Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

First Quarterly Meeting (FY 2016)
November 4, 2015

I. Call to order.

Chairman Eliseo Cantu called to order the 1st Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on November 4, 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
Jake Ellzey, Secretary
Richard A. McLeon, IV, Commissioner
Dan Moran, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Also present: See the attached list.

Secretary Richard McLeon led the opening Prayer. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag led by Vice Chairman James H. Scott and Commissioner Jake Ellzey led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Chairman Cantu introduced the new Texas Veterans Commission staff members.

II. Public Comment.

No public comment was received.

III. Approve the Minutes of the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting held on August 6, 2015.

The minutes for the 4th Quarterly Meeting held on August 6, 2015 were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

MOTION:	Approve the minutes of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting held on August 6, 2015, as presented.
MADE BY:	Commissioner McLeon
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 for outreach to Veterans specifically events surrounding the upcoming Veterans Day.

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.

Richard Hatfield, Member of Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee, provided a summary of activities conducted by the Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission. Specifically, Mr. Hatfield addressed the General Assistance Grant Series 16-A selection process. Recommendations will be addressed later in Agenda Item XIX. He also noted that the Chair of the FVA Advisory Committee, Bill Meehan, will step down effective Dec 13, 2015. A new Chair will be elected during the next meeting.

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

Victor Polanco introduced Laura Spain, Chair of the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee to provide the report. She identified four vacancies within the Advisory Committee which are planned to be filled and elected by January 2016. Ms. Spain provided a summary of activities conducted by the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee since its last report to the Commission.

VIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding annual evaluation of Advisory Committees.

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director, informed the Commission of the requirement to provide an annual report regarding the effectiveness of the four Advisory Committees of the Texas Veterans Commission. Mr. Montemayor highlighted the efforts and successes of each Advisory Committee.

MOTION:	Approve four Advisory Committees to continue in their efforts until the next Commission review.
MADE BY:	Vice Chairman Scott
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner Moran
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

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

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director, informed the Commission regarding Advisory Committee membership. Applications of each applicant and staff recommendations were provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting. The following are the recommendations provided to the Commission:

Veterans Communication Advisory Committee-
Clarence Horlen-reappointment
James Cunningham-reappointment
Maureen Jouett-reappointment
Todd Smith-appointment

Veterans Employment and Training Advisory Committee-
James Brennan-reappointment
John DiPiero-reappointment
Morgan Little- reappointment
Terrance Jeanisse-appointment
Kathryn Meyers-appointment

Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee-
Alonzo Poteet-reappointment
Perry Jefferies-reappointment
Robert Cervantes-reappointment
Robert O'Reilly-reappointment
Daniel Ball-appointment
Charles Wright-appointment

Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee-
Laura Spain-reappointment
Queta Marquez-reappointment
Ted Oats-appointment
Sunshine Thompson-appointment
Everardo Zamora-appointment
Zachariah Migura-appointment

MOTION:	To appoint/reappoint the recommended applicants to serve terms as presented, effective January 1, 2016.
MADE BY:	Vice Chairman Scott
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner Moran
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

X. Presentation of Recognition of Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Presentation was postponed until the next Commission Meeting scheduled in February due to absence of presenter.

XI. Presentation by City of Austin Veterans Program Manager regarding Ending Veteran Homelessness in the City of Austin and throughout Texas.

Presentation was not conducted due to absence of presenter.

XII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Internal Audit Annual Report.

Russell Gregorczyk, Internal Auditor, provided the report regarding the Fiscal Year 2015 Internal Audit Annual Report. A copy of the report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting.

XIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding the Internal Audit of Accounting and Payroll Systems and Controls.

Russell Gregorczyk, Internal Auditor, provided the report regarding the Internal Audit of Accounting and Payroll Systems and Controls. A copy of the report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting. Mr. Gregorczyk provided concerns and recommendations of the audit's findings.

MOTION:	Concurrence with the findings of the Internal Audit
MADE BY:	Vice Chairman Scott
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner Moran
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

XIV. Report, presentation and/or action regarding the Internal Audit of Purchasing and Contracting Systems and Controls.

Russell Gregorczyk, Internal Auditor, provided the report regarding the Internal Audit of Purchasing and Contracting Systems and Controls. A copy of the report was provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting. Mr. Gregorczyk provided concerns and recommendations of the audit's findings.

MOTION:	Concurrence with the recommendations regarding Purchasing and Contracting Systems and Controls.
MADE BY:	Vice Chairman Scott
SECONDED BY:	Secretary Ellzey
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

NOTE: The Commission took up Agenda Item V after Agenda Item XIV.

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

Stan Kurtz, Veterans Employment Services 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 identified events and reviewed upcoming opportunities for outreach to Veterans. The Committee made a recommendation to change the name of the Grantee of the Year award due to confusion with the Fund for Veterans' Assistance awards. Recommendation was to change the name to Employer Services Award.

MOTION:	Change the name of award name from Grantee of the Year to Employer Services Award
MADE BY:	Commissioner McLeon
SECONDED BY:	Secretary Ellzey
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

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

XV. Report, presentation and/or action regarding Appropriation Year 2015, 4th Quarter Operating Statement.

Chip Osborne, Director of Resource Management provided the Agency Summary regarding Appropriate Year 2015 4th Quarter Operating Statement. There were no issues and budget is on target at this time.

XVI. Report, presentation and/or action regarding acceptance of gifts.

Chip Osborne, Director of Resource Management provided the report on the acceptance of gifts. $25 from the Gulf Coast Maine $500 from Walter Humphry; aand $250 from Galveston Republican Women. These were all given to support the Women Veterans Program.

MOTION:	Approve acceptance of gifts presented and apply directly to Women Veterans Program.
MADE BY:	Commissioner Moran
SECONDED BY:	Secretary Ellzey
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

XVII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding donor-designated gift to Texas Veterans in Hood and Tarrant Counties.

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director provided an oral presentation regarding the donor-designated gift to Texas Veterans in Hood and Tarrant counties. The gift provided was for the amount of $106,343.48. TVC reached out to both Hood and Tarrant County for input on how to distribute funds. The county's responses were provided to the Commission prior to today's meeting. Recommendation is to distribute funds evenly between both counties with a TVC MOU with each county. The MOU will address the requirement that the funds be used for Veterans that the counties must provide a report of how the funds were distributed to support Veterans within twelve months of receipt.

MOTION:	Approve recommendation to distribute funds evenly between Hood and Tarrant Counties
MADE BY:	Vice Chair Scott
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner McLeon
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

XVIII. Report, presentation and/or action regarding proposal to establish a TVC Non-Profit Entity for the Women Veterans Program.

Cruz Montemayor, Deputy Executive Director provided an oral presentation regarding the proposal to establish a TVC Non-Profit Entity for the Women Veterans Program. HB 867 created the establishment of the Texas Women Veterans Program in Section 434.201 of the Government Code and also amended Section 434.017(e) to read "The Commission may participate in the establishment and operation of an affiliated nonprofit organization that is established for the purpose of raising money for or providing services or other benefits to the commission or a program established in the commission, including the Texas Women Veterans Program." Request the Commission allow TVC to construct a plan to create a Non-profit entity for the Agency in order to solicit funds to benefit any programs established by the Commission. The plan will be provided to the Commission prior to implementation.

MOTION: To allow TVC staff to establish a plan for a TVC Non-Profit entity that would benefit WVP and other TVC programs.

MADE BY: Vice Chair Scott

SECONDED BY: Secretary Ellzey

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

XIX. Report, presentation and/or action regarding recommendations for Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series 16-A Grants.

Charles Catoe, Director of Funds for Veterans' Assistance presented the FVA Advisory Committee's recommendations for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series 16-A Grants. Of the 61 applicants, 56 were eligible to be evaluated for the $4,150,000 available. After careful consideration the FVA Advisory Committee recommended 25 organizations to the Commission for funding as follows:

Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation	$500,000
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	$300,000
YWCA El Paso del Norte Region	$75,000
Citizens Development Center	$100,000
Family Service Center at Houston and Harris County	$300,000
Presbyterian Night Shelter	$150,000
Lubbock Regional MHMR Center dba StarCare Specialty Health System	$300,000
Caritas of Waco	$150,000
Project Amistad	$300,000
Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels and Much, Much More	$50,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star	$75,000
County of Burnet	$50,000
Harris County	$300,000

Anderson County	$20,000
Goodwill Industries of Southeast Texas	$200,000
Salvation Army - Grayson County	$50,000
Family Eldercare	$125,000
Collin County	$100,000
Salvation Army - El Paso	$200,000
Travis County	$20,000
County of Webb	$50,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Texas	$200,000
Texas VFW Foundation	$500,000
Span, Inc.	$20,000
Adult Protective Services Partners	$15,000

MOTION: Approve the recommended organizations as presented, for the Fund for Veterans' Assistance General Assistance, Series 16-A Grants.

MADE BY: Secretary Ellzey

SECONDED BY: Commissioner McLeon

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

XX. 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 noted all of his meetings and events he will be attending this upcoming quarter to include the Senate Veteran Affairs & Military Installations (VAMI) Committee testimony at the State Capitol Building on November 20, 2015 reviewing all eligibility requirements for all service Veterans of Texas, the Red White and You Event, as well as the upcoming Summit. Mr. Palladino also discussed the strategic planning process that is in progress at this time.

XXI. 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. Shawn Deabay, Director of Program Operations, briefed the Commission on Claims Representation and Counseling's major activities accomplishments, and internal promotions amongst employees of TVC. Mr. Deabay further briefed the Commission on major activities and accomplishments regarding Veterans Employment and their selection of Al

King as the Regional Manager for South Texas and their upcoming Red White and You events across Texas. Lastly, Mr. Deabay addressed the Commission on major activities and accomplishments of the Veterans Education Program.

b. Chip Osborne, Director of Resource Management, reported on major activities and accomplishments of each program. He highlighted the success of the 2015 Fall Conference which was held in Galveston. Mr. Osborne further provided updates for the Funds for Veterans' Assistance Program since the last Commission Meeting. Finally, Mr. Osborne briefed on the successes of HR, IT and Finance.

c. Edie Disler, Director of External Relations, reported on major activities and accomplishments by each program since the last Commission Meeting. Ms. Disler spoke of the successes of communications, MVPN activities regarding the Justice Involved Veteran Summit, Women Veterans Program to include TX Women Veterans Roll Call Events, Government Relations and Veterans Entrepreneur Program events.

XXII. Executive Session.

Executive Session was held from 10:35 a.m. to 11: 17 a.m.

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

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

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

The Commission agreed for the 2nd Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY16 to be held on February 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in College Station.

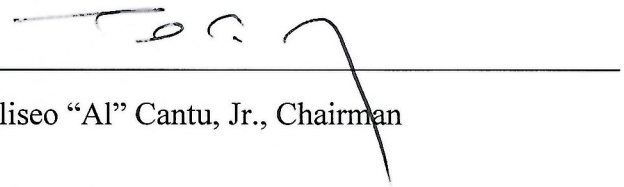
XXV. Adjournment.

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:	Secretary Ellzey
SECONDED BY:	Commissioner McLeon
ACTION:	The motion passed unanimously

Chairman Cantu adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Eliseo "Al" Cantu, Jr., Chairman

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
1st Quarterly Commission Meeting

FY 2016 – November 4, 2015

9:00 a.m. – Stephen F. Austin Building – Room 170

Speakers and Visitors

Jim Cunningham
Chair, Veterans Communication Advisory Committee

Laura Spain
Member, County Service Officer Advisory Committee

Mike Kirkland
Texas Workforce Commission

Russell Gregorczyk
Internal Auditor

Bailey Olderog
VAMI

Bill Wilson
VAMI

Jeff Williford