

TCCVS

Women Veteran Workgroup

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TVC Lead: Carrie Sconza

Carrie.sconza@tvc.texas.gov

www.tvc.texas.gov/TCCVS.aspx

1. **Veteran Need:** Paid Maternity Leave for State Agencies. 6 Weeks for women, 10 days for men.

Background Services: Research comparable programs in other states/countries, 2) Research of retention statistics associated with maternity/paternity leave

Conclusions and Recommendations:

TBD

2. **Veteran Need:** Housing for veterans with children

Background and Services: Review of HB 2914. Request exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain charitable organizations that provide affordable housing to low-income veterans and their dependents. This bill ask that the properties be 100% just for veterans and their dependents. This bill was introduced by Representative Carol Alvarado in the 84th Legislature. It had first reading and then referred to Ways and Means and it stopped there. 501C3 organization buy run down building or apartment complexes and refurbishes them. When these organizations buy these properties the property taxes are usually very low, but once the properties are refurbished the taxes go up anywhere from 20%-250%. Also, the cost of refurbishing/remodeling can cost up to millions of dollars. The increase in property taxes along with the burden of the remodeling is putting a strain on the non-profit organizations.

*The committee is In the process of reviewing other major cities to see what their property tax laws are like.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Recommend standard zoning across the state.

TBD

3. **Veteran Need:** Provide Daycare Service Financial Assistance (Childcare) to veterans in Texas who may need assistance paying for daycare services and/or provide assistance to veterans who may want to start a daycare service as a business from home or a separate business location.

Background Services: We often receive phone calls from both female and male veterans who cannot afford the cost of childcare and cannot find gainful employment due to underemployment, medical, or mental illness or other situations.

Conclusions and Recommendations: Identify veterans who are in need of daycare services but who are meeting obstacles to financial ability to pay for those services. Additionally, there is a need to identify veterans (if they qualify per State of Texas Department of Children's Services) who may be considering starting a daycare business as a means of self- support.

A multi-prong approach is recommended: 1) provide vouchers to pay for childcare; 2) recognize previously issued military Daycare Certificates as equivalent to civilian requirements (if the veteran or their spouse has this certificate); 3) provide financial assistance to veteran as they establish daycare services from their home or separate location (as they set up and after they meet State requirements).

This provides veterans with assistance with the cost of daycare services and may provide a means of gainful employment.

4. **Veteran Need:** MST and mental health Services

Background Services: Partner with TMA (Texas Medical Association) to encourage CHOICE program education, with hopes for additional fee based female medical providers

Conclusions and Recommendations: Decide on what other recommendations to make and provide research and background info to support. Dr. Hupp will be forwarding info to support the second bullet.

5. **Veteran Need:** Basic Needs/ Short Term and Long Term Assistance

Background Services: County veteran service organizations recognize the needs within their counties, therefore should be provided state funding under guidance to disseminate funds for their local veterans. Available services currently do not provide immediate, short-term assistance. There is an application and approval process that usually takes one to two weeks which does not meet the needs of Veterans who require immediate assistance.

Conclusions and Recommendations: 1) Develop a short term assistance program for immediate veteran needs, 2) Develop a long term assistance/training program for long term assistance

5b. Investigating

6. **Veteran Need:** Services for dishonorably discharged veterans.

Mary Kate: There are Veteran Service Organizations as well as state programs that provide services to dishonorably discharged Veterans. The only organization that does not offer services to the dishonorably discharged is the VA. The recommendation from the group was to turn over findings to the Veteran Courts TCCVS committee and discontinue research in the Women Veterans TCCVS Group.