

# Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

Third Quarterly Meeting (FY 2015)  
May 6, 2015

## I. Call to order.

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the 3rd Quarterly Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on May 6, 2015, at the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress Avenue, Room 170, Austin, Texas 78701.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Chairman  
James H. Scott, Vice Chairman  
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Secretary  
Jake Ellzey, Commissioner  
Daniel P. Moran, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Vice Chairman Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and Commissioner Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag. Secretary McLeon gave the opening prayer.

Chairman Cantu notified the public about the Commission's intent to recess after Agenda Item X, Report, presentation and/or action regarding Internal Auditor contract services, to enter into an Executive Session.

## II. Public Comment.

Allen Bergeron, Honor Flight Austin and City of Austin, thanked the Commission for their consideration of Honor Flight Austin as a Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grantee. Mr. Bergeron also provided an overview of the trips that Honor Flight Austin had completed during this past year, and the different era of Veterans they are serving.

## III. Approve the Minutes of the Second Quarterly Meeting held February 3, 2015.

The minutes for the Second Quarterly Meeting held February 3, 2015, were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the Third Quarterly Meeting held on February 3, 2015, as presented.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Report, presentation and/or action by representatives of the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee.**

Jim Cunningham, Chairman of the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans Communication Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission. The Advisory Committee identified events and reviewed upcoming opportunities to outreach to Veterans. The Advisory Committee also reviewed and offered recommendations to improve the operating procedures for media relations. Lastly, the Advisory Committee discussed strategic plan recommendations and legislative items of interest to Veterans.

**V. Report, presentation and/or action by representatives of the Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee.**

Agenda Item V. was postponed to a time later in the Meeting by the Commission due to the absence of the presenter.

**VI. Report, presentation and/or action by representatives of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee.**

La Shondra Jones, Vice-Chair of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission. The Advisory Committee met in April to review and finalize the recommendations for the General Assistance Series XV-B grants and the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants.

**VII. Report, presentation and/or action by representatives of the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee.**

On behalf of the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee, Jim Richman, Claims Representation and Counseling Director, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission. Mr. Richman informed the Commission that the chairman of the Advisory Committee, Jimmy DeFoor resigned from the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee received public comment regarding the Advisory Committee's role in the legislative process. Lastly, the Advisory Committee discussed in great depth the Veterans County Service Officer training and communication.

**VIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Advisory Committee membership.**

Cruz Montemayor, Interim Deputy Executive Director, informed the Commission about the vacancy in the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee and the vacancy in the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee. Mr. Montemayor informed the Commission that staff intends to solicit applications to fill these vacancies and staff will present the recommended applicants for consideration by the Commission at the next Quarterly Meeting.

**IX. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Appropriation Year 2015 2nd Quarter Operating Statement.**

Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Second Quarter Operating Statement for FY 2015, which was previously provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Osborne noted that TVC is currently financially sound and all budgets are on track.

No motion to approve needed.

*NOTE: The Commission took up Agenda Item V after Agenda IX due to the late arrival of the presenter.*

**V. Report, presentation and/or action by representatives of the Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee.**

On behalf of John DiPiero, Chairman of Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee, Stan Kurtz, Operations Manager, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission. The Advisory Committee received briefings from other Advisory Committees to get an understanding of their roles. The Advisory Committee also finalized the employer award process and notified the Commission that the Advisory Committee will be requesting nominations at the end of June 2015. Lastly, the Advisory Committee reviewed legislative items of interest to Veterans employment.

*NOTE: The Commission proceeded with its regular order of business.*

**X. Report, presentation and/or possible action regarding Internal Auditor contract services.**

Cruz Montemayor, Interim Deputy Executive Director, briefed the Commission over the current contract period with internal auditors Jansen and Gregorczyk, CPAs. He noted to the Commission that the contract allows the Texas Veterans Commission the option to extend, on a yearly basis, its contract with Jansen and Gregorczyk.

MOTION: Direct Staff to negotiate to extend the contract with internal auditors Jansen and Gregorczyk for Fiscal Year 2016 at a comparable rate to Fiscal Year 2015.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran  
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

*NOTE: The Commission took up Agenda Items XVI after Item X to go into Executive Session.*

**XVI. Executive Session.**

Executive Session held from 9:27 a.m. to 9:58 a.m.

**XVII. Discuss and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session.**

There were no items to discuss or take action on as a result of the Executive Session.

*NOTE: The Commission proceeded with its regular order of business.*

**XI. Report, presentation and/or possible action to Propose the Review of Agency Rules: 40 TAC Chapter 460, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program.**

Karen Fastenau, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on the review of agency rules. Ms. Fastenau explained the purpose of these rules and the satisfying requirements of the four year Agency Rule Review. A copy of the notice of review of agency rules was previously distributed to the Commission for review.

MOTION: Approve staff to submit to publish the notice of Proposed Rule Review in the Texas Register for public comment.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Report, presentation and/or action to Propose Amendments to Agency Rules: 40 TAC §452.8. Employee Training and Education.**

Karen Fastenau, General Counsel, briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to agency rules relating to Employee Training and Education. Ms. Fastenau explained the purpose of the amendment to the rule and answered questions from the Commission. A copy of the proposed amendments to agency rules was previously distributed to the Commission for review.

MOTION: Approve staff to submit to publish the Proposed Amendments to Agency Rules: 40 TAC §452.8. Employee Training and Education

in the Texas Register for public comment.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

**XIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding recommendations for:**

Charlie Catoe, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Director, and La Shondra Jones, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Vice Chair presented the grant recommendations for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants and the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants.

**A. Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants; and**

Charlie Catoe, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Director, and La Shondra Jones, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Vice Chairman, provided an overview of the grant process and a summary of the Advisory Committee's actions in this process. Mr. Catoe informed the Commission the award total for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants equaled \$5,000,000. Mr. Catoe presented the recommended applicants for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants on behalf of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee.

The Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee recommended a total of \$5,000,000 to be awarded to the following 26 organizations:

1. Bring Everyone in the Zone, Inc.: \$20,000 recommended.
2. Catholic Charities – Galveston Houston: \$ 500,000 recommended.
3. Center Point, Inc.: \$200,000 recommended.
4. Child Crisis Center of El Paso: \$200,000 recommended.
5. CLC Inc.: \$500,000 recommended.
6. Comfort Crew for Military Kids: \$125,000 recommended.
7. Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas, Inc.: \$300,000 recommended.
8. Community Healthcore: \$200,000 recommended.
9. Denton County Veterans Coalition: \$50,000 recommended.
10. Family Endeavors, Inc.: \$500,000 recommended.
11. Goodwill Industries of Central Texas: \$50,000 recommended.
12. Green Doors: \$125,000 recommended.
13. Hale County Meals on Wheels Inc.: \$50,000 recommended.
14. Honor Flight Austin: \$30,000 recommended.
15. Houston Area Urban League: \$200,000 recommended.
16. Joyful Horse Project: \$20,000 recommended.
17. Lone Star Legal Aid: \$150,000 recommended.
18. Meals on Wheels and More: \$200,000 recommended.
19. Nueces County: \$125,000 recommended.

20. Salvation Army – Amarillo: \$300,000 recommended.
21. Salvation Army – San Antonio: \$400,000 recommended.
22. Salvation Army – Waco: \$200,000 recommended.
23. Santa Maria Hostel: \$200,000 recommended.
24. Texas Legal Service Center: \$200,000 recommended.
25. Texas Rural Water Foundation: \$5,000 recommended.
26. Worklife Ministry, Inc.: \$150,000 recommended.

The Commission presented Mr. Catoe with questions regarding the grant process and certain grant applicants. At the request of Mr. Catoe, Sarah Tillman, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Manager, and Carol Conner, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant Compliance Officer, assisted with addressing questions from the Commission.

Concluding the questions from the Commission, Chairman Cantu opened up the floor for any Commissioner to make a motion relating to approving the recommended grant applicants or amending the recommended grant applicants.

MOTION: Increase grant award funding by \$70,000 to Honor Flight Austin.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Commission discussed the advisory committee's recommendations and made the following motions in regards to the funding decisions:

MOTION: Add Texas A&M Research Foundation to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B recommended grant applicants at a grant award of \$150,000.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Add Catholic Charities of San Antonio to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B recommended grant applicants at a grant award of \$100,000.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Commission discussed issues relating to amending funding recommendations and options to further evaluate the recommended applicants for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants. Chairman Cantu called on each Commissioner to express their approach for moving forward with each of the three previous motions to amend the funding recommendation and applicants for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants.

Mr. Catoe noted to the Commission that he was informed by the Finance Department that the additional \$320,000 may be funded out of existing resources. Chip Osborne, Chief Financial Officer, provided an explanation to the Commission.

MOTION: Approve the recommended applicants for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants as amended, and increase the amount of funding by \$320,000 for a total of \$5,320,000 awarded for this grant cycle.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary McLeon

ACTION: The motion failed with a vote of 2 ayes to 3 nays.

Commission deliberated the failed motion and its impact on the previous motions made to add applicants and increase the total funding amount for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants.

The following motions were made:

MOTION: Remove Texas A&M Research Foundation from the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B recommended grant applicants and remove their recommended grant award of \$150,000.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Remove Catholic Charities of San Antonio from the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B recommended grant applicants and remove their recommended grant award of \$100,000.

MADE BY: Secretary McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Decrease amount awarded to Honor Flight Austin by \$70,000 for a total amount of \$30,000 as originally presented for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B.

MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Moran

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Approve the recommended applicants as originally presented for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series XV-B grants for a total funding amount of \$5,000,000.

MADE BY: Commissioner Moran

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission approved a total of \$5,000,000 to be awarded to the following 26 organizations:

1. Bring Everyone in the Zone, Inc.: \$20,000 approved.
2. Catholic Charities – Galveston Houston: \$ 500,000 approved.
3. Center Point, Inc.: \$200,000 approved.
4. Child Crisis Center of El Paso: \$200,000 approved.
5. CLC Inc.: \$500,000 approved.
6. Comfort Crew for Military Kids: \$125,000 approved.
7. Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas, Inc.: \$300,000 approved.
8. Community Healthcore: \$200,000 approved.

9. Denton County Veterans Coalition: \$50,000 approved.
10. Family Endeavors, Inc.: \$500,000 approved.
11. Goodwill Industries of Central Texas: \$50,000 approved.
12. Green Doors: \$125,000 approved.
13. Hale County Meals on Wheels Inc.: \$50,000 approved.
14. Honor Flight Austin: \$30,000 approved.
15. Houston Area Urban League: \$200,000 approved.
16. Joyful Horse Project: \$20,000 approved.
17. Lone Star Legal Aid: \$150,000 approved.
18. Meals on Wheels and More: \$200,000 approved.
19. Nueces County: \$125,000 approved.
20. Salvation Army – Amarillo: \$300,000 approved.
21. Salvation Army – San Antonio: \$400,000 approved.
22. Salvation Army – Waco: \$200,000 approved.
23. Santa Maria Hostel: \$200,000 approved.
24. Texas Legal Service Center: \$200,000 approved.
25. Texas Rural Water Foundation: \$5,000 approved.
26. Worklife Ministry, Inc.: \$150,000 approved.

**B. 2015 Veterans Mental Health grants.**

Charlie Catoe, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Director, provided an overview of the grant process and a summary of the Advisory Committee's actions in this process. Mr. Catoe informed the Commission the award total for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants equaled \$1,500,000.

The Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee recommended a total of \$1,500,000 to be awarded to the following 9 organizations:

1. Catholic Charities – Fort Worth: \$75,000 recommended.
2. Family Support Services of Amarillo: \$150,000 recommended.
3. Grace After Fire: \$125,000 recommended.
4. Heart of Texas Region MHMR: \$150,000 recommended.
5. R.O.C.K.: \$75,000 recommended.
6. Recovery Resource Council: \$150,000 recommended.
7. Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care: \$500,000 recommended.
8. United States Veterans Initiative: \$200,000 recommended.
9. VET TRIIP: \$75,000 recommended.

Mr. Catoe informed the Commission that one recommended applicant for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grant is currently receiving a contract from the Texas Veterans Commission. This information was disclosed by the applicant in their grant application. Chairman Cantu requested Karen Fastenau, General Counsel, to provide further information regarding the status of this applicant.

Ms. Fastenau explained the relationship between the applicant's contract with the

Texas Veterans Commission and the project in which the applicant is requesting grant funding for presents conflict of interest concerns.

MOTION: Remove the Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care from the recommended applicants for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants.

MADE BY: Commissioner McLeon

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Catoe resumed his presentation and explained the grant funding timeline of the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants. Mr. Catoe submitted and presented the recommended applicants for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants, as amended, on behalf of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee.

The Commission presented Mr. Catoe with questions regarding the grant process and certain grant applicants. At the request of Mr. Catoe, La Shondra Jones, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Vice Chairman, and Carol Conner, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant Compliance Officer, assisted with addressing questions from the Commission.

The following motions were made:

MOTION: Add Paws for Reflection Ranch, Triple H Equitherapy, and Equine Rehabilitation Central Texas as recommended applicants for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants and award each organization \$75,000.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Vice Chairman Scott

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the recommended applicants as amended for the 2015-2016 Veterans Mental Health grants and authorize the Commission to carry \$275,000 towards the next Veterans Mental Health grant cycle.

MADE BY: Commissioner Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission approved a total of \$1,225,000 to be awarded to the following 11 organizations:

1. Catholic Charities – Fort Worth: \$75,000 approved.
2. Family Support Services of Amarillo: \$150,000 approved.
3. Grace After Fire: \$125,000 approved.
4. Heart of Texas Region MHMR: \$150,000 approved.
5. R.O.C.K.: \$75,000 approved.
6. Recovery Resource Council: \$150,000 approved.
7. United States Veterans Initiative: \$200,000 approved.
8. VET TRIIP: \$75,000 approved.
9. Paws for Reflection Ranch: \$75,000 approved.
10. Triple H Equitherapy: \$75,000 approved.
11. Equine Rehabilitation Central Texas: \$75,000 approved.

*NOTE: The Commission recessed from 10:10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.*

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

Thomas Palladino, Texas Veterans Commission Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter. Mr. Palladino informed the Commission that he and senior staff have been testifying at hearings throughout the Legislative Session on numerous bills, including the General Appropriations Act. He updated the Commission on the status of the Health Care Strike Force Teams and informed the Commission about the meetings he had with Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald and other Veterans Healthcare Administrators in Texas relating to the initiative's implementation. Mr. Palladino briefed the Commission over his recent trips to attend various conferences and symposiums, such as the Annual Texas Association of Collegiate Veteran Program Officials Conference and Texas A&M's Symposium over assisting Veterans. Mr. Palladino also briefed the Commission over the events the Commission's staff hosted and their successes. Lastly Mr. Palladino noted all of his upcoming meeting and events that he will be attending this upcoming quarter.

**XV. Report, presentation and/or action on agency programs and divisions:**

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. Jim Richman, Claims Representation and Counseling Program Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments completed by the Program since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Richman notified the Commission about the success that the Claims Program is having with utilizing the Stakeholder Enterprise

Portal for submitting claims. Mr. Richman updated the Commission on his staff's work regarding the Fall Training Conference and the Claims Program curriculum. Mr. Richman notified the Commission that his staff has continued to attend and participate in the Veterans Affairs Town Hall Meetings, as ordered by the Veterans Affairs Secretary. Lastly, Mr. Richman provided an overview of his programs performance measures.

- B. Shawn Deabay, Veterans Employment Services Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments by the Program since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Deabay briefed the Commission over the new hires the Program made and how the new hires will play a role in the Program's mission. Mr. Deabay updated the Commission over the training and workgroup discussions his Program completed over the last quarter. Mr. Deabay informed the Commission about his participation in the National Association of State Workforce Agencies in Florida. Lastly, Mr. Deabay provided an update on the Veterans Employment Liaison's work involving state agencies, and the Women Veterans Employment Coordinator program.
- C. Rufus Coburn, Veterans Education Program Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments by the Program since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Coburn reported on the number of compliance visits the Program completed over the past quarter and informed the Commission that the Hazlewood Database administered by the Texas Veterans Commission went live to the public on May 4, 2015. Mr. Coburn briefed the Commission over his meetings regarding Hazlewood. Lastly, Mr. Coburn provided an update over the Program's Veterans Education Counselors and their role in the Program's mission.
- D. Charlie Catoe, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the Program since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Catoe reported on the number of compliance visits the Program completed over the past quarter. Mr. Catoe informed the Commission on the events that Program staff attended and their purpose for attending. Mr. Catoe also informed the Commission about the legislative hearings Program staff participated in. Lastly, Mr. Catoe reported on the number of Veterans the Fund for Veterans' Assistance grantees served over the past quarter.
- E. Cruz Montemayor, Interim Deputy Executive Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments by the Administration division since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Montemayor briefed the Commission over the work his staff has completed on coordinating the Annual Fall Conference Training. Mr. Montemayor updated the Commission the status of the construction projects relating to office space. Mr. Montemayor also informed the Commission that the 2016 Annual Summit will be taking place at Texas A&M University. Lastly, he briefed the Commission over the division's performance measures.
- F. Chip Osborne, Chief Finance Officer, reported on major activities and accomplishments by the division since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Osborne noted to the Commission that all reports for the quarter were submitted

in a timely manner. Mr. Osborne informed the Commission that his division is currently seeking a payroll accountant and the division currently reviewing the applicants. Lastly Mr. Osborne informed the Commission that a workgroup has been established to review the purchasing procedures for the Agency.

- G. Jeff Williford, Government Relations Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the division since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Williford provided an overview and status on all legislation impacting the agency. Mr. Williford briefed the Commission over the success of the 2015 Annual Summit, as planned by the Government Relations division. Lastly, Mr. Williford highlighted significant legislative dates and deadlines for the Commission to follow throughout the last weeks of the Legislative Session.
- H. Rachel Shumaker, Communications and Veterans Outreach Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the division since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Ms. Shumaker briefed the Commission over new grassroots initiatives that the division's staff implemented to engage Veterans on social media. Concluding the presentation, Ms. Shumaker highlighted upcoming events for the Commission's situational awareness.
- I. Sean Hanna, Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) Director, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the division since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. Hanna informed the Commission about the awards and recognitions MVPN received over the past quarter. Mr. Hanna updated the Commission over the status of the new Veterans dorm opening at the Hughes Unit. Lastly, Mr. Hanna updated the Commission over the division's progress in creating operating manuals and training guides to meet TVC's standards.
- J. Edith Disler, Women Veterans Initiative Manager, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the Women Veterans Initiative since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Ms. Disler informed the Commission that she had been hired as the manager of the initiative on March 1, 2015. Ms. Disler briefed the Commission over her goals to accomplish with the Women Veterans Initiative and updated the Commission on the events the initiative coordinated over the last quarter. Lastly, Ms. Disler informed the Commission that Carrie Sconza, Women Veterans Outreach Coordinator, led in hosting the conference of the National Association State Women Veteran Coordinators.
- K. Duncan McGhee, Veterans Entrepreneur Program Manager, reported on major activities and accomplishments made by the Program since the last Texas Veterans Commission Meeting. Mr. McGhee informed the Commission about the increase in inquiries relating to business acquisitions and opportunities to secure capital. Mr. McGhee informed the Commission about the newly hired Business Consultant in Dallas, TX and the role they will play in the Program's mission. Lastly, Mr. McGhee updated the Commission on the entrepreneur seminars completed by his Program.

**XVIII. Discussion to set date, time, and location of next Commission meeting.**

The Commission discussed the date, time, and location of the upcoming Special Commission meeting and the Fourth Quarterly Commission meeting. TVC staff suggested the Fourth Quarterly Commission meeting to be scheduled on August 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Stephen F. Austin Building, Room 170. The Commission expressed conflicts with the meeting date and agreed for the Fourth Quarterly Commission Meeting to be scheduled on August 6, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Stephen F. Austin, Room 170.

**XIX. Adjourn.**

Chairman Cantu recognized each Commissioner for closing statements. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for all their support and hard work in serving our Texas Veterans.

MOTION: Adjourn.

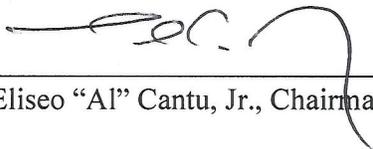
MADE BY: Vice Chairman Scott

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:

  
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Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**  
3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting  
FY 2015 – May 6, 2015  
9:00 a.m. – Stephen F. Austin Building – Room 170  
Speakers & Visitors

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**Jim Cunningham**  
Chair, Veterans Communication Advisory Committee

**LaShondra Jones**  
Vice Chairman, Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee

**Ted Hughes**  
Department of State Health Services

**Allen Bergeron**  
Honor Flight Austin

**Khristian Kesterson**  
Texas Rural Water Foundations