



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
FIRST QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2024)
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 09:00 a.m.
George HW Bush Bldg, 1801 Congress Ave, 4th floor board room, Austin TX
78701

MINUTES

I. OPENING

- a. Chairwoman Laura Koerner calls the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.
- b. Roll call:

Secretary Mary Dale informs Chairwoman Koerner that there is a quorum.

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

- c. Commissioner Kevin Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- d. Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.
- e. Approval of the Nov. 14, 2023, First Quarter Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber, seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the minutes

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. PRESENTATIONS

- a. ***Quarterly Presentations from Advisory Committees.***
 - i. Kerry Reyna, Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) Advisory Committee Chair, summarized the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.
 - ii. Sam Perez, Jr., Veteran County Service Officer (VCSO) Advisory Committee Chair, summarized the Advisory Committee's activities since their last report to the Commission.
 - iii. Earl Newsome, Veteran Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) Chair, summarized the Advisory Committee's 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.
 1. **VES. Anna Baker –**
 - Field audit of VES locations in the field. The audit determined some of the resources needed to be reallocated for expansion within the state.
 - Two VES training events in April 22, 2024
 - Operational Planning in April
 - VES Symposium – Oct 2024
 2. **Claims. Sal Castillo –**
 - Vetpro – safe, secure, increases efficiency for Claims documents
 - Added 10 FTE’s across the state
 - Added CBA’s to work different hours 11:00 am – 8:00 pm for veterans still in the workforce
 - Developing new curriculum
 - Annual Conference – University North Texas – Jul 15 – 18, 2024
 - A productivity report for all Claims members is being worked on (Comm. Barber wants a copy of the dashboard when it is ready).
 - Different appointments: face-to-face scheduled, phone and walk-in
 3. **HCAD. Gary Lee –**
 - Information session – future planning, population growth in NE Texas
 - Surveys: Last year FY23 – 8%, up to 16% so far for FY24
 - Virtual Training Conference – April 16-17, 2024
 - Updated DD214’s – no social security number; this will change back to the service number
 - Borderplex event
- ii. **Resource Management Division.** Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided DRM updates.
 1. **Emergency Management. – Tim Shatto**
 - Alert Media: weather, emergency events
 2. **Introduction of CFO. – Kenneth Biddle**
 - Department Budgets on SharePoint
 3. **Finance. – Kenneth Biddle**
 - AY 2024 First Quarter Operating Statement and backup documentation
 - Grant money –
 - Chair Koerner asked is the grant money the \$30 million that we usually have and an additional potential of \$13.9 million more?
 - Kenneth Biddle responded, yes, a potential of almost \$44 total.
 4. **Fund for Veterans’ Assistance – Elaine Zavala.**
 - Status of 2024-2025 Grant Cycle Update
 - RFA approved, open, and closed
 - Two webinars – on our TVC website
 - Applications due: Dec 4, 2023
 - Submitted by due date: 180 applications
 - Last year submissions: 121 applications
 - Applications screened (reached out to organizations who didn’t have a completed application).
 - Final submission: 151 applications; 17 ineligible and 12 up for

- renewal; \$37 million in funding moving forward
- Staff evaluations are next, then the applications will be turned over to the Advisory Committee
- Then the Advisory Committee reviews before the Mar 27th and 28th presentation meeting
- Renewals - \$18.5 million

b. **Deputy Executive Director Report.** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided DED updates.

i. **Updates. TVC Events.**

1. **Request for new Internal Auditor**
2. **TCCVS Full Council Meeting.** Met Jan 30, 2024. Identify veteran needs.
3. **Women Veterans Program.** Annual WV Outreach Campaign – spotlighting women who made the rank of General.
4. **Communications & Outreach.** Upcoming events.

c. **Executive Director Report.**

i. **Agency Updates.**

1. **Thank the agency for their hard work.**
2. **Strategic Plan**
3. **Legislative Appropriation Request (LAR)**
4. **Interm Legislature Charges**
5. **Legislative Session**
6. **Working with the Veteran Land Board to reach veterans in the Veteran Homes**
7. **TVC/VLB Benefit Fairs – El Paso, San Angelo**

V. CONSIDERATIONS

a. ***Action Regarding Hays County Commissioners' Court Request for Grant Increase.*** Elaine Zavala, Director of the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, will present this consideration item. Amendment: The county requested an additional \$50k grant, but at the renewal, the performance did not meet the minimum requirements of the 3d-quart com meeting, so FVA recommended a \$50k decrease. The current grant is \$100k. The county meets its performance goals in its 23-24 grant performance analysis. The staff's recommendation is to award the \$50k increase.

- i. ***Jude Prather recognized.*** – Hays County Veteran Service Officer
Discussions with Commissioners on cost breakdown of grant money usage

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kimberly Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to accept the request for a grant increase of \$50K, for FY23-FY24 VCSO grant.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

b. ***Action Regarding 2023 Excellence in Media Awards.*** Jim Halbrook, Public Affairs Officer, presented the recommendations for the 2023 Excellence in Media Award winners.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to accept the 2023 Excellence in Media Award winner recommendations.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- c. **Acceptance of Gifts.** Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, briefed that there were no donations.

No Action.

- d. **Action Regarding Advisory Committee Membership Selection.** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided the recommendation that VCSO Kenneth Russell, Reeves County, replace the previous VCSO, Juan Amaya, on the Advisory Committee.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Shaneyfelt and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to accept the selection of

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- e. **Action Regarding the Acceptance of the Advisory Committee Processes and Procedures.** Shawn Deabay, will provide for your review procedures regarding membership, current membership, applications from individuals wanting to be on the advisory committee, and justification for those selected to be on the advisory committee.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Mary Dale to accept the selection of

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- f. **Action Regarding the Quadrennial Rule Review of Administrative Rules Title 40 TAC, Part 15, Chapters 455 and 456.** Kathleen Cordova, Legal Counsel, provided the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to accept the action regarding the Quadrennial Rule Review of Administrative Rules Title 40 TAC, Part 15, Chapters 455 and 456.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- g. **Action Regarding Repeal of Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 455, TAPS Tuition Voucher Program.** Kathleen Cordova, Legal Counsel, provided the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt to accept the action regarding the Repeal of Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 455, TAPS Tuition Voucher Program.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

- h. **Action Regarding Proposed amendments to Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 456, Contract Negotiation and Mediation.** Kathleen Cordova, Legal Counsel, provided the report.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to accept the action regarding the Proposed Amendments 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 456, Contract Neogtion and Mediation.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

VI. Executive Session.

None.

VII. n/a

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

The Commission agreed that the 3d Quarterly Commission Meeting of FY 2024 would be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin TX, George HW Bush building, 4th floor conference room.

IX. Adjournment.


Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to the staff and the Advisory Committee members. The Executive Director extended their gratitude to the Texas Veterans Commission staff for their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kimberlee Shaneyfelt, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber, motion to adjourn.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:



Mary Dale, Secretary

