

LAURA KOERNER
US Navy Veteran
Chairwoman

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US Army Veteran
Vice Chair

KEVIN BARBER
US Army Veteran
Secretary



MIKE P. HERNANDEZ
Corporal, US Marine Corps (Retired)
Member

CHUCK WRIGHT
US Marine Corps Veteran
Member

THOMAS P. PALLADINO
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Fund For Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee (FVAAC) Recommendation Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., George H.W. Bush Building
1801 Congress Ave, Conference Room 14.102, Austin, TX, 78701

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kUCTIj2SqCOFkEOkPIIjA

I. Call meeting to order.

a. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kerry Reyna at 8:08 a.m., on April 10, 2024, at the George H.W. Bush Building, 1801 Congress Ave., Suite 14.102, Austin, TX 78701.

b. Roll call of Committee members.

1. Jamilah James, virtual, "here."
2. Dan Ball, "here."
3. Luis Martinez, "here."
4. John Perez, absent
5. Pete Rispoli, Vice Chair, "here."
6. James "Dusty" Johnston, "here."
7. Omar Williams, "here."
8. Richard Delgado, Jr., "here."
9. Kerry Reyna, Chair, "here."

c. Kerry Reyna, Chair, declared, "With 8 members present during roll call, a quorum has been established (5 or more establishes a quorum)." Omar Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag, and Richard Delgado, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

II. Public comment.

There was no public comment.

III. Approve minutes of the February 27-28, 2024, FVAAC Presentation Meeting.

Luis Martinez motioned to approve minutes. Dan Ball seconded the motion. No discussion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, 0 nays.

IV. Discussion and/or action on recommendations to the Commission for FVA 2024-2025 grant applications. Order of discussion will be decided by the Committee.

a. Chair, Kerry Reyna asked FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, to reiterate the grant review and approval process for all grant applications considered for recommendation today and briefly explain the discussion materials in the folders prepared for the meeting.

b. FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, explained the following: This meeting is the culmination of this committee's countless hours of reading, considering, scoring, and ranking worthy projects to help veterans and their families across the State of Texas.

c. To recap what has occurred so far; the 2024-2025 Request for Applications (RFA) opened October 2, 2023, and closed December 4, 2023. Within the open application period, the FVA staff hosted two informational webinars for potential applicants and placed those recordings on the FVA website for on-demand access.

d. One hundred and eighty (180) organizations across Texas submitted applications during this open window. The FVA Compliance Team screened these applications for eligibility and went the extra mile by reaching out to the organizations to request missing documents where they were given a five-day grace period to complete their application requirements. This resulted in one hundred and fifty-five (155) applications to be deemed eligible to proceed in the application process, which represented over \$37 million in possible funding.

e. The FVAAC's recommendations today will be presented to the Texas Veterans Commission Commissioners at the quarterly meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024, where the Commissioners will make the funding decisions for the next grant period. The awarded grants will begin July 1, 2024.

f. The FVA staff has provided a Rollup Summary of all FVAAC members' independent reviews, rankings, and recommendations. The summary does not show the individual committee member's information but rather a consolidated result of your individual rankings and recommendations. On the Rollup Summary the applicants are sorted first by the number of 'Committee Recommends' received by committee members and then by the average ranking from each of the committee's voting members. Each committee member ranked all applicants within each category from first to last (most favorable to least favorable) – the guidelines you followed were approved by the Commissioners and outlined in the RFA for each grant category.

g. As you ranked each of the applications, you either recommended or non-recommended the application or funding and indicated the amount of funding for each application that you recommended. The result of your process is this "Rollup Summary" which includes a 100% integration of your ranking of the applications within each grant category. One committee member recused himself from the Housing for Texas Heroes (H4TXH) program – so when that agenda item is discussed later in this meeting you will see only eight (8) members made recommendations and rankings for that program. This rollup is meant to serve as a discussion aid as you develop the funding recommendations as a committee today.

h. General reminders about the meeting today: Discussions regarding the grants are limited to this meeting with the understanding that this is a public meeting, however, both staff and committee members are not allowed to discuss any of the grant recommendations with the public. None of the materials provided to the committee today along with review notes may be released or shared with the public until after the Commissioners make the final decisions regarding grant awards. All materials and notes must be returned to FVA when this meeting is adjourned.

i. FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, asked for questions or comments. Mr. Dan Ball requested clarification on whether the FVAAC was required to keep a running total of the amounts recommended. Chair Kerry Reyna and FVA Director, Elaine Zavala, explained that this meeting was to recommend or not recommend an organization only. The Commissioners determine the grantees' awarded and the amounts.

j. Mr. Luis Martinez emphasized the importance of the committee to voice their reasoning when recommending or not recommending an organization to ensure understanding for the committee – he encouraged discussion.

k. Chair Kerry Reyna opened the floor again for any additional questions or comments. No questions or comments.

V. Veteran County Service Officer.

a. Chair Kerry Reyna asked if there were any recusals for Veteran County Service Officer (VCSO) applications. Nothing heard, no recusals.

b. There are 9 eligible VCSO applications this year requesting \$1,755,000. Based on the committee members' preliminary rankings, 4 of 9 applications were unanimously recommended, 4 of 9 applications were recommended by 8 of 9 committee members, and 1 of 9 applications were recommended by less than half of the committee members.

c. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VCSO organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the committee during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Luis Martinez motioned, and Mr. Dan Ball seconded the motion. No Discussion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.

1. Willacy County, \$150,000
2. Hays County, \$250,000
3. Webb County, \$160,000
4. Liberty County, \$50,000

d. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VCSO organizations that received 8 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Luis Martinez motioned, and Mr. Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

5. Val Verde County, \$50,000
6. Zapata County, \$200,000
7. Harris County, \$295,000
8. Bexar County Commissioners Court, \$300,000

e. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the Hidalgo County VCSO application for \$300,000 in Veterans Mental Health (Peer Support Services). Mr. Luis Martinez motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. The motion was tied with 4 yeas, and 4 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., and Mr. Dusty Johnston). Discussion commenced.

f. After discussion, Chair Kerry Reyna again asked for a motion to recommend full funding of Hidalgo County VSCO application for \$300,000 in Veterans Mental Health (Peer Support Services). Mr. Luis Martinez motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna Seconded the motion. No further discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 5 yeas, and 3 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., and Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

9. Hidalgo County, \$300,000

g. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Veteran County Service Officer grant recommendations made by the committee to take to the Commission for approval. Mr. Luis Martinez motioned, and Mr. Omar Williams seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, and 0 nays.**

VI. Veteran Treatment Court

a. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked if there were any recusals for Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) applications. Nothing heard, no recusals.

b. There are 14 eligible VTC applications this year requesting \$3,380,000. Based on the committee members' preliminary rankings, 7 of 14 applications were unanimously recommended, 5 of 14 applications were recommended by 8 of 9 members, and 2 of 14 applications were recommended by 7 of 9 members.

c. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VTC organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the committee during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, and 0 nays.**

1. Tarrant County, \$200,000
2. Travis County, \$50,000
3. Collin County, \$400,000
4. Dallas County, \$300,000
5. City of Dallas, \$50,000
6. Montgomery County, \$255,000
7. Webb County, \$305,000

d. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VTC organizations that received 8 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, and 0 nays.**

8. Galveston County, \$270,000
9. Nueces County, \$200,000
10. Bexar County Commissioners Court, \$250,000
11. Hays County, \$350,000
12. Comal County, \$210,000

e. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VTC organizations that received 7 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, and 0 nays.**

13. Bexar County Misdemeanor VTC, \$300,000
14. Potter County, \$240,000

f. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Veteran Treatment Court grant recommendations made by the committee to take to the Commission for their approval. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas, and 0 nays.**

VII. Housing for Texas Heroes

a. Chair Kerry Reyna asked if there were any recusals for Housing for Texas Heroes (H4TXH) applications. Mr. Luis Martinez recused himself and left the conference room for this segment.

b. There are 19 eligible H4TXH applications this year requesting \$7,100,000. Based on the committee members' preliminary rankings 9 of 19 applications were unanimously recommended, 6 of the 19 applications were recommended by 7 of 8 members voting, and 4 applications were recommended by less than 6 members.

c. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the H4TXH organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the committee during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. seconded the motion. No Discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 yeas and 0 nays.**

1. Meals on Wheels and More, Inc., \$500,000
2. Rolling Plains Management Corporation, \$300,000
3. Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity, \$250,000
4. Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County, \$265,000
5. Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, \$300,000
6. Panhandle Community Services, \$500,000
7. Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity, \$230,000
8. Habitat for Humanity of Smith County, \$250,000
9. Adults and Youth United Development Association, \$495,000

d. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the H4TXH applications that received 7 of 8 recommendations from the committee members during our preliminary ranking process. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Mr. Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas, and 1 nay (Mr. Dan Ball).**

10. Central Texas Opportunities, Inc., \$495,000
11. The Salvation Army – Waco, \$160,000
12. Easter Seals Central Texas, Inc., \$500,000
13. Meals on Wheels San Antonio, \$305,000
14. Operation Finally Home, \$500,000
15. City of Laredo, \$300,000

e. Chair Kerry Reyna announced the remaining 4 applications that received less than 6 votes during the preliminary ranking and recommendation process will be discussed and voted on one-by-one.

f. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Concho Valley Community Acton Agency for \$500,000 in the H4TXH grant funding. Mr. Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 2 yeas and 5 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

g. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Habitat for Humanity of Collin County for \$250,000 in the H4TXH grant funding. Mr. Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 3 yeas and 4 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

h. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Garland Area Habitat for Humanity for \$500,000 in the H4TXH grant funding. Mr. Pete Rispoli motioned, and Jamilah James seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED with 4 yeas and 3 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Pete Rispoli, and Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

16. Garland Area Habitat for Humanity, \$500,000

i. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for CPLC Texas, Inc., for \$500,000 in H4TXH grant funding. Mr. Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 1 yeas and 6 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

j. Chair Kerry Reyna asked that the full list of organizations **RECOMMENDED** for full funding for the H4TXH grant be read:

1. Meals on Wheels and More, Inc., \$500,000
2. Rolling Plains Management Corporation, \$300,000
3. Fort Hood Area Habitat for Humanity, \$250,000
4. Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County, \$265,000
5. Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, \$300,000
6. Panhandle Community Services, \$500,000
7. Northeast Texas Habitat for Humanity, \$230,000
8. Habitat for Humanity of Smith County, \$250,000
9. Adults and Youth United Development Association, \$495,000
10. Central Texas Opportunities, Inc., \$495,000
11. The Salvation Army – Waco, \$160,000
12. Easter Seals Central Texas, Inc., \$500,000
13. Meals on Wheels San Antonio, \$305,000
14. Operation Finally Home, \$500,000
15. City of Laredo, \$300,000
16. Garland Area Habitat for Humanity, \$500,000

k. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Housing for Texas Heroes grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 yeas and 0 nays.**

l. Chair Kerry Reyna asked that the full list of **NON-RECOMMENDED** for full funding for the H4TXH grant be read:

1. Concho Valley Community Action Agency, \$500,000
2. Habitat for Humanity of Collin County, \$250,000
3. CPLC Texas, Inc., \$500,000

m. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Housing for Texas Heroes grant non-recommendations made by the committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. made the motion, and Mr. Dan Ball seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 yeas and 0 nays.**

VIII. Committee broke for 10-minute break at 9:32 a.m. and reconvened at 9:48 a.m.

IX. Veteran Mental Health

a. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked if there were any recusals for Veteran Mental Health (VMH) applications. Nothing heard. No recusals.

b. There are 33 eligible VMH applications this year requesting \$7,555,000. Based on the committee members' preliminary rankings 8 applications were unanimously recommended, 13 applications were recommended by 8 of 9 members, and 3 applications were recommended by 7 members.

c. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VMH organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the committee during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No Discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

1. Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care, Inc., \$500,000
2. Baylor Research Institute, \$500,000
3. Family Endeavors, Inc., \$500,000
4. Cenikor Foundation, \$340,000
5. West Texas Counseling & Guidance, Inc., \$500,000
6. Collin County, \$270,000
7. Refuge Services, Inc., \$200,000
8. Brazos County, \$5,000

d. Vice Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VMH applications that received 8 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Chair Kerry Reyna motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

9. Project Amistad, \$100,000
10. Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement, \$95,000
11. Riding Unlimited, Inc., \$135,000
12. K9's for Warriors, Inc., \$130,000
13. Castle Cares Community Ministries, \$150,000
14. Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc., \$300,000
15. Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center, \$250,000
16. Henry's Home Horse and Humane Sanctuary, \$50,000
17. Family Service Center of Galveston County, \$280,000
18. Caritas of Austin, \$65,000
19. Canine Companions for Independence, \$100,000
20. Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center, \$145,000
21. Grace After Fire, \$150,000

e. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the VMH applications that received 7 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Chair Kerry Reyna motioned, and Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 2 nays (Mr. Dan Ball and Mr. Luis Martinez).**

22. Bexar County Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court, \$300,000

23. Outdoor Association for True Heroes, Inc., \$150,000
 24. Austin-Travis County MHMR Center, \$340,000

f. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli announced the remaining VMH applications received 6 or less votes during the preliminary ranking and recommendation process. The committee will discuss and vote on these applications one-by-one.

g. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Patriot PAWS Service Dog for \$500,000 in the service dog pilot program grant funding. Mr. Martinez motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 2 nays (Mr. Omar Williams, and Mr. Dan Ball).**

25. Patriot PAWS Service Dog, \$500,000

h. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Outsiders Anonymous for \$110,000 in Peer Support Services grant funding. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 yeas and 1 nay (Chair Kerry Reyna).**

26. Outsiders Anonymous, \$110,000

i. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Defenders of Freedom for \$400,000 in VMH Clinical Counseling grant funding. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 3 yeas and 5 nays (Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

j. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Marriage Management Consultants for \$100,000 in VMH Peer Support grant funding. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 2 nays (Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

27. Marriage Management Consultants, \$100,000

k. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for American Odysseus Sailing Foundation for \$100,000 in VMH Peer Support grant funding. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned; Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 2 yeas and 6 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, and Chair Kerry Reyna).**

l. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for the Volunteer Services Council of Texoma Community Center for \$140,000 in VMH Clinical Counseling grant funding. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 2 yeas and 6 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Chair Kerry Reyna).**

m. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Austin Dog Alliance for \$255,000 in the service dog pilot program grant funding. Chair Kerry Reyna motioned, and Vice-Chair Rispoli seconded the motion. Extensive discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

28. Austin Dog Alliance, \$255,000

n. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for SoleAna Stables for \$95,000 in VMH Peer Support grant funding. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, and Chair Kerry Reyna).**

o. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., for \$300,000 in VMH Clinical Counseling grant funding. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 3 yeas and 5 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

p. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked that the full list of VMH applications **RECOMMENDED** by the committee be read.

1. Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care, Inc., \$500,000
2. Baylor Research Institute, \$500,000
3. Family Endeavors, Inc., \$500,000
4. Cenikor Foundation, \$340,000
5. West Texas Counseling & Guidance, Inc., \$500,000
6. Collin County, \$270,000
7. Refuge Services, Inc., \$200,000
8. Brazos County, \$5,000
9. Project Amistad, \$100,000
10. Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement, \$95,000
11. Riding Unlimited, Inc., \$135,000
12. K9's for Warriors, Inc., \$130,000
13. Castle Cares Community Ministries, \$150,000
14. Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc., \$300,000
15. Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center, \$250,000
16. Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary, \$50,000
17. Family Service Center of Galveston County, \$280,000
18. Caritas of Austin, \$65,000
19. Canine Companions for Independence, \$100,000
20. Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center, \$145,000
21. Grace After Fire, \$150,000
22. Bexar County Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court, \$300,000
23. Outdoor Association for True Heroes, Inc., \$150,000
24. Austin-Travis County MHMR Center, \$340,000
25. Patriot PAWS Service Dogs, \$500,000
26. Outsiders Anonymous, \$110,000
27. Marriage Management Consultants, \$100,000
28. Austin Dog Alliance, \$255,000

q. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Veteran Mental Health grant recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. No Discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

r. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked that the full list of VMH applications **NON-RECOMMENDED** by the committee be read.

1. Defenders of Freedom, \$400,000
2. American Odysseus Sailing Foundation, \$100,000
3. Volunteer Services Council of Texoma Community Center, \$140,000
4. SoleAna Stables \$95,000
5. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., \$300,000

s. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Veteran Mental Health grant non-recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned, and Chair Kerry Reynae seconded the motion. No Discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

X. Committee broke for 10-minute break at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

XI. General Assistance

a. Chair Kerry Reyna asked if there were any recusals for General Assistance (GA) applications. Nothing heard. No recusals.

b. There are 77 eligible GA applications this year requesting \$17,220,000. Based on the committee members' preliminary rankings 46 out of 77 applications were unanimously recommended, 13 applications were recommended by 8 of 9 members, and 5 applications were recommended by less than 7 of 9 committee members. Lastly there are 13 that were recommended by 6 or less votes and will be discussed one-by-one.

c. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the GA organizations that received unanimous recommendations from the committee during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No Discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

1. Goodwill Industries of Ft. Worth Inc., \$50,000
2. Community Council of South-Central Texas, \$300,000
3. The Salvation Army - Corpus Christi, \$300,000
4. Hidalgo County, \$300,000
5. Project Amistad, \$300,000
6. Grace After Fire, \$200,000
7. Honor Veterans Now, \$500,000
8. Fort Bend County, \$300,000
9. Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc., \$20,000
10. Families in Crisis Incorporated, \$300,000
11. San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc., \$300,000
12. The Salvation Army, El Paso, \$250,000
13. The Salvation Army, San Antonio, \$300,000
14. Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc., \$150,000
15. Caritas of Waco, \$200,000
16. Panhandle Community Services, \$300,000
17. Houston Area Urban League, \$500,000
18. The Salvation Army – Amarillo, \$105,000
19. Caritas of Austin, \$125,000

20. Tropical Texas Behavior Health, \$300,000
21. Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, \$300,000
22. Volunteers of America Texas, Inc., \$295,000
23. Meals on Wheels Montgomery County, \$300,000
24. The Salvation Army – Waco, \$250,000
25. USA Cares, Inc., \$500,000
26. Foundation Communities, \$100,000
27. Trinity County, \$180,000
28. The Salvation Army – Lufkin, \$100,000
29. Catholic Charities of Central Texas, \$300,000
30. Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County, \$300,000
31. Adults and Youth United Development Association, Inc., \$190,000
32. Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas, \$300,000
33. United Way of Johnson County, Inc., \$300,000
34. United Way of Denton County, \$300,000
35. American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, \$500,000
36. Central Texas Council of Governments, \$300,000
37. Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, \$300,000
38. Katy Christian Ministries, \$230,000
39. Meals on Wheels San Antonio, \$300,000
40. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., \$300,000
41. Bring Everyone in The Zone, \$200,000
42. The Salvation Army, Grayson County, \$100,000
43. Project MEND, \$300,000
44. Making Dreams Real, Inc., \$95,000
45. Family Endeavors, Inc., \$500,000
46. West Central Texas Regional Foundation, \$300,000

d. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the GA applications that received 8 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Mr. Dan Ball seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 yeas and 1 nays (Mr. Luis Martinez).**

47. Goodwill Industries of Houston, \$190,000
48. Feonix - Mobility Rising, \$150,000
49. Wheelchairs for Warriors, \$150,000
50. Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc., \$40,000
51. Burnet County, \$75,000
52. Deep East Texas Council of Governments, \$70,000
53. Nueces County, \$150,000
54. San Antonio Food Bank, \$300,000
55. Transition Skills Training, Inc., \$50,000
56. Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County, \$125,000
57. Combined Arms, \$90,000
58. Next Step, Inc., \$80,000
59. Hope for the Warriors, \$215,000

e. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of the GA applications that received 7 of 9 recommendations from the committee members during the preliminary ranking process. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. Extensive discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah**

James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnson, Chair Kerry Reyna).

f. Chair Kerry Reyna declared that these 5 applications would be discussed and considered one-by-one.

g. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of TBI Warrior Foundation under the GA grant for \$150,000. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 1 nay (Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

60. TBI Warrior Foundation, \$150,000

h. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of After Military Service under the GA grant for \$150,000. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**

61. After Military Service, \$150,000

i. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation under the GA grant for \$300,000. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 2 nays (Chair Kerry Reyna and Richard Delgado, Jr.).**

62. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, \$300,000

j. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of Heroes Night Out, Inc., under the GA grant for \$150,000. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned, and Mr. Omar Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 yeas and 2 nays (Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli and Chair Kerry Reyna).**

63. Heroes Night Out, Inc., \$150,000

k. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding of Houston Volunteer Lawyers under the GA grant for \$200,000. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. seconded the motion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna).**

l. Chair Kerry Reyna asked that the 4 of the 5 organizations considered one-by-one and subsequently recommended be read out loud.

60. TBI Warrior Foundation, \$150,000

61. After Military Service, \$150,000

62. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, \$300,000

63. Heroes Night Out, Inc., \$150,000

m. Chair Kerry Reyna announced the following 13 GA applications received 6 or less votes during the preliminary ranking and recommendation process. The committee will discuss and vote on these applications one-by-one.

n. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Veterans Center of North

Texas for \$300,000 in financial assistance funding. Mr. Omar Williams motioned, and Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 5 years and 3 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Chair Kerry Reyna, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr.)**.

64. Veterans Center of North Texas, \$300,000

o. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Rise-Resource Information Support and Empowerment for \$145,000 in Transportation Programs grant funding. Chair Kerry Reyna motioned and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 5 years and 3 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Luis Martinez, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr.)**.

65. Rise-Resource Information Support and Empowerment, \$145,000

p. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for CPLC Texas, Inc., for \$300,000. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 3 years and 5 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Mr. Dusty Johnston, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr.)**.

q. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Dance for Dreams for \$50,000 in Support Services grant funding. Vice-Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Chair Kerry Reyna seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 1 year and 7 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Chair Kerry Reyna)**.

r. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Alliance of Border Collaboratives for \$210,000 in Homeless Veteran Support grant funding. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Vice Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 2 years and 6 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr.)**.

s. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Brazos County for \$5,000 in Employment Support grant funding. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 7 years and 1 nays (Mr. Dusty Johnston)**.

66. Brazos County, \$5,000

t. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Legacy Institute for Financial Education for \$145,000 in Employment Support grant funding. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Vice Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 years and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna)**.

u. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for the Salvation Army – Midland for \$260,000 in Homeless Support grant funding. Vice Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Mr. Omar Williams seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 6 years and 2 nays (Vice Chair Pete Rispoli and Mr. Dan Ball)**.

67. Salvation Army – Midland, \$260,000

v. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for My Possibilities for \$190,000 in Support Services grant funding. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna).**

w. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for SPAN, Inc. for \$150,000 in Transportation Program grant funding. Chair Kerry Reyna motioned, and Vice Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. Some discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 3 yeas and 5 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Mr. Luis Martinez, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston).**

x. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Services of Home Entities, Inc., for \$300,000 in Support Services grant funding. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Vice Chair Pete Rispoli seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna).**

y. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Veterans Stand Together for \$145,000 in Employment Support Services grant funding. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., motioned, and Mr. Omar Williams seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna).**

z. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to recommend full funding for Community Partnership for the Homeless DBA Green Doors for \$145,000 in Supportive Services grant funding. Vice Chair Pete Rispoli motioned, and Mr. Richard Delgado seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION FAILED with 0 yeas and 8 nays (Mr. Dan Ball, Ms. Jamilah James, Mr. Luis Martinez, Vice Chair Pete Rispoli, Mr. Omar Williams, Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr., Mr. Dusty Johnston, Chair Kerry Reyna).**

aa. Chair Kerry Reyna asked that all **RECOMMENDED** applications for the GA grant be read aloud.

1. Goodwill Industries of Ft. Worth Inc., \$50,000
2. Community Council of South-Central Texas, \$300,000
3. The Salvation Army - Corpus Christi, \$300,000
4. Hidalgo County, \$300,000
5. Project Amistad, \$300,000
6. Grace After Fire, \$200,000
7. Honor Veterans Now, \$500,000
8. Fort Bend County, \$300,000
9. Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc., \$20,000
10. Families in Crisis Incorporated, \$300,000
11. San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc., \$300,000
12. The Salvation Army, El Paso, \$250,000
13. The Salvation Army, San Antonio, \$300,000
14. Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc., \$150,000
15. Caritas of Waco, \$200,000
16. Panhandle Community Services, \$300,000
17. Houston Area Urban League, \$500,000
18. The Salvation Army – Amarillo, \$105,000

19. Caritas of Austin, \$125,000
20. Tropical Texas Behavior Health, \$300,000
21. Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, \$300,000
22. Volunteers of America Texas, Inc., \$295,000
23. Meals on Wheels Montgomery County, \$300,000
24. The Salvation Army – Waco, \$250,000
25. USA Cares, Inc., \$500,000
26. Foundation Communities, \$100,000
27. Trinity County, \$180,000
28. The Salvation Army – Lufkin, \$100,000
29. Catholic Charities of Central Texas, \$300,000
30. Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County, \$300,000
31. Adults and Youth United Development Association, Inc., \$190,000
32. Communities In Schools of Greater Central Texas, \$300,000
33. United Way of Johnson County, Inc., \$300,000
34. United Way of Denton County, \$300,000
35. American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, \$500,000
36. Central Texas Council of Governments, \$300,000
37. Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, \$300,000
38. Katy Christian Ministries, \$230,000
39. Meals on Wheels San Antonio, \$300,000
40. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., \$300,000
41. Bring Everyone in The Zone, \$200,000
42. The Salvation Army, Grayson County, \$100,000
43. Project MEND, \$300,000
44. Making Dreams Real, Inc., \$95,000
45. Family Endeavors, Inc., \$500,000
46. West Central Texas Regional Foundation, \$300,000
47. Goodwill Industries of Houston, \$190,000
48. Feonix - Mobility Rising, \$150,000
49. Wheelchairs for Warriors, \$150,000
50. Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc., \$40,000
51. Burnet County, \$75,000
52. Deep East Texas Council of Governments, \$70,000
53. Nueces County, \$150,000
54. San Antonio Food Bank, \$300,000
55. Transition Skills Training, Inc., \$50,000
56. Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County, \$125,000
57. Combined Arms, \$90,000
58. Next Step, Inc., \$80,000
59. Hope for the Warriors, \$215,000
60. TBI Warrior Foundation, \$150,000
61. After Military Service, \$150,000
62. Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, \$300,000
63. Heroes Night Out, Inc., \$150,000
64. Veterans Center of North Texas, \$300,000
65. Rise-Resource Information Support and Empowerment, \$145,000
66. Brazos County, \$5,000
67. The Salvation Army – Midland, \$260,000

bb. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 General Assistance grant

recommendations made by the Committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Richard Delgado, Jr. motioned, and Mr. Omar Williams seconded the motion. No discussion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.

cc. Chair Kerry Reyna asked that all **NON-RECOMMENDED** applications for the GA grant be read aloud.

1. Houston Volunteer Lawyers, \$200,000
2. CPLC Texas, Inc., \$300,000
3. Dance for Dreams, \$50,000
4. Alliance of Border Collaboratives, \$210,000
5. Legacy Institute for Financial Education, \$145,000
6. My Possibilities, \$190,000
7. SPAN, Inc., \$150,000
8. Services Of Hope Entities, Inc., \$300,000
9. Veterans Stand Together, \$145,000
10. Community Partnership for the Homeless DBA Green Doors, \$145,000

dd. Chair Kerry Reyna asked for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 General Assistance grant non-recommended applications made by the Committee to take to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion.

MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.

XII. Discussion to set day, time, and location of the next FVAAC meeting.

Chair Kerry Reyna announced that the committee will not meet for annual training until January 2025 after the Commission has appointed 3 new members. The tentative FVAAC meeting is set for Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Kerry Reyna requested a motion to adjourn, Mr. Dan Ball motioned, and Mr. Luis Martinez seconded the motion. No discussion. **MOTION PASSED: 8 yeas and 0 nays.**



Chair, Peter Rispoli

2/12/25

Date