

Texas Veterans Commission Meeting Minutes Emergency Meeting (FY 2020) July 21, 2020

I. Call to order.

Chairwoman Laura Koerner called to order the Emergency Commission Meeting of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) at 9:00 am on July 21, 2020 via live [gotowebinar](#).

The following Commissioners, constituting a quorum were present:

Laura Koerner, Chairwoman
Kevin Barber, Secretary
Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner
Mike P. Hernandez, Commissioner
Mary Lopez Dale, Commissioner

Also present was Thomas P. Palladino, Executive Director.

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Secretary Barber and Commissioner Shaneyfelt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Chairwoman Koerner would like to recognize 2 new members of the Commission. Commissioner Mary Lopez Dale, a US Army Veteran of Cedar Park, TX and Mike Hernandez, a Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran of Abilene, TX.

II. Public Comment.

Veteran County Service Officer Salvador Castillo, Cameron County made public comment.

III. Report, Presentation and/or action regarding Commission Officer elections (Vice Chair and Secretary)

Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt nominates Commissioner Kevin Barber.
Commissioner Kevin Barber agrees to the nomination.
No other nominations were given.

MOTION: Approve the election of Commissioner Kevin Barber as Vice-Chair

MADE BY: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kevin Barber nominates Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt as Secretary.
Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt agrees to the nomination.
No other nominations were given.

MOTION: Approve the election of Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt as Secretary

MADE BY: Commissioner Mary Dale
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Report, Presentation and/or action regarding update for the Funds for Veterans' Assistance grant procedures and 2021-2022 Request for Applications (RFA).**

James (Jim) Bracken, Director, Funds for Veterans Assistance briefed the Commission regarding the update for the Funds for Veterans' Assistance grant procedures and 2021-2022 Request for Applications.

(Change Surviving Spouse definition for 2020-21 (RFA))

Proposed: "Surviving spouse. A person who was the spouse of the veteran at the time of the veteran's death, and

(a) who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran's death, and

(b) has not remarried or has not since the death of the veteran and after September 19, 1962, lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public to be the spouse of such other person."

MOTION: Approve changing the Surviving Spouse definition for 2020-21 RFA

MADE BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will do a presentation on the FVA program and presents recommendation for the FVA Program Goals.)

FVA intends to consolidate the four grants program RFAs into a single RFA document beginning in the 2021- 22 grant cycle

MOTION: Approve consolidate the 2021-2022 grant applications into one RFA

MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mary Dale

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(FVA recommendation to add the FVA Program Goals to the RFA draft)

Add FVA Grant Program Goals in RFA 2021-22

1. Provide support, services, and resources to veterans, their families, and surviving spouses where they live to improve their quality of life and strengthen their connections with their community.
2. Responsively serve eligible beneficiaries to meet acute and chronic needs.
3. Provide grant-funded services and resources with measurable, positive outcomes.
4. Ensure grant-funded projects are available to veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses across the state.(*)
5. Ensure a diversity of grant-funded services are available within geographic regions.(*)
6. Fully fund grant projects that support the Fund's overall and specific program goals of the Commission.(*)

MOTION: Approve recommendation to add the FVA Program Goals to the RFA draft

MADE BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mike Hernandez

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken presents a recommendation to Realign Service Categories within Grant Programs.)

Realign service categories to enable regional/county support for veterans based on socio-economic, and community factors.

****Vice Chair Kevin Barber recommends keeping referral services in General Assistance Grants.**

Amended Motion:

MOTION: Keep the referral services in the service categories

MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mary Dale

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken presents a recommendation to Update Funding Priorities for 2021-22 Grant Cycle.)

MOTION: Approve updating the Funding Priorities for 2021-22 Grant Cycle

MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mary Dale

Discussion by Commissioners: Chairwoman Koerner, Vice Chair Barber and Secretary Shaneyfelt.

Needs to be flushed out more in the RFA.

#2. Provide services and resources available through FVA grant programs to veterans and their families based upon their expressed needs for their county and/or region. (Does not apply to VTC grants)

The new priorities provide performance and accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to current veteran’s needs.

Motion:

All those in favor: Commissioner Dale, Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioner Hernandez

All those opposed: Vice Chair Barber, Secretary Shaneyfelt.

Motion passes

(Jim Bracken will now present a recommendation to Adjust Organization Eligibility Criteria.)

Organizations that have TVC grant(s), and who would be eligible for renewal for the next TVC grant cycle if they meet renewal criteria, are ineligible to submit applications for the same grant program.

MOTION: Approve adjusting the Organization Eligibility Criteria

MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will now present a recommendation to Adjust Renewal Eligibility Criteria.)

Organizations must submit quarterly grant outcome reports demonstrating their grant projects are meeting program goals and providing measurable benefits to veteran clients.

MOTION: Approve the recommendation to Adjust Renewal Eligibility Criteria

MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

SECONDED BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will present a recommendation to Adjust Application Eligibility Criteria.)

Adjust financial documentation (independent audited financial statements) for applicants requesting more than \$200,000 for their grant projects.

MOTION: Approve adjusting Application Eligibility Criteria

MADE BY: Commissioner Mary Dale

SECONDED BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will now present a recommendation to Adjust Application Eligibility Criteria.)

Organizations and units of local government can submit a total of 2 applications per grant period.

MOTION: Approve adjusting Application Eligibility Criteria

MADE BY: Commissioner Mike Hernandez

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will present a recommendation to Adjust Application Eligibility Criteria.)

Unallowable expenses included in applications (totaling 20%-40% of the total grant amount requested), may be removed from the application by the Executive Director – and applicants will be notified accordingly.

Unallowable expenses exceeding 40% of the total grant amount requested will be deemed ineligible by the Executive Director – and applicants will be notified accordingly.

MOTION: Approve adjusting the Unallowable expense consequences

MADE BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will present a recommendation to Adjust Application Eligibility Criteria.)

Applications that comingle service areas within the Supportive Services Category (in General Assistance grants) will be ineligible.

MOTION: Motion to open discussion
MADE BY: Vice Chair Kevin Barber
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt

Commissioners have open discussion over the comingle service areas.

Jim Bracken recommends withdraw this recommendation because it puts undue limits on the Commissioner.

MOTION: Table the current motion
MADE BY: Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Secretary Kevin Barber
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

(Jim Bracken will present, a recommendation to Adjust Application Eligibility Criteria)

For home modification services, the beneficiary must be listed as the property owner in the county records; and Beneficiaries considered very low and low income shall be considered as priority clients by grantees.

MOTION: Approve adjusting Application Eligibility Criteria
MADE BY: Commissioner Mike Hernandez
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Mary Dale
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously

V. **Adjournment.**

Chairwoman Koerner asked 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: Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
SECONDED BY: Chairwoman Laura Koerner
ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Secretary



Laura Koerner,
Chairwoman