



**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
THIRD QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2022)
Thursday, May 12, 2022, 09:00 a.m.
1700 N. Congress Ave, Room 170, Austin TX 78701**

MINUTES

I. OPENING

- a. Chairwoman Laura Koerner calls the meeting to order at 09:16 a.m.
- b. Roll call:

Secretary Shaneyfelt informs Chairwoman Koerner that there is a quorum.

Chairwoman Laura Koerner, Vice-Chair Kevin Barber, Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, Commissioner Mary Dale,
Also present was Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino.

- c. Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Commissioner Mike Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- d. Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.
- e. Approval of the February 10, 2022, Second Quarter Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the minutes

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonetta Andrepont, Director of Women Veteran Group B.O.O.T.S., Grant Organization: Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
Shanna Burke, Executive Director for Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
Carl Dwyer, Veterans Assistance Office, El Paso, TX.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Quarterly Presentations from Advisory Committees.
 - i. **Dr. Al Dos Santos, Chair of Veteran County Service Officer**, provided a summary of the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.
 - ii. **Earl Newsome, Chair of Veteran Services**, provided a summary of the Advisory activities since their last report to the Commission.
- b. Presentation Regarding the Annual Internal Audit Plan. Daniel Graves, Risk Advisory Services for Weaver and Tidwell L.L.P., gave the report.

“Based on the Annual Internal Audit Plan approved by the Commissioners in November, we have started planning and executing the audits and follow-up procedures for the fiscal year 2022. The F.Y. 2022 Internal Audit Plan includes an internal audit for Procurement with two moderate

findings, an overall rating of strong, follow-up procedures in June over findings identified in prior internal audits, and a full risk assessment update.”

IV. REPORTS

a. Report on Agency Departments and Programs.

i. **Program Operations Division.** Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, provided the Commissioners with the T.V.C. Agency reconstitution updates and department updates.

1. **Reconstitution Report.** Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, gave a detailed report to the Commissioners of the latest Texas Veterans Commission reconstitution updates.

2. **Department Summaries.**

Veterans Employment Services: D.O.L. Grant Audit completed. Informal feedback indicates a few corrective actions will be required, but the case file audit resulted in 100% compliance. A lot of training is being conducted.

Claims: Most offices are open. They are taking appointments both virtual and in person. March 2022 Claims customer numbers were up over 20% from the March 2021 customer numbers. Additionally, Claims are moved to a state work queue for virtual appointments; this opens up virtual appointment availability since the meeting can be scheduled anywhere in the state. Claims new Operations Manager – Gary Ivy, prior N.W. District Manager.

Health Care Advocacy: They accomplished four district training's in April.

Veterans Education: The response letter from the Veterans Administration regarding the appeal. T.V.C. succeeded in the appeal request, and the rating was upgraded to a Satisfactory. A new Veterans Education Director was hired, David Salgado. He comes from Utah, where he was the Utah State Approving Authority for the last couple of years.

ii. **Resource Management Division.** Chip announced the new Veterans Entrepreneur Director, Megan Tamez. Additionally, this year in V.M.H.D. We added a couple of Homeless Coordinators, and now we've also added a Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

1. **Appropriation Year 2022 Second Quarter Operating Statement:** Michelle Nall, C.F.O. of the T.V.C. Finance Department, gave a detailed brief to the Commissioners on the Appropriation Year 2022 Second Quarter Operating Statement.

2. **Fund for Veterans Assistance Grantee Search Tool Initiative:** Elisabeth Webster, F.V.A. Communications Coordinator, briefed the Commissioners on a brief demo of the Veterans Interactive Services Directory.

3. **T.V.C. Survey of Employee Engagement:** Tina Marberry, Director of Human Resources, briefed the Commissioners on the results of the Employee Engagement Survey discussed during our recent Agency-Wide Communication. These results reflect the perceptions of each T.V.C. employee that responded. The agency's overall score improved from 392 (2020) to 408 (2022). Scores above 400 are the product of a highly engaged workforce. T.V.C. improved in every category except the perception of pay; however, T.V.C. has given a majority of employees pay increases each year.

- b. Deputy Executive Director Report.** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates.
- i. Richard Jimenez is leaving for the Office of the Attorney General. Arnold Alaniz is moving to Washington, D.C. Lastly, Gabe Torres is transferring to Health and Human Services.
 - ii. Women Veterans Day Event: Dr. Krystle Matthews briefed the Commissioners on the upcoming Texas Women Veterans Day 5k run at Camp Mabry on Saturday, June 4, 2022.
- c. Executive Director Report.** Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's priorities and activities over the last quarter, including meetings and events he has attended to include relationships with other state and federal veteran agencies. Provided a summary of V.A. Recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (A.I.R.) Commission. The VA Recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (A.I.R.) Commission for the Veteran Integrated Service Network (V.I.S.N.) 16 and 17, located in Texas. The A.I.R. Commission will then provide their recommendations to Congress, who will make all final decisions on these facilities.

V. CONSIDERATIONS

- a. *Acceptance of Gifts.*** Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided the Commissioners with an update on T.V.C.'s acceptance of two donations for \$778.85 for the 2nd quarter of F.Y. 2022. T.V.C. requested that these funds be approved and allocated to the Funds for Veterans Assistance.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to accept the gifts and allocate them to the Funds' for Veterans Assistance.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- b. *Action Regarding Veteran County Service Officer (V.C.S.O.) Advisory Committee Membership.*** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, gave the report. The T.V.C. Staff recommendation for appointment to the V.C.S.O. Advisory Committee is Samuel Perez Jr. from Cameron County. Melissa Castillo, former Dallas County V.C.S.O., will be replaced by Samuel Perez if approved by the Commission. Mr. Perez Jr. will serve the remainder of Melissa Castillo's term ending December 31, 2024. However, he will also be eligible for reappointment to serve an additional 4-year term ending December 21, 2028.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the recommendation of Samuel Perez, Jr.'s appointment to the V.C.S.O. Advisory Committee, he is replacing Melissa Castillo.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- c. *Action Regarding the 2023-2027 T.V.C. Strategic Plan.*** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided the Commissioners with an update on T.V.C.'s Strategic Plan required format and process.

Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, discusses the recommended changes to the Performance Measures in detail.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to accept the 2023-2027 T.V.C. Strategic Plan contingent on the L.B.B. and

Governor's approval.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- d. **Action Regarding Texas Veterans Commission Employer Awards.** Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, provided the Commissioners with the winners of the T.V.C.'s Employer Awards for their approval.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the T.V.C. Employer Awards.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- e. **Action Regarding Texas Veterans Commission Excellence in Media Awards** Elaine Zavala, Director of Communications, provided the Commissioners with the winners of the T.V.C.'s Excellence in Media Awards for their approval.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the T.V.C. Excellence in Media Awards.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- f. **Action Regarding the Adoption of Administrative Rule Title 40 T.A.C. Part 15 Section 460.3 Applicant Eligibility.** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided the following brief. The 2nd Commission meeting T.V.C. approved for publication in the Texas Register proposed amendments. The proposed amendment was made to eliminate language that could inadvertently exclude eligible applicants for commission grants. Specifically request to remove the phrase "research institutions" from the 3rd item, in paragraph b; no comments were received from the public. A copy of the notice of adoption will be published in the Texas Register upon commission approval. After adoption by the Commission, the rule will take effect 20 days after the date it is submitted to the Secretary of State.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve the T.V.C. Staff recommendation regarding Applicant Eligibility for F.V.A. grants.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- g. Action Regarding Recommendations for 2022-2023 Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grants:
- i. Veterans County Service Officer.
 - ii. Veterans Treatment Court.
 - iii. Housing for Texas Heroes.
 - iv. Veterans Mental Health.
 - v. General Assistance.

VETERANS COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER

Jim Bracken, F.V.A. Director will present the grant renewals for the 22-23 grant cycle, and Kerry Reyna, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Chair, will be presenting the committee's recommended grant applications for award. Jim provided an overview of the grant cycle, and Kerry Reyna provided an overview of the grant recommendation process.

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken presents, "Commissioners, for various reasons, none of the current Veteran

County Service Office grants met the renewal criteria. However, F.V.A. is prepared to present the grants to the Commission for renewal consideration; after Chair Reyna presents the recommended application."

Kerry Reyna, Chair of the F.V.A. Advisory Committee, briefs, "on April 25, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2022-2023 Veteran County Service Office applications. The 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 R.F.A.

We recommend six applications for award, totaling \$875,000 in funding.

Hays County	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance
Liberty County	\$ 50,000	Financial Assistance
Val Verde County	\$ 75,000	Transportation Programs & Svcs.
Zapata County	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance
Webb County	\$ 150,000	Transportation Programs & Svcs.
Willacy County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended V.C.S.O. grant applications."

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant applications.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chair Laura Koerner explained to the Commission that to consider renewing Veteran County Service Officer grants that did not meet the renewal criteria, the Commission will need to waive the 2022-2023 R.F.A. provision that specifies the renewal criteria.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to waive the renewal criteria in the F.V.A. R.F.A. to enable the Commission to renew additional grants today that did not meet the renewal criteria.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken briefed, "five Veteran County Service Office grants were in the renewal track but did not meet the renewal criteria.

Harris County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
El Paso County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Bell County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	

Cameron County	\$ 200,000	Employment Support	Comm. Dale had concerns. Jim Bracken addressed the concerns.
Willacy County	\$ 0.00	Home Modification	Previously awarded a grant of \$300,000 in the V.C.S.O category under Financial Assistance.

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for V.C.S.O. grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the V.C.S.O. grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Jim Bracken, F.V.A. Director briefs, “Chairwoman Koerner, for various reasons, none of the 2021-2022 Veteran Treatment Court grants met the renewal criteria. However, F.V.A. is prepared to present the grants for the Commission's renewal consideration – after Chair Reyna presents the committee's application recommendations for this grant category.”

Kerry Reyna, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Chair briefs, “Chairwoman Koerner, on April 25, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2022-2023 Veteran Treatment Court applications. The 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 R.F.A.

We recommend 14 applications for the award, totaling \$3,405,000 in funding.

Grantee Organization	Eligible Amount	Comments:
Travis County	\$ 50,000	
City of Dallas	\$ 50,000	
Tarrant County	\$ 300,000	
Galveston County	\$ 250,000	
Bexar County Commissioners Court	\$ 500,000	Chair Koerner asked if this grantee is the same as Bexar County Felony V.T.C. Kerry Reyna responded, "yes, it is."
Webb County 406th District Court	\$ 300,000	

Montgomery County VTC	\$ 200,000	
Collin County	\$ 500,000	
Dallas County CSCD	\$ 500,000	Comm. Shaneyfelt – do we have any understanding as to why they would characterize their services as state-wide? Kerry Reyna, “the counties were asked, and they stated they have reciprocal agreements with the surrounding counties.”
Hays County	\$ 300,000	
Bexar County Felony V.T.C.	\$ 75,000	
Williamson County	\$ 30,000	
Comal County	\$ 150,000	Comm. Shaneyfelt – do we have any understanding as to why they would characterize their services as state-wide? Kerry Reyna, the counties were asked, and they have reciprocal agreements with the surrounding counties. Comm. Shaneyfelt, “why were they rated as unsatisfactory; do we have any information on that?” Kerry Reyna, their salary to client services ratio.
Nueces County	\$ 200,000	Comm. Shaneyfelt – why were they marked unsat? Jim Bracken, “a rubric that the grant-officers follow is used to score applications, creating an average.”

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended V.T.C. applications.”

MOTION: Made by Chair Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the 2022-2023 F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant applications.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken briefed, “next, three Veteran Treatment Court grants did not meet the renewal criteria.

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

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for V.T.C. grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendations for the Veteran Treatment Court grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROS (H.T.X.)

Jim Bracken, F.V.A. Director briefs, "Commissioners, if you would please refer to the top of Housing for Texas Heroes list, of the four grants seeking renewal, only one met the renewal criteria specified in the R.F.A.

Rebuilding Together Houston	\$ 500,000
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Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for Housing for Texas Heroes grants that met the renewal criteria.”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for Housing for Texas Heroes grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Kerry Reyna, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Chair briefs, “Commissioners, on April 25, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2022-2023 Housing for Texas Heroes applications. We 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 R.F.A.

We recommend 14 applications for award, totaling \$4,430,000 in funding.

Grantee Organization	Eligible Amount	Comments:
Meals on Wheels Central Texas	\$ 500,000	
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Garland	\$ 500,000	

<p align="center">Interfaith Action of Central Texas</p>	<p align="center">\$ 300,000</p>	<p>Comm. Dale, “it looks like they had an 80% on client services and an application rating of commendable but labeled as "high risk, with material weaknesses" can I get some feedback?” Jim Bracken, “that organization serves home mod projects in the Austin area. A routine compliance visit identified some discrepancies; we addressed the concerns. This organization has a material weakness in its procurement process. Jim Bracken, “they are highly motivated to take the corrective actions. Technical assistance will be provided to this organization.”</p>
<p align="center">Operation FINALLY HOME</p>	<p align="center">\$ 500,000</p>	
<p align="center">Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p align="center">\$ 200,000</p>	
<p align="center">Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p align="center">\$ 250,000</p>	
<p align="center">Meals on Wheels San Antonio</p>	<p align="center">\$ 150,000</p>	
<p align="center">Panhandle Community Services</p>	<p align="center">\$ 500,000</p>	
<p align="center">Rolling Plains Management Corporation</p>	<p align="center">\$ 300,000</p>	
<p align="center">Habitat for Humanity of Smith County</p>	<p align="center">\$ 200,000</p>	
<p align="center">Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity</p>	<p align="center">\$ 200,000</p>	
<p align="center">Rusted and Weathered, Inc.</p>	<p align="center">\$ 30,000</p>	
<p align="center">City of Laredo</p>	<p align="center">\$ 300,000</p>	
<p align="center">Easterseals Central Texas</p>	<p align="center">\$ 500,000</p>	

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended Housing for Texas Heroes applications.”

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to approve the 2022-2023 F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken briefed, “the Housing for Texas Heroes grant applications, the Renewal Group, lists three grants that did not meet renewal criteria.

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

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for Housing for TX Heroes grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

Discussion to approve two of the three Housing for TX Heroes grant renewals.

Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County	\$ 200,000
Rebuilding Together Austin	\$ 200,000

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Chair Laura Koerner to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for Housing for Texas Heroes that did not meet the grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Pending your questions, that concludes my presentation.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken presents, "Commissioners, for various reasons, none of the Veteran Mental Health grants met the renewal criteria. However, F.V.A. is prepared to present the grants for the Commission's renewal consideration – after Chair Reyna presents the committee's application recommendations for this grant category."

Kerry Reyna, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Chair briefs, “Chairwoman Koerner, On April 25, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for 2022-2023 Veteran Mental Health applications listed as the Second Group of V.M.H. Roll-up list. The 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 R.F.A.

“We recommend 16 applications for award, totaling \$4,080,000 in funding.

Grantee Organization	Eligible Amount	Service Category	Comments:
Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care	\$ 500,000	Clinical Counseling	
Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors	\$ 500,000	Clinical Counseling	
West Texas Counseling & Guidance	\$ 500,000	Clinical Counseling	
Caritas of Austin	\$ 50,000	Peer Support Services	
Refuge Services, Inc	\$ 200,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Dale requested feedback on high-risk grantees. Jim Bracken, “20% of items listed in the budget narrative are unallowable, or we don’t understand their relationship to the grant process. If approved, F.V.A. staff will work with the grantee and agree on allowable expenditures. This is not a new grantee.”
Project Amistad	\$ 200,000	Clinical Counseling	
Rock, Ride on Center for Kids	\$ 100,000	Clinical Counseling	
Easterseals of Greater Houston, Inc.	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	
Armstrong Community Music School	\$ 30,000	Peer Support Services	
Collin County	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Dale requested feedback on high-risk grantees. Comm. Shaneyfelt, “it states clinical counseling, area of impact state-wide. How is a county in the business of doing

			<p>counseling state-wide?” Jim Bracken, “this application is their Valor program, and they serve any veteran in the state of Texas. This is an in-patient facility. If a veteran is elsewhere but needs inpatient, they can be transferred to this facility.”</p>
Baylor Scott & White Research Institute	\$ 500,000	Clinical Counseling	
Cenikor Foundation	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	
Grace After Fire	\$ 100,000	Peer Support Services	
HOTRMHMR	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	
Marriage Management Consultants	\$ 150,000	Peer Support Services	<p>Comm. Dale requested feedback on high-risk grantees. Jim Bracken, “this is a previous grantee. They provide counseling services operated from home, and the husband/wife team travels to various regions in the state and provides workshops. They don't appear to be able to sustain their ops because they operate on a shoestring budget.”</p>
South TX Afghan Iraq Vet Association (S.T.A.I.V.A.)	\$ 50,000	Peer Support Services	<p>Comm. Dale requested feedback on high-risk grantees. Jim Bracken, “new applicant, don't know much about</p>

			them, but they serve Region 4, a historically underserved region.
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Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for recommended V.M.H. applications.”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Chair Laura Koerner to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for Veteran Mental Health grant applications.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Jim Bracken, F.V.A. Director presents, “Commissioners, at the top of the V.M.H. worksheet, the Renewal Group lists seven Veteran Mental Health grants in the renewal track but, for various reasons, did not meet renewal criteria.

Grantee Organization	Current Grant Amount	Service Category	Comments:	Recommended Amount
Jake Es Riding Round-Up	\$ 75,000	Clinical Counseling		\$ 75,000
Equest	\$ 75,000	Clinical Counseling		\$ 75,000
Rise Recovery	\$ 75,000	Peer Support Services	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 50,000
22Kill	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 200,000
Pecan Valley MHMR Region	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 150,000
Cath Charities of Archdiocese of Galv-Houston	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 150,000
US Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)	\$ 300,000	Clinical Counseling	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 150,000

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for Veteran Mental Health grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the V.M.H. grant renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken presents, "Commissioners if you would please refer to the top of General Assistance grants list. 11 General Assistance grants met the renewal criteria, totaling \$2,875,000 in funding.

Rolling Plains Management Corporation	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
NPower Inc.	\$ 300,000	Employment Support
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
Hale County Meals on Wheels	\$ 75,000	Supportive Services
Lone Star Legal Aid	\$ 300,000	Pro Bono Legal Services
Family Svc Ctr of Houston and Harris County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance
Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation	\$ 200,000	Financial Assistance
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star	\$ 100,000	Supportive Services
Citizens Development Center dba Achieve	\$ 200,000	Employment Support
CLC, Inc.	\$ 500,000	Financial Assistance
Concho Valley Ctr for Human Advancement	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance

F.V.A. is prepared to present the other General Assistance grants that did not meet the renewal criteria to the Commission for renewal consideration – after Chair Reyna presents the committee's application recommendations for this grant category.

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for General Assistance grants that met the renewal criteria.”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the General Assistance grants meeting renewal category.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Kerry Reyna, F.V.A. Advisory Committee Chair briefs, “Commissioners, on April 25, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and vote on our funding recommendations for the 2022-2023 General Assistance applications. The 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 R.F.A.

We recommend 45 applications for award, totaling \$9,870,000 in funding.

Grantee Organizations	Eligible Amount	Service Category	Comments
Caritas of Austin	\$ 75,000	Financial Assistance	
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	\$ 250,000	Supportive Services	
The Salvation Army - San Antonio	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Hope For The Warriors	\$ 250,000	Financial Assistance	
Meals on Wheels Montgomery County	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Community Council of South-Central Texas	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance	
Nueces County	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance	
Katy Christian Ministries	\$ 200,000	Financial Assistance	
Meals on Wheels San Antonio	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	
Veterans Center of North Texas	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance	

Caritas of Waco	\$ 200,000	Financial Assistance	
The Salvation Army - Grayson County	\$ 100,000	Financial Assistance	
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance	
United Way of Denton County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Fort Bend County	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
The Salvation Army - Waco	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Burnet County	\$ 75,000	Transportation Programs & Svcs.	
The Salvation Army - Corpus Christi	\$ 300,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
LiftFund Inc.	\$ 200,000	Small Business Support (New Service Category this yr.)	
Goodwill Central Texas	\$ 150,000	Employment Support	
Volunteers of America Texas	\$ 200,000	Financial Assistance	
SPAN, Inc.	\$ 20,000	Transportation Programs & Svcs	
The Salvation Army - El Paso	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	
Project Amistad	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Family Endeavors Inc. dba Endeavors	\$ 300,000	Homeless Veterans Support	Comm. Dale, "concerns because of the high-risk, and conflict of interest." Jim Bracken, "there

			appears that some of the C-level employees serve on the board or they are affiliated with executing the grant. Risk of comingling and dual-hat roles. The application's face value. They have been a grantee for a few years.”
Families In Crisis, Inc.	\$ 300,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Operation Homefront, Inc.	\$ 100,000	Supportive Services	
Communities In Schools of Greater CEN TX	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	
City of Laredo	\$ 75,000	Financial Assistance	
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry	\$ 300,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Grace After Fire	\$ 150,000	Financial Assistance	
Tropical Texas Behavioral Health	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Houston Area Urban League	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Comfort Crew for Military Kids	\$ 50,000	Supportive Services	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Southeast TX Regional Planning Commission	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.	\$ 150,000	Pro Bono Legal Services	
Panhandle Community Services	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Foundation Communities Inc	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Honor Veterans Now	\$ 500,000	Supportive Services	Comm. Dale, “the application looks like it is going to subcontract for

			<p>75% of the project. Do we have a history with them? Past performance?" Jim Bracken, "this grantee serves meals to veterans across the state, but we don't understand how the agency will deliver the meal. We do have a history with this grantee. Provide meal services to college students and those who do not qualify for Meals on Wheels."</p>
<p>Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas</p>	<p>\$ 75,000</p>	<p>Supportive Services</p>	<p>Comm. Dale states, "a high percentage of funding goes toward organizational items, salaries, and potential conflict of interest. History? Other concerns?" Jim Bracken, "not sure if we have a history. If you contract services, they fall under client services. In this organization, the funding is most likely going to case management."</p>
<p>Alliance of Border Collaboratives</p>	<p>\$ 300,000</p>	<p>Homeless Veterans Support</p>	<p>Comm. Barber did not recommend</p>
<p>Hidalgo County Community Service Agency</p>	<p>\$ 300,000</p>	<p>Financial Assistance</p>	
<p>T.B.I. Warrior Foundation</p>	<p>\$ 150,000</p>	<p>Employment Support</p>	

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

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the General Assistance grant applications, except for Comfort Crew for Military Kids and Alliance of Border Collaboratives.

VOTE: 5-0: Original Motion Passed

AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale to remove Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas from the grantee list for approval.

VOTE: No second. Motion failed.

Grantee Organization	Current Grant Amount	Service Category	Comments:	Recommended Amount
Alliance for Border Collaboratives	\$ 300,000	Homeless Veteran Support	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount. Underserved Veterans in West Texas.	\$ 200,000

MOTION: Made by Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Chair Laura Koerner to approve the Alliance for Border Collaboratives at a reduced rate.

VOTE: 3-2: Motion Passes. Nay votes: Commissioner Mary Dale and Commissioner Mike Hernandez.

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken presents, "Commissioners, at the top of the General Assistance worksheet, the Renewal Group lists 17 General Assistance grants that were on the renewal track but did not meet the criteria listed in the R.F.A.

Grantee Organization	Current Amount	Service Category	Comments
Ft Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels & Much More	\$ 200,000	Supportive Services	
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S.VETS)	\$ 250,000	Homeless Veterans Support	
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Barber did not recommend
YWCA El Paso del Norte Region	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Hidalgo County Community Svc Agency	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
Goodwill Industries of South Texas	\$ 100,000	Employment Support	
City of Fort Worth	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Sabine Valley Regional M.H.M.R. Center	\$ 50,000	Supportive Services	
Goodwill Industries of Fort Worth	\$ 300,000	Employment Support	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Pecan Valley M.H.M.R. Region	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	
U.G.M. of Dallas	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	Comm. Barber did not recommend

Family Eldercare	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Cath Charities of Archdiocese of Galv-Houston	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Texas V.F.W. Foundation	\$ 500,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Barber did not recommend
East Texas Council of Governments	\$ 150,000	Transportation Prog & Svcs	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Family Service Association of San Antonio	\$ 200,000	Employment Support	Comm. Barber did not recommend
Ark-Tex COG	\$ 5,000	Transportation Prog & Svcs	

Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for General Assistance grants seeking renewal for the next grant period.”

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the General Assistance grant renewal category with the exceptions noted above.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Grantee Organization	Current Amount	Service Category	Comments	Recommended Amount
Northwest Assistance Ministries	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 200,000
YWCA El Paso del Norte Region	\$ 300,000	Supportive Services	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 250,000
City of Fort Worth	\$ 300,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 200,000
U.G.M. of Dallas	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 100,000
Family Eldercare	\$ 200,000	Homeless Veterans Support	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 100,000
Texas VFW Foundation	\$ 500,000	Financial Assistance	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the	\$ 300,000

			approval amount	
East Texas Council of Governments	\$ 150,000	Transportation Prog & Svcs	Comm. Shaneyfelt recommended reducing the approval amount	\$ 100,000

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the General Assistance grant renewal category at a reduced rate.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner, “Commissioners, the grant funding summary for renewed grants and awarded applications for 2022-2023. We targeted a \$30,000,000 opportunity but was briefed by Michelle Nall in her presentation; we have 34,000,000.”

Commissioner Funding Dashboard							
Grant Category	Renewal Summary		Application Funding		Total Funding Applied		Total Vets to be Served (based on Recs)
	# Grants	Renewal Funding	# Grants	Application Funding	# Grants	Grant Funding	
VCSO	4	\$ 1,100,000	6	\$ 875,000	10	\$ 1,975,000	1,994
VTC	3	\$ 430,000	14	\$ 3,405,000	17	\$ 3,835,000	1,042
H4TH	3	\$ 900,000	14	\$ 4,430,000	17	\$ 5,330,000	336
VMH	7	\$ 850,000	16	\$ 4,080,000	23	\$ 4,930,000	4,400
GA	24	\$ 5,080,000	44	\$ 9,720,000	68	\$ 14,800,000	15,038
Total:	41	\$ 8,360,000	94	\$ 22,510,000	135	\$ 30,870,000	22,810

Funding Opportunity for 2022-2023 \$ (870,000)

The totals are displayed in highlighted boxes along the bottom row for Renewals, Awards, and the Grand Total. On the right-most column, you see the number of beneficiaries to be served by the awarded grant projects for the 2022-2023 grant period.

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken noted, “the advertised opportunity for grant funding was \$30,000,000.00 as the Commission voted you have used that \$30,000,000, and currently, we are now \$870,000 over in the award decisions.”

In the category of V.C.S.O. and V.T.C., there are no grantees that were non-recommended.

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (NOT-RECOMMENDED)

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken asked “if the Commission would return to the Housing for Texas Heroes roll-up list. At the bottom of the third group, you will see the Housing 4 TX Heroes applications that were non-recommended by the committee.”

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (NOT-RECOMMENDED)

<p>AYUDA, INC</p>	<p>\$ 100,000</p>	<p>Home Modification</p>	<p>Serve: 19</p>	<p>An organization that submits an application to provide services for which they have no experience providing in previous years. This is the only application that serves West TX directly.</p>
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MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt and seconded by Vice-Chair Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee recommendation for the Housing for Texas Heroes grants renewal category at a reduced rate.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (NON-RECOMMENDED)

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken briefed, “Chairwoman Koerner, five Veteran Mental Health applications were non-recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee. The Commission can find them in the third group on the V.M.H. application list.”

There was no motion to fund the Veteran Mental Health (Non-Recommended) grants.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (NON-RECOMMENDED)

F.V.A. Director Jim Bracken briefed, “seven General Assistance applications were non-recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee. The Commission can find them in the third group on the General Assistance application list.”

<p>Bring Everyone In The Zone, Inc.</p>	<p>\$ 150,000</p>	<p>Financial Assistance</p>	<p>Commendable</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Jim Bracken, “The organization, received a desk review. Some items needed to be addressed, and the agency has put some internal controls in place, and with F.V.A.'s assistance, we can make them successful.”</p>
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MOTION: Made by Chair Laura Koerner and seconded by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber to approve the General Assistance grant previously non-recommended by F.V.A. Advisory Committee at a reduced rate.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

The Salvation Army of East Texas	\$ 100,000	Financial Assistance	Marginal	Yes	Notes seen. Comfortable that Salvation Army will be solvent and we must do more in East Texas
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MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve the General Assistance grant previously non-recommended by F.V.A. Advisory Committee at a reduced rate.

VOTE: 4-1: Motion Passed. Nay vote: Commissioner Mary Dale

Chair Koerner, “Commissioners, we are currently at \$31,220,000 with 138 grantees' serving 23,374 veterans. Are there other grantees that the Commissioners would like to address? If not, congratulations on supporting veterans again this year.”

Commissioner Funding Dashboard							
Grant Category	Renewal Summary		Application Funding		Total Funding Applied		Total Vets to be Served (based on Recs)
	# Grants	Renewal Funding	# Grants	Application Funding	# Grants	Grant Funding	
VCSSO	4	\$ 1,100,000	6	\$ 875,000	10	\$ 1,975,000	1,994
VTC	3	\$ 430,000	14	\$ 3,405,000	17	\$ 3,835,000	1,042
H4TH	3	\$ 900,000	15	\$ 4,530,000	18	\$ 5,430,000	355
VMH	7	\$ 850,000	16	\$ 4,080,000	23	\$ 4,930,000	4,400
GA	24	\$ 5,080,000	46	\$ 9,970,000	70	\$ 15,050,000	15,583
Total:	41	\$ 8,360,000	97	\$ 22,860,000	138	\$ 31,220,000	23,374

Funding Opportunity for 2022-2023 \$ (1,220,000)

VI. Executive Session. None.

VII. Discuss and take action on the items considered in Executive Session. There were no items to act on.

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

The Commission agreed that the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting of F.Y. 2022 would be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin TX, William B. Travis Bldg. room 1-111.

IX. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.

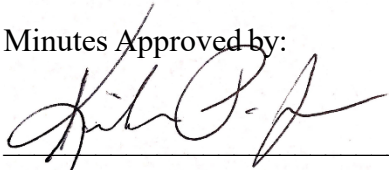
Each Commissioner and the Executive Director extended their gratitude to the Texas Veterans Commission staff for their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans. Chairwoman Koerner provided closing remarks as well.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Secretary