**Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Recommendations
FINAL**

**Recommendation 1:**

That the Texas Veterans Commission Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2021-2025 update add the following Budget Structure Performance Measure:

**A.1. Objective; A.1.7 Strategy: Veterans Mental Health Services**

**Ensures at-risk and underserved Veterans receive what they need to end veteran suicide, homelessness, and participate in veterans involved with justice programs.**

**Recommendation 2:**

That the Texas Veterans Commission Veterans Mental Health Services website includes the link to the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention web link in its next update.

https://www.va.gov/health-care/health-needs-conditions/mental-health/suicide-preventio n/

r

**Recommendation 3:**

That the Texas Veterans Commission secure funding for, and provide training in the following areas of suicide prevention:

**Train the Trainer Gatekeeper Training and Resources:** Provide to 25 faith liaison partners directly affiliated with houses of worship. Particular attention should be given to rural communities that often serve as mental well-being resources for veterans and their families.

**Suicide Gatekeeper Training and Resources:** TVC Education Department who have

Department of Veterans Affairs oversight for military educational benefits staff and processing--Provide Suicide Gatekeeper Training and resources to 75% of school

certifying officials within Texas institutions of higher education and vocational training organizations. Regularly scheduled conferences for these staff are WAVES or TACVPO the Texas Association of College Veteran Personnel Officials. COVID consideration: KOGNITO software is an online training option.

**Suicide Gatekeeper Training and Resources:** TVC Education Department-- Provide suicide gatekeeper training and resources to 25% of all educational and vocational staff or faculty. This might be accomplished through state organizations such as TEXAAN Texas Academic Advising Network state conferences. COVID consideration: KOGNITO software is an online training option.

**Recommendation 4:**

That the Texas Veterans Commission identifies county representatives (points of contact) across the state responsible for managing county-level suicide prevention services and programs.

1. **Distribution List:** Establish a distribution list for each county representative and subsequent points-of-contact for incorporated and unincorporated territories within each county.
2. Inform counties and their territories on the importance of and assist in the establishment of crisis mapping.

**Recommendation 5:**

That the Texas Veterans Commission, Veterans Mental Health Department, develop performance measures that support best practices in the Report on Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Texas, *Report on Long-Term Action Plan to Prevent Veterans Suicides*, Health and Human Services Commission, September 2021 (pages 26-31), etc.