TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
THIRD QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2025)
Thursday, May 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
1801 Congress Ave, Board Room 4.300, Austin TX 78701

MINUTES

I. OPENING

A. Chairwoman Laura Koerner calls the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
B. Roll call:

Secretary Barber informs Chairwoman Koerner that there is a quorum.

Chairwoman Laura Koerner, Vice Chair Kevin Barber, Secretary Chuck Wright, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, and Commissioner Mary Dale.
Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino was also present.

C. Commissioner Kevin Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag, and Commissioner Mary Dale led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
D. Chip Osborne led the Commission in prayer.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Edward Ponikvar, Knowledge Point Network
B. Cruz Montemayor, Peak Performers
C. John Machado, Canine Companions
D. Anthony DeKeyzer, Sun Metro, City of El Paso
E. Eduardo Chapa, Webb County
F. Julie Niehoff, Transition Skills Training
G. Keith Wilson, Bexar County Veteran Services
H. Judge Richard Cortez & Samuel Perez, Jr., Hildago County
I. Commissioner Gus Ruiz, Cameron County Veteran Service Office
J. Commissioner Valerie Covey & Michael Hernandez, Williamson County Veteran Services
K. Ryan Marshall, Lee County Veteran Services
L. Judge Patricia Baca, Frank Chavez & Paul Armendariz, El Paso Veteran Treatment Court
M. Judge Travis Ranson, Cass County
N. Mayor Norma Sepulveda & City Commissioner Ford Kinsley, City of Harlingen
O. Travis Gladhill, East Texas Veterans Community Council
P. Mack Campbell, NPower
Q. Gary Foster, Cass County
R. City Commissioner Rene Perez, City of Harlingen
S. City Representative Art Fierro, City of El Paso

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Action regarding approval of the Consent Agenda. Chair Koerner asked if any commissioner wanted to remove anything from the consent agenda and place it on the FY 25, 3Q Commission Meeting agenda.

Chair Koerner removed Agenda item III. B. Acceptance of Gifts" from the consent agenda., no gifts were received.

No items were moved to the FY25, 3Q Commission Meeting agenda.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Veterans' Land Board Presentation to Commissioner Mary Dale

V. REPORTS

A. **Report on Agency Departments and Programs.**
   i. **Program Operations Division**. Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, provided the Commissioners with department updates for Claims, Health Care Advocacy, and Veteran Employment.
   ii. **Resource Management Division**. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided the Commissioners with department updates.
      a. Grant Year 2025-2026 Service Dog Program Updates and Ineligible Applications
      b. Fiscal Year 2025 Second Quarter Operating Statement: Michelle Nall, CFO, Finance Department

B. **Deputy Executive Director Report**. Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates.
   i. Internal Audit
   ii. Communication Department
   iii. Legislative Session
   iv. Dr. Krystle Matthews, Women Veterans Program Director, briefed on the Women Veterans Day

C. **Executive Director Report**. Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, thanked all veterans and agencies that support veterans. He provided a report on the agency's upcoming priorities.
   i. Legislative Session
   ii. Benefit Fairs
   iii. TVC collaboration

VI. CONSIDERATIONS

A. ***Action Regarding Election of Commission Officers (Vice Chair).*** Commissioner Mary Dale nominated Commissioner Kevin Barber as the Commission Vice Chair, and Commissioner Kevin Barber accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mmary Dale to accept the nomination of Commissioner Kevin Barber as the Commission's Vice Chair.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

Action Regarding Commission Officer elections (Secretary): Commissioner Kevin Barber nominated Commissioner Chuck Wright, and Commissioner Chuck Wright accepted the nomination for Commission Secretary.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to accept the nomination of Chuck Wright as the Commission's Secretary.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

B. ***Action Regarding Texas Veterans Commission FY2025, TVC Veteran Employer Awards.*** Katharine Tamez, Operations Manager, Veterans Employment Department, presented this item for consideration.
MOTION: Made by Secretary Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to accept the TVC Employer Awards.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

C. ***Action Regarding the Amendment Request to Increase the Grant Amount for Zapata County – VCSO – 2024-2025 Housing for Texas Heroes Grant for an additional $20,000 in grant funding.*** Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented this item for consideration.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve Zapata County – VCSO – 2024-2025 Housing for Texas Heroes grant amendment request for an additional $ 20,000 in grant funding.
VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passed.

D. ***Action Regarding the Amendment Request to Increase the Grant Amount for the City of El Paso, 2024-2025 General Assistance – Transportation Grant for an additional $13,500 in grant funding.*** Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented this item for consideration.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the City of El Paso, 2024-2025 General Assistance Grant – Transportation grant amendment request for an additional $13,500 in grant funding.
VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passed.

E. ***Action Regarding the Amendment Request to Increase the Grant Amount for Project Mend's 2024-2025 General Assistance – Financial Assistance Grant for an additional $54,000 in grant funding.*** Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented this item for consideration.

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve Project Mend's 2024-2025 General Assistance – Financial Assistance grant amendment request for an additional $54,000 in grant funding.
VOTE: 5-0 Motion Passed.

Break: 9:57 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

F. ***Action Regarding the 2024 – 2025 Fund Veterans' Assistance Grant Renewals,*** Erv Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented this item for consideration.

i. Veterans County Service Officer.
ii. Veterans Treatment Court.
iii. Housing for Texas Heroes.
iv. Veterans' Mental Health.
v. General Assistance.

Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented the 2024-2025 grant renewals for the 2025-2026 grant cycle. Erv provided an overview of the grant cycle and the process for reviewing the grants, performance criteria, and the number of veterans served.

Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, briefed, "There were 131 grant renewals submitted for a requested combined total of just over $33 million. Seventy-eight grant renewals met or exceeded the performance criteria, totaling just over $21 million for the 2025-2026 grant year."

"Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended renewal applications. At this time, I would like the commission to consider renewing the 2024-2025 renewals, on the 78 grants, with a reduced funding amount proportional to numbers served, totaling $12,875 million."

VETERAN COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER (VCSO) RENEWALS

Nine VCSO grant renewals were up for consideration, but only four of the VCSO grant renewals met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $1.9 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was $750,000.

Hildago County	**$ 300,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Liberty County	**$ 50,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Hays County	**$ 250,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Willacy County	**$ 150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Total Awarded	**$750,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the VCSO grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT (VTC) RENEWALS

Fourteen VTC grant renewals were up for consideration, but only eight VTC grant renewals met or

exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $3.4 million, and the amount requested for those who met renewal criteria was about $2.3 million.

Bexar County Commissioners' Court (Felony)	**$250,000**
Bexar County Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court	**$300,000**
Collin County	**$400,000**
***Potter County**	**$75,000**
Montgomery County	**$255,000**
Hays County	**$350,000**
Comal County	**$210,000**
***Galveston County**	**$135,000**
Total Awarded	**$1,975,000**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the VTC grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the VTC grant renewals at a lower amount.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (HTX) RENEWALS

Sixteen HTX grant renewals were up for consideration, but only eight HTX grant renewals met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $6 million; the amount requested for those who met renewal criteria was about $3.3 million.

***Garland Area Habitat for Humanity**	**$500,000**
***Panhandle Community Services**	**$500,000**
***Easter Seals Central Texas, Inc. 300**	**$500,000**
***Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity**	**$300,000**
Operation Finally Home	**$350,000**

Meals on Wheels and More, Inc.	**$350,000**
Meals on Wheels San Antonio 305	**$200,000**
Meals on Wheels Tarrant County	**$150,000**
Total Awarded	**$2,850,000**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the Housing for Texas Heroes grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.
VOTE: 4-1: Motion Passed. Commissioner Hernandez was the dissenting vote.

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve the Housing for Texas Heroes grant renewals at a higher amount.
VOTE: 4-1: Motion Passed. Commissioner Hernandez was the dissenting vote.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH) RENEWALS

Twenty-seven VMH grant renewals were up for consideration, but only twenty-one VTC grant renewals met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $6.8 million; the amount requested for those who met renewal criteria was about $5.5 million.

Collin County	**$270,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Family Endeavors, Inc.	**$500,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Grace After Fire	**$150,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Harris County	**$295,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Patriot PAWS Service Dogs	**$500,000**	**Service Dog**
Samaritan Center for Counseling and Pastoral Care, Inc.	**$500,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Canine Companions for Independence	**$350,000**	**Service Dog**
Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc.	**$300,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Refuge Services, Inc.	**$200,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Project Amistad	**$100,000**	**Clinical Counseling**

Marriage Management	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Baylor Research Institute	**$500,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Outdoor Association of True Heroes, Inc.	**50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
***Heart of Texas Regional MHMR Center**	**$125,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Austin Dog Alliance	**$355,000**	**Service Dog**
West Texas Counseling & Guidance, Inc.	**$500,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Castle Cares Community Ministries	**$100,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Skeleton Crew Adventures	**50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Outsiders Anonymous	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Total Awarded	**$5,045,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve the Veteran Mental Health grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve the Veteran Mental Health grant renewals to a lower amount.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) RENEWALS

Sixty-five GA grant renewals were up for consideration, but only thirty-seven GA grant renewals met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $15.6 million; the amount requested for those who met renewal criteria was about $9.1 million.

Tropical Texas Behavior Health	**$300,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Meals on Wheels San Antonio	**$300,000**	**Supportive Services**
Katy Christian Ministries	**$230,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Foundation Communities	**$100,000**	**Financial Assistance**

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	**$300,000**	**Supportive Services**
****Family Endeavors, Inc.**	**$450,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Meals On Wheels of Tarrant County	**$300,000**	**Transportation Programs**
United Way of Denton County	**$300,000**	**Financial Assistance**
The Salvation Army - Waco	**$250,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Goodwill Industries of Houston	**$50,000**	**Employment Support**
Family Pathfinders of Tarrant County	**$125,000**	**Supportive Services**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas, Inc.	**$5,000**	**Supportive Services**
Panhandle Community Services	**$300,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Hope for the Warriors	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
The Salvation Army – Corpus Christi	**$200,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Houston Volunteer Lawyers	**$200,000**	**Pro Bono Legal Services**
Nueces County	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***Heroes Night Out, Inc.**	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Hidalgo County Community Service Agency	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Wheelchairs for Warriors	**$150,000**	**Supportive Services**
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	**$50,000**	**Financial Assistance**
USA Cares, Inc.	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
The Salvation Army – San Antonio	**$200,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Community Council of South Central Texas	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Veterans Center of North Texas	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**

Burnet County	**$50,000**	**Transportation Programs**
Honor Veterans Now	**$350,000**	**Supportive Services**
Volunteers of America Texas, Inc.	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Caritas of Austin	**$75,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Caritas of Waco	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	**$150,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Trinity County	**$50,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Easter Seals of Greater Houston	**$75,000**	**Financial Assistance**
After Military Service	**$75,000**	**Financial Assistance**
The Salvation Army – El Paso	**$150,000**	**Homeless Veteran Support**
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc.	**$125,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Bring Everyone in the Zone	**$125,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Total Awarded	**6,585,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the General Assistance grant renewal applications that met all the criteria.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve the General Assistance grant renewals at an increased amount.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

**AMENDED MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the General Assistance grant renewals at an increased amount.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

"Commissioners, at this time, I would like to consider renewing grants that, for various reasons, did not meet the renewal criteria.

For the commission to consider renewing grant organizations that did not meet the renewal criteria, the commission will need to waive the provision in the 2024-2025 Request for Application that specifies that requirement.

The Commission may, in its sole discretion, exercise the option to renew the grant for one (1) additional one (1) year period. To be considered for renewal, grantees are expected to:

1. Meet 60% of annual performance and funding expenditures by the end of February, the eighth (8th) month of the grant period (July 1st – February 28th).
2. Have no unresolved compliance findings.

"Do I hear a motion to waive the renewal criteria listed in the 2023-2024 Request for Application to enable the commission to renew additional grants that did not meet the renewal criteria?"

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to waive the renewal criteria listed in the 2023-2024 Request for Applications to enable the commission to renew additional grants that did not meet the renewal criteria.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

Chairwoman Laura Koerner recommended we start with the VCSO grantee renewal list.

VCSO RENEWALS
(Did not meet renewal criteria)

Bexar County	**$300,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Bexar County	**$425,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Zapata County	**$200,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Val Verde County	**$50,000**	**Transportation Programs**
***Webb County**	**$100,000**	**Transportation Programs**
Total Awarded	**$1,075,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the VCSO grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez to approve the VCSO grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the renewal criteria and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT (VTC) RENEWALS
(Did not meet renewal criteria)

Nueces County	**$200,000**
Dallas County	**$150,000**
****Travis County**	**$50,000**
****Tarrant County**	**$100,000**
****City of Dallas**	**$50,000**
***Webb County**	**$200,000**
Total Awarded	**$750,000**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the VTC grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the VTC grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the renewal criteria and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

**MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve the VTC grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the renewal criteria and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (HTX) RENEWALS
(Did not meet renewal criteria)

Rolling Plains Management Corporation	**$200,000**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the Housing for Texas Heroes (HTX) grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH) RENEWALS
(Did not meet renewal criteria)

Family Service Center of Galveston County	**$100,000**	**Clinical Counseling**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the Veteran Mental Health grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) RENEWALS
(Did not meet renewal criteria)

***San Antonio Food Bank	$50,000	Homeless Veteran Support
**Project Amistad	$200,000	Financial Assistance
Transition Skills Training, Inc	$50,000	Small Business Support
***Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	$175,000	Financial Assistance
***Project MEND	$175,000	Supportive Services
*Houston Area Urban League	$200,000	Financial Assistance
Total Awarded	$850,000	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve the General Assistance grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the General Assistance grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

**MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the General Assistance grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

***MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the General Assistance grant renewal applications that did not meet all the criteria; however, the Commission waived the criteria for renewal and considered funding.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to postpone consideration of the remaining grant renewal requests until after the new grant applications are considered.

VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

G. Action regarding the 2025-2026 Fund for Veterans Assistance new Grants recommendations.

Ervy Leos, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, provided an overview of the 2025-2026 grant cycle and all documents requested by Commissioners to make their funding recommendations. Joanna Orozco, Operations Manager, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, provided the methodology for the recommended amounts proposed by the FVA Advisory Committee.

One hundred and eighty-one applications were up for consideration, but only one hundred and thirty-nine applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $50.3 million; the amount requested for those who met renewal criteria was about $38.9 million.

Peter Rispoli and Richard Delgado, Jr., will give an overview of the advisory committee's process and then present the committee's recommended 2025- 2026 grant applications for award.

Peter Rispoli and Richard Delgado, Jr, FVA Advisory Committee Chair, provided an overview of the advisory committee process. Mr. Rispoli will present the committee's recommended grant applications to you.

VETERAN COUNTY SERVICE OFFICER (VCSO)

Seventeen VCSO grant applications were up for consideration, but only thirteen of the VCSO grant applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $3.5 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was about $2.6 million.

Zapata County	**$400,000**	**Housing for Texas Heroes**
Fort Bend County	**$150,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Wilson County	**$215,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Bell County	**$400,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Caldwell County	**$150,000**	**Housing for Texas Heroes**
Harris County	**$400,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Polk County	**$235,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Caldwell County	**$100,000**	**Financial Assistance**
El Paso County	**$285,000**	**Financial Assistance**
San Patricio County	**$100,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Walker County	**$70,000**	**Housing for Texas Heroes**

Montgomery County	**$50,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Walker County	**$35,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***Williamson County**	**$300,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***Hidalgo County**	**$300,000**	**Housing for Texas Heroes**
***Lee County**	**$20,000**	**Support Services**
***Cameron County**	**$300,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Total Awarded	**$3,510,000**	

Do I hear a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Veteran County Service Officer grant applications recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee?"

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the FVA recommended 2025-2026 VCSO grant applications.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to approve the FVA recommended 2025-2026 VCSO grant applications.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT (VTC) (3:10:41)

Six VTC grant applications were up for consideration, but only five of the VTC grant applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $1.6 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was about $1.2 million.

****Denton County**	**$330,000**
McLennan County	**$120,000**
Guadalupe County	**$110,000**
***Williamson County**	**$320,000**
****Ellis County**	**$360,000**
****El Paso County**	**$400,000**
Total Awarded	**$1,640,000**

"Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for Veteran Treatment Court Applications."

"Do I hear a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Veteran Treatment Court grant applications recommended by the F.V.A. Advisory Committee?"

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the F.V.A. Advisory Committee's recommendations for the 2025-2026 Veteran Treatment Court grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to increase the amount for Williamson County's 2026 Veteran Treatment Court grant.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

**AMENDED MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to increase the amount for Denton, Ellis and El Paso County's 2026 Veteran Treatment Court grant.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (HTX)

Twenty-five HTX grant applications were up for consideration, but only twenty-one of the HTX grant applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $8.1 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was about $8.1 million.

Rebuilding Together Austin	**$310,000**
Alamo Area Council of Governments	**$350,000**
Austin Habitat for Humanity	**$165,000**
City of Fort Worth	**$300,000**
Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District	**$350,000**
Rusted and Weathered, Inc.	**$60,000**
Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity	**$50,000**
***(2) City of Harlingen**	**$400,000**
***(3) Rebuilding Together Houston**	**$350,000**
***(1) Cass County**	**$400,000**
Total Awarded	**$2,735,000**

"Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended Housing for Texas Heroes applications."

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve funding in the Housing for Texas Heroes grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*(1) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to approve funding in the Housing for Texas Heroes grant category.
VOTE: 4-1: Motion Passed. Commissioner Barber was the dissenting vote.

*(2) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve funding in the Housing for Texas Heroes grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passed.

*(3) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve funding in the Housing for Texas Heroes grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

Break: 1:05 pm – 1:15 pm

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH)

Forty-four VMH grant applications were up for consideration, but only thirty-eight of the VMH grant applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $10.4 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was about $9.3 million.

Equest	**$100,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids	**$110,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS)	**$300,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Jake E's Riding Roundup	**$135,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
***(3) Tropical Texas Behavior Health**	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Pecan Valley MHMR Regional Director of Fiscal Services	**$350,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
***(1) Denton County MHMR Center**	**$50,000**	**Peer Support**
***(2) Bexar County Board of Trustees for MHMR Services**	**$150,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Total Awarded	**$1,245,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale to approve funding in the Veterans Mental Health grant category
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*(1) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner in the Veteran Mental Health grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

*(2) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the Veteran Mental Health grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

*(3) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright in the Veteran Mental Health grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA)

Eighty-nine GA grant applications were up for consideration, but only sixty-two of the GA grant applications met or exceeded their performance criteria. The total amount requested in this category was about $24.6 million; the amount requested for those who met the renewal criteria was about $17.6 million.

Lone Star Legal Aid	**$350,000**	**Pro Bono Legal Services**
Community Learning Center (CLC), Inc.	**$500,000**	**Financial Assistance**
East Texas Council of Governments	**$250,000**	**Organizational Transportation Fleet**
United Way of Tarrant County	**$50,000**	**Referral Services**
Fort Bend Senior Citizens Meals On Wheels & Much Much More, Inc.	**$200,000**	**Support Services**
Hale County Meals on Wheels, Inc.	**$95,000**	**Support Services**
Concho Valley Center for Human Advancement	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
City of Fort Worth	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
United States Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS)	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Concho Valley Community Action Agency	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Rolling Plains Management Corporation of Baylor Cottle Foard	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) El Paso del Norte Region	**$250,000**	**Support Services**
Council On Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend	**$200,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.	**$175,000**	**Homeless Veteran Support**
Cornerstone Community Action Agency, Inc.	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
City of El Paso	**$120,000**	**Organizational Transportation Fleet**
Family Service Center of Houston and Harris County	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**

Impact A Hero	**$225,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Goodwill Industries of South Texas, Inc.	**$125,000**	**Skill-Based Training Support**
NPower, Inc.	**$350,000**	**Skill-Based Training Support**
Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas, Inc.	**$160,000**	**Homeless Veteran Support**
Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star	**$100,000**	**Support Services**
Citizens Development Center	**$260,000**	**Skill-Based Training Support**
Northwest Assistance Ministries	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Child Crisis Center of El Paso	**$235,000**	**Support Services**
***(1)Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation**	**MOTION FAILED**	**Financial Assistance**
***(1) Meals on Wheels Palo Pinto County, Inc.**	**MOTION FAILED**	**Support Services**
***(1) Gallantfew, Inc**	**MOTION FAILED**	**Veterans Small Business Support**
***(2) Lubbock County**	**$10,000**	**Support Services**
***(3) Adaptive Training Foundation**	**$345,000**	**Support Services**
***(4, 5) Cass County**	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(4, 5) Collin County MHMR Center dba LifePath Systems**	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(4, 5, 6) City of Harlingen**	**$400,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(7) East Texas Veterans Community Council DBA: Camp V**	**$250,000**	**Support Services**
***(8) Jeff Davis County**	**$345,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(8) Concho Valley Council of Governments**	**$215,000**	**Organizational Transportation Fleet**
***(9) Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center**	**$225,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(9) Camino Real Community MHMR Center**	**$100,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(10) Texas National Guard Family Support Foundation**	**$250,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(11) City of Dallas**	**$180,000**	**Support Services**
***(12) Bandera County Committee on Aging, Inc.**	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**

***(12) Alamo Area Council of Governments**	**$250,000**	**Organizational Transportation Fleet**
***(13) City of Arlington**	**$350,000**	**Homeless Veteran Support**
***(13) Pecan Valley MH-MR Region Director of Fiscal Services**	**$350,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(14) Lubbock Regional MHMR Center**	**$250,000**	**Financial Assistance**
***(15) National Guard Association of Texas**	**$250,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Total Awarded	**$11,265,000**	

"Pending your questions, that concludes the presentation for the recommended General Assistance applications."

"Do I hear a motion to approve the 2025-2026 General Assistance applications recommended by the FVA Advisory Committee?"

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve funding in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed

*(1) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE: 2-3: Motion Fails. Nays: Chairwoman Koerner, Commissioner Dale, Commissioner Barber

*(2) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

*(3) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(4) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(5) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(6) AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to increase the amount awarded in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE: 4:1: Motion Passes. Nay – Commissioner Kevin Barber

*(7) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(8) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(9) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mike Hernandez in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(10) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(11) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(12) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(13) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(14) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(15) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

“Commissioners, at this time, I would like to return to agenda item 6G to consider any categories which still have recommended grants that have not been considered.

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (HTX)

****Jeff Davis County**	**$350,000**
Austin Area Urban League, Inc.	**$350,000**
Central Texas Council of	**$350,000**

Governments	
City of Arlington	**$350,000**
***City of Harlingen**	**$500,000**
Total Awarded	**1,900,000**

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*(1) MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to increase the funding under General Assistance, City of Harlingen.
VOTE:4-1: Motion Passes. Nay: Chairwoman Laura Koerner

*(2) MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber to waive the rules and move between agenda items.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH) Renewals

Skeleton Crew Adventures	**$100,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Outdoor Association of True Heroes, Inc.	**$150,000**	**Peer Support Services**
***Marriage Management**	**$100,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Total Awarded	**$350,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to increase funding in the Veteran Mental Health Renewal Category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

*MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Chairwoman Laura Koerner to increase funding in the Veteran Mental Health Renewal Category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

Katy Christian Ministries	**$50,000**	**Clinical Counseling**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to increase funding in the Veteran Mental Health Category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH)

Fob Rasor	**$50,000**	**Peer Support**
Boulder Crest Foundation	**$50,000**	**Peer Support**
PTSD Foundation of America	**$350,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Cen-Tex Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	**$330,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Gallantfew, Inc.	**$200,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Recovery Resource Council	**$350,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare	**$190,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
S.T.E.P.S. with Horses	**$150,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Boys & Girls Club of Central Texas, Inc.	**$350,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
CPLC Texas, Inc.	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Evanescent Mustang Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.	**$220,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Bring Everyone in the Zone	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Bluebonnet Trails Community MHMR Center	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Texana Center	**50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Anger Solutions Network	**$30,000**	**Peer Support Services**
SoleAna Stables	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Dallas Art Therapy	**$30,000**	**Clinical Counseling**
Hill Country Community MHMR Center	**$50,000**	**Peer Support Services**
Total Awarded	**$2,600,000**	

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH (VMH)

***WAVES Project, Inc.**	**$0**	**Peer Support**
***Alliance Child & Family Solutions**	**$0**	**Clinical Counseling**

*AMENDED MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to remove from consideration of funding.

VOTE: 5:0: Motion Passes.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA)

Gallantfew	**$100,000**	**Veteran Small Business Support**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA)

Meals on Wheels of Palo Pinto County, Inc.	**$45,000**	**Support Services**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) Renewal

Grace After Fire	**$100,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Fort Bend County	**$50,000**	**Financial Assistance**
Total Awarded:	**$150,000**	

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance renewal grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program	**$150,000**	**Homeless Veteran Support**
TBI Warrior Foundation	**$100,000**	**Employment Support**
Total Awarded	**$250,000**	

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Barber in the General Assistance renewal grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

HOUSING FOR TEXAS HEROES (HTX)

Houston Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	**$350,000**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright in the Housing for Texas Heroes grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA)

VFW POST 9182	**$55,000**	**Financial Assistance**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

Hire Heroes USA	**$490,000**	**Skill-Based Training Support**

MOTION: Made by Chairwoman Laura Koerner and seconded by Commissioner Mary Dale in the General Assistance grant category.
VOTE:5-0: Motion Passes.

VII. Executive Session. None.

VIII. Discuss and take action on the items considered in Executive Session. There were no items to act on.

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

Special Commission meeting will be held on July 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., George H.W. Bush Building.

The Commission agreed that the 4th Quarterly Commission Meeting of F.Y. 2024 would be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. HQ Austin, TX, George H.W. Bush building,4th floor board room.

X. Adjournment.

Chairwoman Koerner asked each Commissioner for any closing remarks.

Each Commissioner and the Executive Director expressed gratitude to the Texas Veterans Commission staff, Chairwoman Koerner, and the participating organizations for their support and hard work in serving Texas Veterans. Chairwoman Koerner also provided closing remarks.

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.