – Stephen F. Austin Bldg. Rm 170
Speakers and Visitors

Tamara Schiff

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

Claudia Tijerina

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

Catrina Gonzales

Governor Abbot, Veteran Commission



WELCOME
to the

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting

Fiscal Year 2018
February 7, 2018 9:00 a.m.
Stephen F. Austin Bldg. – Room 170
1700 N. Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78701

Name – Please Print Clearly

JAMARA SLVIEC

Claudia Tijerina
Astrina Gonzalez

Name of Organization/Agency

SUNSET

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Gov. Abbott

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