

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes

3rd Quarter Commission Meeting (FY 2021)

May 13, 2021

- I. Chairwoman Laura Koerner called to order the 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 a.m. on May 13, 2021, via live gotowebinar.

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum, were present:

Chairwoman Laura Koerner, Vice-Chair Kevin Barber, Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, Commissioner Mary Dale

Also present was Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino

Vice-Chair Kevin Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Commissioner Mary Dale led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.

II. **Public Comment.**

Members of the public were encouraged to register for the webinar at the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5335369591630771724>

Mia Garcia – Combined Arms

David Almanza – Webb County Service Office

Ricardo Quijano – Webb County Service Office

Mitch Fuller – Veteran of Foreign Wars

Dr. Labudalla, Dallas County Treatment Court

III. **Approve the FY2021 Second Quarterly Meeting minutes held February 11, 2021, and Special Meeting minutes held March 5, 2021.**

The minutes for the FY2021 Second Quarterly Commission Meeting held February 11, 2021, and Special Meeting minutes held March 5, 2021, were previously distributed to the Commissioners.

Motion: FY2021 Second Quarterly Commission Meeting held February 11, 2021 and Special Meeting minutes held March 5, 2021

Made By: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded By: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Action: The motion passed unanimously

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

The Commissioners reviewed the Quarterly Program Reports that were previously provided before the Commission meeting.

A. Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, briefed the Commissioners: "Good morning, Chair Koerner, Commissioners, and Mr. Palladino; for the record, I am Charlie Catoe, the Director of the Program Operations Division. Today I have a quick summary of the four departments within my division."

Claims Department. They are working with the Veteran County Service Officers Association of Texas, which has decided they will host their training conference at the end of August. They invited our claims department to provide some certification accreditation training for them as a portion of their event. A small team of TVC instructors will attend their conference and provide that training to our partners from the Veteran County Service Officers Association of Texas.

Veteran Education Department. In the first quarterly meeting of this year, back in November, I briefed that we were beginning the inaugural cycle for the Veterans Education Excellence Recognition Awards (VEERA). The application window opened in November 2020 and closed in April 2021. We received 16 applications from institutions of higher education from across the state. The award committee is in the process of reviewing those applications.

Health Care Advocacy Department. We are preparing for a positive outcome with the legislative session coming up and our exceptional item. Greg will tell you about that a little bit later in the legislative update. I have a good news story that I wanted to share about TVC teamwork and your Health Care Advocates in action. Recently, we had a veteran in distress reach out to our Women Veterans' Program. Dr. Matthews immediately contacted the Health Care Advocacy Department, and they were able to have someone meet that veteran who was distraught in the parking lot of a VA hospital. Working with our VA partners, Health Care Advocacy got the veteran back into the hospital and got the veteran treatment. They resolved the eligibility issues that the veteran was facing so that they could continue to be seen at the VA. I honestly believe that probably could have been a life saved, so my hats off to the TVC team and our partners in the VA. Just a great story all around.

Veterans Employment Service Department. April marked the 15th anniversary of Veterans Employment Services, joining the TVC team. The jobs for the Veterans State grant have changed and evolved over the years, but TVC is still the only state that this program is nested within the Veterans Agency. In contrast, the overall number of veterans across the country's labor force has declined 19% from 2013 to 2020. Texas gained in the market share each reporting period and is now the number one for large states with veterans in the labor force totaling 875,000. We're number one, and we're getting our veterans into the labor force and finding them jobs.

B. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, briefed the Commissioners:

Emergency Management Coordinator. Tim Shatto has worked so hard, so diligently, with our Texas Department of Emergency Management, and I'm happy to report that the headquarters has now moved to 50% of the staff going back into the offices. We will continue to progress as Tim does his analysis by looking at each county individually. He follows a matrix with the Texas Emergency Management to ensure that once that county turns green, we have staff visiting those offices to ensure they have the proper protective equipment, are sanitized, and the appropriate signage is posted.

Finance. In FY2021, we allocated \$438,509 for training travel, and due to COVID-19, we didn't do a lot of that. That money will not go to waste since we have advanced our technology by maintaining specific IT licenses. We have ensured that the staff has been taken care of, primarily through their Performance Evaluations, by offering one-times. We still have dollars available, so Mr. Palladino has given us the authority to start doing in-person training with our partners and staff. We will be looking at doing some training during the last quarter of the fiscal year, beginning in June. Also, for FY22-23, we did get a slight increase of about \$7700, mainly in the

VES program. We'll have \$446,200 for travel and will start visiting offices again in person doing the training.

C. Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, briefed the Commission on the following:

I want to share a couple of comments regarding our Communications and IT teams before turning it over. As you heard before, Dr. Krystle Matthews will talk about Woman Veteran's Day, and Greg Talamantez will provide a brief on the Legislative update. During the last Legislative Session, TVC was charged to coordinate activities in observance with Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which was May 8. We posted an ad from April 12 to May 8 announcing Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and it presented the opportunity to recognize spouses by sharing photos on a special TVC Facebook post. The ad also provided a link to active-duty resources in Texas. This proved to be very popular and possibly, the post with the single most engagements ever for TVC. By the end of the day, the Military Spouse Appreciation posts received over 9100 engagements, 249 comments, including photos shared, and the advertisement themselves received about 60 more comments thanking military spouses. From the IT Department, we are swiftly moving our security processes to include multifactor authentication.

Women Veterans Program. Dr. Krystle Matthews, Women Veterans Program Manager:

This year, Women Veteran's Day is Saturday, June 12. We plan to partner with Grace After Fire to host a virtual women veterans networking mixer on Friday, June 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We're hosting the event on Friday for maximum participation of women veterans and community partners. The event will honor and recognize women veterans for their military service and connect them to resources and other women veterans. The community partners will join us in breakout rooms to discuss various topics: peer groups, counseling, women veteran resources, National Veteran Resources, Department of Veteran Affairs Women Veterans services, veteran land, home loans, and TVC services. We currently have 116 veterans and veteran supporters registered for the event, and we'll be sending out details when we finalize the agenda.

Government Relations Program. Greg Talamantez, Government Relations Manager:

With 17 days remaining of the 87th Regular Session, and due to the effects of the global pandemic, this session was truly unprecedented and required us to learn new ways of doing business. It's no surprise agency staff stepped up to meet the challenge, and I commend them for the outstanding support provided to the Texas Legislature – both virtually and in person. To date, one bill that directly impacts the agency has passed both the Senate and House. That bill is SB886 - Relating to the provision of citizenship assistance to veterans by the Texas Veterans Commission. This bill directs the agency to assist and help facilitate the naturalization process for veterans and is still pending action from the Office of the Governor. The General Appropriations bill, SB1, is currently on the conference committee. The House and Senate work together to settle the differences between their respective budget proposals to create a single budget. The agency's exceptional item request, which is a request for funds in addition to our baseline budget, is currently pending in conference.

V. Quarterly Reports from Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee.

A. Earl Newsome, Chair of Veteran Services, provided a summary of the Advisory activities since their last report to the Commission.

B. Spencer Kimball, Chairman VCSO Advisory Committee, provided a summary of the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.

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

John Goodell, General Counsel, presented the Commissioners a report regarding Adopt Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees. The Texas Veterans Commission staff seeks Commission approval to adopt rule amendments in 40 TAC, 452.2 regarding the Advisory Committee. The amended rule modifies term limits for the committee chair and vice-chair. Establishes specific duties for the role of the vice-chair and provides term length parameters for all committee members. The new amendments are authorized under the Texas Government Code 434.010, granting the Commission the authority to establish rules that it considers necessary for the effective administration of the agency. The proposed amendments were posted for comment on the March 13, 2021 issue of the Texas Register. No comments were received. Staff recommends the adoption of the rule amendments as posted.

Motion: Approve the adoption of amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §452.2. Advisory Committees.

Made By: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded By: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Action: The motion passed unanimously

VII. Report, presentation, and/or action to Adopt Amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §460. Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program.

John Goodell, General Counsel, presented the Commissioners with a report regarding the Advisory Committee Membership application process. Commission staff seeks Commission approval to adopt rule amendments; 40 TAC, Chapter 460 subchapters 460.3, 460.8, 460.10, and 460.23 regarding the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program. These new rule amendments eliminate redundant language and modify the objectives of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance grant program and update obsolete references to provide current citations to the Code of Federal Regulations, which gives a government-wide framework for grants management. The new amendments are authorized under the Texas Government Code 434.010, granting the Commission the authority to establish rules that it considers necessary for the effective administration of the agency. The proposed new rules were posted for comment in the Texas Register's March 13, 2021 issue. No comments were received. Staff recommends the adoption of the rules as posted, with no changes pending.

Motion: Approve the adoption of amendments to Administrative Rule 40 TAC §460. Fund for Veterans' Assistance Program.

Made By: Commissioner Mary Dale

Seconded By: Commissioner Mike Hernandez

Action: The motion passed unanimously

VIII. Report, presentation, and/or action regarding Texas Veterans Commission "Veterans Employment Services" Employer Awards.

Jim Martin, Director of Veteran Employment, presents the following report. VES currently has 170 employment services staff located in 91 facilities across Texas. They are helping our veterans daily to obtain suitable employment. We're ready and eager to provide

employment assistance to the increasing number of veterans calling Texas home. Each year our department conducts an employer outreach award program that recognizes outstanding private and public sector employers who commit to recruiting and hiring veterans. We also recognize the Extra Mile award winner, Individual American Job Center, and Local Workforce Development Board who excelled in supporting veterans and veteran hiring initiatives. This year our TVC Veterans Employment Services staff submitted 56 nominations in nine different categories. All nominations were scored by representatives of five employment districts and our Headquarters staff. For the record, I would like to present the names of the top-scoring nominees and the nominator in each category.

Employer of the Year - Small

Veterans Moving America, LLC, Fort Worth, Texas
Nominator: Mark Gentry, VEL, VES North Texas District

Employer of the Year - Medium

Bullock Investigations, Longview, Texas
Nominator: Emma Breitbarth, RVCA(CP), VES North Texas District

Employer of the Year - Large

Booz Allen, San Antonio, Texas
Nominator: Tracy Griffard, VEL, VES North Texas District

Extra Mile Award

Goodwill Central Texas, Austin, Texas
Nominator: Joe Ramirez, VCA, VES HQ

Government Entity of the Year Award - Small

Webb County VSO, Laredo, Texas
Nominator: Homero Prado, RVCA (CP), VES South Texas District

Government Entity of the Year Award - Medium

Texas Juvenile Justice Department – Mart Complex, Mart, Texas
Nominator: Jerald Gould, VEL, VES Central Texas District

Government Entity of the Year Award - Large

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas
Nominator: Nelson Touchett, VEL, VES HQ

Local Workforce Center of the Year Award

Marbach American Job Center of Alamo Local Workforce Board Area, San Antonio, Texas
Nominator: Todd Arend, VEL, VES South Texas District

Workforce Development Board of the Year

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas, Belton, Texas
Nominator: Robert Hetzel, VEL, VES Central Texas District

Requesting you approve these nominees as our TVC award winners for the categories presented.

Motion: Approve the Texas Veterans Commission Veterans Employment Services Employer Awards

Made by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Action: The motion passed unanimously

IX. Report, presentation, and/or action regarding Texas Veterans Commission "Media" Awards.

Elaine Zavala, Director of Communications and Outreach, provided the report.

The Communications and Outreach Department reviewed and scored 13 Excellence in Media Awards Nominations. Each year the Texas Veterans Commission presents these awards to recognize works in media published or presented during the preceding year that have been exemplary in researching, reporting, writing, and production to foster public understanding on veterans' issues. It is free to submit a nomination. Awards seek to recognize publications and programs that meet one or more of these objectives:

- educate the public about the issues affecting veterans in Texas and their families;
- encourage public support for veterans' programs or inform the public about current veterans' program.

Nominations were opened on February 22, 2021, and closed on April 1, 2021. The department recommends the following nominations in the News, Print, Radio, and Photo categories.

News: "Local Veteran Fighting for Benefits for Family After Agent Orange Exposure" by Erika Fernandez, KBTX

Print: "Veteran Organizations Discuss Hardships, Resources Amid COVID-19" by Autumn Owens, Weatherford Democrat

Radio: "The VA is Relying More on Virtual Appointments, But Some Veterans Say the App Has Problems" by Carson Frame, Texas Public Radio – SATX

Photojournalism: "Homecoming" by Lance Winter, San Marcos Daily Record, San Marcos, TX

Motion: Approve the Texas Veterans Commission Media Awards
Made by: Commissioner Mary Dale
Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Action: The motion passed unanimously

X. Report, presentation, and/or action regarding the Appropriation Year 2021 Second Quarter Operating Statement.

Michelle Nall, Chief Financial Officer, provided an Agency Summary regarding Appropriation Year 2021, 2nd Quarter Operating Statement, and a summary of the programs' financial activities since its last report to the Commission.

XI. Report, presentation, and/or action regarding Acceptance of Gifts.

Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided an Agency Summary regarding Appropriation Year 2021, 2nd Quarter Donations. There were no donations received for the second quarter, FY21.

XII. Report, presentation, and/or action regarding grant renewals criteria for the 2021-2022 grant period.

Jim Bracken, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance Department, will present the grant renewals for the 2021-2022 grant cycle. The FVA Advisory Committee Chair – Kerry Reyna - will present the committee's recommended 2021-2022 grant applications for award.

- A. Veterans County Service Officer;
- B. Veterans Treatment Court;
- C. Housing for Texas Heroes;
- D. Veterans Mental Health; and
- E. General Assistance Grants

Jim Bracken - Veteran County Service Office grant renewals

FVA has provided the Commission a 2021-2022 FVA Grants e-Binder and an excel document that includes lists of current grantees that met the renewal criteria and lists of 2021-2022 grant applications recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee.

Our presentation will come from the excel document titled "Commissioners Renewal & Award Recs." In the excel document, there are separate worksheets for each of the grant categories we will present today. The Veteran County Service Officer grant renewals and application recommendations are found on the worksheet labeled, "3B. VCSO Renewal & FVAAC Recs". Commissioners are invited to refer to these worksheets during our presentation. At the top of the VCSO worksheet, the Renewal Group lists 4 Veteran County Service Officer grants that met the renewal criteria, totaling \$800,000 in funding. They are:

Hays County VCSO	\$	100,000
Hidalgo County VCSO	\$	500,000
Liberty County VCSO	\$	50,000
Webb County VCSO	\$	150,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for VCSO grant renewals.

Motion: Renew the Veteran County Service Office grants that met renewal criteria
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Commissioner Mary Dale
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna - Veteran County Service Office grant applications

On March 25, 2021, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2021-2022 Veteran County Service Office applications listed as the Second Group of Worksheet 3B. Our committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the RFA. We are recommending four applications for the award, totaling \$1.2 million in funding.

Harris County Community Services Dept (Financial Assistance)	\$	300,000
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El Paso County VCSO (Financial Assistance)	\$	300,000
Willacy County VCSO (Home Modifications)	\$	300,000
Bell County VCSO (Financial Assistance)	\$	300,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended VCSO applications.

Motion: Approve the 2021-2022 Veteran County Service Officer grants applications that were recommended by the FVAAC

Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Veteran Treatment Courts grant renewals

The Veteran Treatment Court grants listed Renewal Group. 14 of the 18 VTC grants met the renewal criteria, totaling \$3,355,000 dollars in funding. They are:

Williamson County	\$	30,000
Dallas County CSCD	\$	500,000
Webb County 406th District Court	\$	300,000
Nueces County CSCD	\$	75,000
McLennan County	\$	150,000
Bexar County Misdemeanor VTC	\$	250,000
Comal County	\$	150,000
Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Program	\$	200,000
Brazoria County Veterans Court Program	\$	300,000
Collin County	\$	500,000
Galveston County	\$	250,000
Hays County	\$	300,000
Travis County	\$	50,000
Tarrant County	\$	300,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for VTC grant renewals.

Motion: Renew the Veteran Treatment Court grants that met renewal criteria

Made by: Commissioner Mary Dale

Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – Veteran Treatment Courts grant applications

The Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2021-2022 Veteran Treatment Court applications listed as the Second Group of Worksheet 4B. Our committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the RFA. We are recommending three applications for award, totaling \$430,000 in funding.

Bell County VTC	\$	30,000
El Paso County VTC	\$	300,000
Guadalupe County VTC	\$	100,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended VTC applications.

Motion: Approve the 2021-2022 Veteran County Service Office grants applications that were recommended by the FVAAC
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Commissioner Mary Dale
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Housing for Texas Heroes grant renewals

The Housing for Texas Heroes grants listed in the Renewal Group. 17 of the 21 Housing for Texas Heroes grants met the renewal criteria, totaling \$4.4 million dollars in funding. They are:

The Salvation Army - Waco	\$	200,000
Panhandle Community Services	\$	300,000
Meals on Wheels Central Texas	\$	500,000
Operation FINALLY HOME	\$	250,000
Operation Homefront, Inc.	\$	100,000
Community Action Corporation of South Texas	\$	300,000
The Salvation Army - El Paso	\$	200,000
Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity	\$	200,000
CLC, Inc.	\$	300,000
The Salvation Army - Corpus Christi	\$	400,000
Alamo Area Council of Governments	\$	300,000
The Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity	\$	150,000
Families In Crisis, Inc.	\$	250,000
Rolling Plains Management Corporation	\$	300,000
The Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County	\$	50,000
Interfaith Action of Central Texas	\$	300,000
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	\$	300,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for H4TH grant renewals.

Motion: Renew the Housing for Texas Heroes grants that met renewal criteria
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications

The Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2021-2022 Housing for Texas Heroes applications listed as the Second Group of Worksheet 5B. Our committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the RFA. We are recommending four applications for award, totaling \$975,000 in funding.

Rebuilding Together Houston	\$	500,000
Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity Inc.	\$	75,000
Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County	\$	200,000
Rebuilding Together Austin	\$	200,000

That concludes the presentation for recommended Housing 4 Tx Heroes applications. Pending your questions,

- Motion:** Approve the 2021-2022 Housing for Texas Heroes grants applications that were recommended by the FVAAC
- Made by:** Chairwoman Laura Koerner
- Seconded by:** Commissioner Mary Dale
- Action:** The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Veterans Mental Health grant renewals

17 of the 25 Veteran Mental Health grants met the renewal criteria, totaling \$4,270,000 in funding. The Veteran Mental Health grants are listed in the Renewal Group. They are:

Marriage Management Consultants	\$	100,000
Project Amistad	\$	200,000
Center Point Inc.	\$	100,000
Caritas of Austin	\$	50,000
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.	\$	300,000
West Texas Counseling & Guidance	\$	500,000
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	\$	500,000
HOTRMHMR	\$	250,000
Armstrong Community Music School	\$	20,000
Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care	\$	500,000
Collin County	\$	250,000
Rock, Ride on Center for Kids	\$	100,000
Grace After Fire	\$	100,000
Refuge Services, Inc	\$	200,000
Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors	\$	500,000
Volunteers of America Texas	\$	200,000
Baylor Scott & White Research Institute	\$	400,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for VMH grant renewals.

- Motion:** Renew the Veteran Mental Health grants that met renewal criteria
- Made by:** Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
- Seconded by:** Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
- Action:** The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – Veteran Mental Health grant applications

The Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2021-2022 Veteran Mental Health applications listed as the Second Group of Worksheet 6B. Our committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the RFA.

We are recommending nine applications for award, totaling \$1.9 million in funding.

Pecan Valley MHMR Region	\$	300,000
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Cath Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston	\$	300,000
ANEWENTRY, Inc.	\$	150,000
Equest	\$	100,000
Emergence Health Network	\$	300,000
Jake E's Riding Round Up	\$	75,000
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)	\$	300,000
22Kill	\$	300,000
Rise Recovery	\$	75,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended VMH applications.

Motion: Approve the 2021-2022 Veteran Mental Health grants applications that were recommended by the FVAAC

Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Seconded by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – General Assistance grant renewals

The General Assistance grants are listed in the Renewal Group. 29 of the 37 General Assistance grants met the renewal criteria, totaling \$6,420,000 in funding. They are:

Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors	\$	300,000
Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County	\$	300,000
Community Partnership for the Homeless, Inc.	\$	150,000
Volunteers of America Texas	\$	200,000
Goodwill Central Texas	\$	300,000
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	\$	300,000
Houston Area Urban League	\$	300,000
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	\$	300,000
Foundation Communities Inc	\$	200,000
United Way of Denton County	\$	300,000
Katy Christian Ministries	\$	150,000
Grace After Fire	\$	150,000
Meals on Wheels Montgomery County	\$	300,000
Caritas of Austin	\$	75,000
Center Point Inc.	\$	300,000
Project MEND	\$	300,000
Project Amistad	\$	300,000
Veterans Center of North Texas	\$	100,000
Communities in Schools of Greater Central Texas, Inc.	\$	300,000
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry (SAMMinistries)	\$	300,000
Willacy County Veterans Service Office	\$	100,000
Alamo Area Council of Governments	\$	300,000
Burnet County	\$	75,000
Bring Everyone in The Zone, Inc.	\$	150,000
Fort Bend County	\$	250,000
The Salvation Army - Grayson County	\$	100,000
SPAN, Inc.	\$	20,000

Community Services of Northeast Texas, Inc.	\$	300,000
Caritas of Waco	\$	200,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for GA grant renewals.

- Motion:** Renew the General Assistance grants that met renewal criteria
Made by: Commissioner Mary Dale
Seconded by: Chairwoman Laura Koerner
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – General Assistance grant applications

The Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2021-2022 General Assistance applications listed as the Second Group of Worksheet 7B. Our committee considered and discussed these projects at length to reach a recommendation list that, we think, meets the Commission's priorities as laid out in the RFA.

We are recommending 27 applications for award, totaling \$6,330,000 in funding.

Ft Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels & Much Much More	\$	200,000
Citizens Development Center dba Achieve	\$	200,000
ANEWENTRY, Inc.	\$	150,000
Hidalgo County Community Service Agency	\$	300,000
Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation	\$	200,000
Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County	\$	300,000
Rolling Plains Management Corporation	\$	300,000
YWCA El Paso del Norte Region	\$	300,000
Texas VFW Foundation	\$	500,000
City of Fort Worth	\$	300,000
Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc.	\$	100,000
Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth	\$	300,000
Ark-Tex COG	\$	5,000
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$	300,000
NPower Inc.	\$	300,000
East Texas Council of Governments	\$	150,000
Hale County Meals on Wheels	\$	75,000
Lone Star Legal Aid	\$	300,000
CLC, Inc.	\$	500,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star	\$	100,000
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc.	\$	150,000
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston	\$	300,000
Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center	\$	150,000
Skill Point Alliance	\$	50,000
Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc.	\$	200,000
Pecan Valley MHMR Region	\$	300,000
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	\$	300,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended General Assistance applications.

Motion: Approve the 2021-2022 General Assistance grants applications that were recommended by the FVAAC
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Commissioner Mary Dale
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Chairwoman Koerner

"At this time, I would like the Commissioners to go back through each grant program and consider funding additional organizations for renewal or other grant applications as we have remaining funds to apply towards the TVC grant programs."

"In order for us to consider renewing grant organizations that did not meet the approved renewal eligibility criteria, which is 40 percent of both their performance measures, the commission will need to waive the provision in the 2021-2022 Request for Application that states, "To be eligible for such consideration, grantees must meet both performance and expenditure benchmarks."

Motion: Waive the renewal criteria listed in the 2021-2022 FVA Request for Application
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – Grant Applications not recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee

"Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioners, there was one application which was non-recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee."

Cameron County \$ 300,000 Supportive Services

Subject to your questions, that concludes my presentation.

Jim Bracken was brought in to elaborate on criteria that were not met on the application.

Motion: Approve \$200,00 for 2021-2022 VCSO grant application that was not recommended by the FVAAC
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Veteran Treatment Court grants that did not meet the renewal criteria

"Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioners, there were four (4) Veteran Treatment Court grants that did not meet the renewal criteria."

Bexar County Commissioners Court - Felony VTC	\$	150,000
Nueces County (Must combine with Nueces County CSCD)	\$	300,000
Hidalgo County CSCD	\$	100,000
City of Dallas	\$	100,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation.

Motion: Fund all 4 of those nonrenewal eligible at 50% of their originally requested funding amount. Bexar Co \$75,000, Nueces Co \$150,000, Hidalgo Co \$50,000 and City of Dallas \$50,000
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Housing for Texas Heroes grants that did not meet the renewal criteria

"There were four (4) Housing for Texas Heroes grants that did not meet the renewal criteria. All four are Home Modification grants."

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Garland, Inc	\$	250,000
City of Laredo (has 3 grants seeking renewal)	\$	250,000
Habitat for Humanity of Smith County	\$	250,000
Community Partnership for the Homeless, Inc.	\$	250,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation.

Motion: Fully fund Habitat for Humanity of greater Garland for \$250,000 and City of Laredo for \$250,000
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund Habitat for Humanity of Smith County for \$150,000
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Jim Bracken – Veteran Mental Health grants that did not meet the renewal criteria

"Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioners, there were eight (8) Veteran Mental Health grants that did not meet the renewal criteria."

Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center	\$	150,000	Peer Delivered Svcs
Cenikor Foundation	\$	200,000	Clinical
the Montrose Center	\$	100,000	Clinical
YWCA Greater Austin	\$	30,000	Clinical
Dallas County CSCD	\$	150,000	Clinical
City of Laredo	\$	150,000	Clinical
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.	\$	200,000	Clinical
Houston Methodist Hospital	\$	500,000	Clinical

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation.

Motion: Fully fund Sabine Valley Regional for \$150,000 and Cenikor Foundation for \$200,000
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund Santa Maria Hostel, Inc. for \$100,000

Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded by: Chair Laura Koerner

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund Dallas County CSCD for \$100,000

Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Action: The motion passed four yays, one nay (Commissioner Dale)

Kerry Reyna – Veteran Mental Health not recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee

"There were three (3) Veteran Mental Health applications non-recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee."

The Council on Recovery	\$ 300,000	Clinical
Veterans Freedom Retreat, Inc.	\$ 150,000	Peer Delivered Svcs
Harris County Sheriff's Office	\$ 150,000	Peer Delivered Svcs

No motion was made.

Jim Bracken – General Assistant grants that did not meet the renewal criteria

"Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioners, there were eight (8) General Assistance grants that did not meet the renewal criteria."

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	\$ 250,000	Supportive Svcs
Community Council of South-Central Texas	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
Val Verde County VCSO (renew as VCSO)	\$ 75,000	Transportation Svcs
Hope For The Warriors	\$ 250,000	Financial Assistance
City of Laredo (has 3 grants seeking renewal)	\$ 50,000	Financial Assistance
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas	\$ 75,000	Family Services
Texas A&M Research Foundation	\$ 75,000	Pro Bono Legal Svcs
Nueces County	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation.

Motion: Fund Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston for \$250,000, Community Council of South-Central Texas for \$150,000 and Val Verde County VCSO for \$75,000

Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded by: Commissioner Mary Dale

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Kerry Reyna – General Assistance not recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee

"There were thirteen (13) General Assistance applications which were non-recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee."

Family Eldercare	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans
South East Texas Regional Planning Comm	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
East Texas Veterans Community Council	\$ 150,000	Referral Services
Concho Valley Ctr for Human Advancement	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
Metroplex Military Charitable Trust	\$ 100,000	Pro Bono Legal Svcs
The Council on Recovery	\$ 250,000	Supportive Services
Combined Arms	\$ 200,000	Referral Services
Worklife Ministry Inc. dba Worklife Institute	\$ 200,000	Employment Support
United States Veterans Initiative	\$ 250,000	Homeless Veterans
Comfort Crew for Military Kids	\$ 100,000	Supportive Services
U.G.M. of Dallas	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans
Operation Blue Shield, Inc. One Community USA	\$ 112,614	Employment Support
Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse - Coastal Bend	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services

Subject to your questions, that concludes my presentation.

Motion: Fund Concho Valley Ctr for Human Advancement for \$300,000
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund Combined Arms for \$200,000
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund Family Eldercare for \$200,000
Made by: Chair Laura Koerner
Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund United States Veterans Initiative for \$200,000
Made by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Seconded by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Motion: Fund U.G.M. of Dallas for \$200,000
Made by: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Seconded by: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber
Action: The motion passed unanimously

Chairwoman Laura Koerner asks Jim Bracken to summarize, so we know how much money we have granted, for the record.

Jim Bracken reports: As the screen shows, the running total for renewals is 95 grants to be renewed for one year. And they totaled \$ 21,245,000 to serve 18,575 clients. Below, a total of 53 applications were awarded for an amount of \$ 12,185,000, serving 15,050 clients for a summary of 148 grants for \$33,430,000.

By far, the highest amount TVC has awarded.

XIII. Executive Director report.

Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter, meetings, and events he has attended to include relationships with other State and Federal veteran agencies. Since March 2020, the agency has been in a virtual remote status. We transformed into providing the necessary equipment in training so that all our staff could provide their services virtually and remotely, and they did a fantastic job through the past year. In April 2021, I asked the Division Directors and Program Directors to analyze every single location (153 offices in over 75 cities) to start reconstituting per the reconstitution plan. Our reconstitution plan states that we would reconstitute re-occupy individually by office, not collectively. So we did that, and right now, 41 of our offices have reopened.

XIV. Executive Session.
None.

XV. Discussion and take possible action on the items considered in Executive Session.
There were no items to act on.

XVI. Discussion about setting the date, time, and location of the next Commission Meeting

The Commission agreed that the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY21 would be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin TX, SFA Bldg room 170.

XVII. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.

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

Chairwoman Koerner provided closing remarks as well.

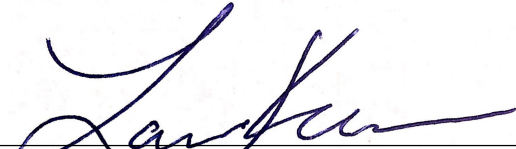
Motion: Adjourn 3rd Quarter Meeting

Made By: Vice-Chair Kevin Barber

Seconded By: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m. Minutes Approved by:



Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Secretary