



**TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
SECOND QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2022)
Thursday, February 10, 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 09:00 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. Commissioner Mary Dale led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Vice-Chair Kevin Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- d. Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.
- e. Approval of the November 16, 2021, First 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

There was no public comment.

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.

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 TVC Agency reconstitution updates and department updates.

1. **Reconstitution Update.** Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, gave a detailed report to the Commissioners of the latest Texas Veterans Commission reconstitution updates.
 2. **Department Updates.** Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, updated the Commission on *Veterans Education* to include a correction from the last Commission Meeting concerning a VA rating from the FY21. Data for the year that ended in September was based on the education liaison representative's recommendation, and I'm sorry to say that it was premature. In January, we got notified from the VA that we were rated minimally satisfactory.
Healthcare Advocacy: We hired 12 new health care advocates. The Health Care Advocacy team is working with Julia Conner of the Communications and Outreach team on publishing some interviews for our social media and trying to get the word out that this service is available. Gary Lee wrote a great article in our last HR newsletter.
Veterans Employment: Veterans employment collaborates closely with the Texas Workforce Commission and their Work-In-Texas software platform. They have been developing a case management portion within the platform, working very closely with us to see our requirements.
 3. Salvador Castillo, Director of Claims, provided a Virtual Veteran Experience Action Center report. The event was held November 16th - 18th of last year, and it provided a whole wide array of services. The VEACTION has plans to return to Texas in October. They will coordinate with Mike Yeager for that visit as well.
- ii. Resource Management Division.
1. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resources Management, reported on the upcoming Strategic Plan/LAR. In February of this month, all agencies will receive the strategic plan, budget structure, and performance measure guidance to make those revisions. Typically, our due date is during the month of June. Therefore, during the month of May, all of our documents need to be ready for your approval at that Commission meeting. Mr. Palladino and his staff will have scrubbed this for you, and then we will present to you all for any adjustments that you feel like we need to make in that document.
 2. Michelle Nall, CFO of the TVC Finance Department, gave a detailed brief to the Commissioners on the Appropriation Year 2022 1st Quarter Operating Statement.
 3. Chip Osborne briefed the Commissioners on the FY 2022 Performance Measure review to include Output and Efficiency Performance Measures and Outcome Performance Measures.
 4. Chip Osborne gave a brief report on the TVC Outreach/Engagement Events (West Texas).
 5. Blake Harris, Director of Veterans Mental Health, briefed the Commissioners on Veterans Mental Health Department recommendations to alleviate veteran homelessness, in response to the Veteran Services Advisory Committee report to Commissioners during the 4th Quarter Commission Meeting.
- b. Deputy Executive Director Report.
- i. Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, briefed the Commission on program updates and events to include upcoming veteran engagement days.
 - a. Dr. Blake Harris, Director of Veterans Mental Health Department, and Elaine Zavala, Director of Communications, briefed the Commissioners on Buddy Check Day
 - b. Elaine Zavala gave a brief on the upcoming Military Spouse

- Appreciation Day on May 8, 2022.
- c. Shawn Deabay reported on the upcoming Women Veterans Day on June 12, 2022.
 - ii. Shawn Deabay briefed the Commissioners on TVCs Internal Audit updates.
 - iii. James Crabtree, Director of Government Relations, gave a brief on upcoming Legislative Updates.
 - 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.

V. CONSIDERATIONS

- a. Acceptance of Gifts. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided the Commissioners with an update on TVC's acceptance of donations in the total of \$3250.00 for the 1st Quarter FY 2022. TVC requested that these funds be approved and allocated to the Funds for Veterans Assistance.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the gift and allocate it to the Funds for Veterans Assistance.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- b. Action regarding criteria for Grant Renewals for the 2022-2023 grant period. James Bracken, Director for Funds for Veterans Assistance, provided the following brief: FVA recommends no change or adjustment to grant renewal criteria. Keep it at 70% of annual Performance and Expenditures.

**No proposed Motions.*

- c. Action regarding Administrative Rules:
 - i. The proposed change to Administrative Rule Title 40, TAC Part 15, Section 460.3, Applicant Eligibility. James Bracken, Director for Funds for Veterans Assistance, provided the following brief: The proposed amendment is 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.

MOTION: Made by Vice-Chair Kevin Barber, seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the TVC Staff recommendation regarding Advisory Committee Membership.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

(John Goodell, General Counsel, will brief the remaining 3 administrative rules.)

- ii. Action regarding proposed additions to Administrative Rule Title 40 TAC Part 15 Section 462 Energy Industry Program for Veteran Professional Development. *The Energy Industry Program for Veteran Professional Development aims to provide assistance to veterans seeking training to prepare for employment in the energy industry.*

- iii. Action regarding proposed additions to Administrative Rule Title 40 TAC Part 15 Section 463 Veteran Verification Letter. *The application applies to all veterans who wish to receive a verification of veteran status for the purpose of obtaining a fee waiver for a new veteran-owned business as defined by SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Business Organization Code Sec. 12.005.*
- iv. Action regarding proposed additions to Administrative Rule Title 40 TAC Part 15 Section 464 to Citizenship Assistance for Veterans. *The authority for this subchapter is provided in Texas Government Code §434.0027 relating to citizenship assistance for veterans. The purpose of citizenship assistance for veterans is to educate and direct veterans to become United States citizens and facilitate veterans' naturalization processes.*

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale, seconded by Secretary Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to approve proposed additions to Administrative Rules 40 TAC Part 15 sections 462, 463, and 464 as presented.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

VI. Executive Session. None.

VII. Discussion and take possible 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 3rd Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY 2022 would be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin TX, SFA Bldg. room 170.

IX. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.

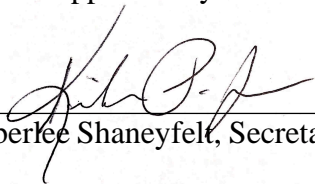
Each Commissioner extended their gratitude to Texas Veterans Commission staff for their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans. Chairwoman Koerner provided closing remarks as well.

MOTION: 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 10:58 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, Secretary

5/12/2022