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Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
Executive Director

## TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

### Veteran Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

George H.W. Bush Building

1801 Congress Ave., Suite 14.100, Austin, Texas 78701

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545455019?pwd=NFIzejdSeHNqSGxzZFIMRFBKY0Y0dz09>

#### I. **Call to order.**

- Chair Earl Newsome called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

#### II. **Roll call of committee members.**

- Earl Newsome held roll call. Sara Henly: present, Lee Rivas, present, Greg Gomel: absent, Jim Brennan, absent, Jim Cunningham: present, Hon. Larry Wallace: present, Kitty Meyers: absent, Earl Newsome: present.

#### III. **Public comment.**

- None

#### IV. **Approve the minutes of the Veteran Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) meeting held Aug. 9, 2023, and Feb. 12, 2024.**

- Jim Cunningham motions to approve the minutes, Wallace seconds. Unanimously approved.

#### V. **Announcement of nominated committee member replacement.**

- Communications Director Angela Woellner announces that at TVC Commission Meeting to be held May 16, 2024, new VSAC member for consideration is Holly Morrison, Navy veteran and serves as manager for Veteran Services at San Jacinto College.

#### VI. **Veteran Entrepreneur Program update.**

- **Subcommittee comments and report.**

- At 10:09, Cunningham makes a motion to submit to TVC the recommendations for the Veteran Entrepreneur Program (VEP) from the subcommittee reports in Summer 2023. There was no second, instead a call for vote. Unanimously approved.
- **General discussion on program.**
  - At 10:15 a.m., Wallace makes a motion to submit recommendations of bidding information to be added to TVC website for approval. Rivas seconds. Unanimously approved.

**VII. Targeted outreach to veterans over the age of 55.**

- Targeted outreach to veterans over the age of 55, which is in great need. Newsome mentions that 37% of Texas veterans over the age of 55. He states some of the benefits for Texas veterans and YouTube videos for senior veterans are out there, even though there is a lack of awareness.
- Sara mentions how these resources and others would benefit all veterans, not just 55+ veterans. Lee states that TVC has several resources for elderly veterans. Consensus is good for new TVC website. Cunningham asked if TVC still does radio show and could it be a way to mention resources.
- Recommendation is to utilize the information out there and ask VCSOs for help to distribute information. Megan (VEP) mentions that TVC already has something, so this would be a great starting point. Woellner recommends it be a “campaign” to roll out and make sure we have the information needed/wanted before launching.
- At 10:45 a.m., Rivas made a motion to recommend to TVC to conduct a targeted outreach to veterans over 55 using available outreach materials and collaboration with partners out in the state. Cunningham seconds. Unanimously approved.

**VIII. Discussion – Agenda items; date/time and location for next VSAC or subcommittee meeting.**

- Follow up on how TVC wants to respond to targeted outreach campaign for veterans over 55.
- Follow up from VEP on their thoughts and planned action for the recommendations presented in 5/15/24 meeting.
- Request for overview presentation from Dr. Krystle Matthews on Women Veterans Program.
  - At 10:49 a.m., Wallace motioned to approve these agenda items for the next meeting, and Cunningham seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Next meeting date set for day before next TVC Commission meeting in August.

IX. **XI. Adjournment.**

- Motion to adjourn meeting made by Cunningham, seconded by Rivas. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Earl S. Newsome III

Signed – Chair Earl S. Newsome III

14 Aug 2024

Date