TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION
FIRST QUARTER COMMISSION MEETING (FY 2025)
Thursday, November 14, 2024, 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 Mary Dale, Secretary Kevin Barber, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, and Commissioner Chuck Wright.
Executive Director Thomas P. Palladino was also present.

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Action regarding approval of the Consent Agenda. She asked if any commissioner wanted to remove anything from the consent agenda and place it on the FY 25, 1Q Commission Meeting agenda. No items were moved to the FY25, 1Q Commission Meeting agenda.

Chairwoman Koerner removed Item C, Acceptance of Gifts, from the Consent Agenda since no gifts were received.

A. FY25, 1Q Commission Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2024.
B. Adopt Amendments to Title 40, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Part 15, Chapter 461, Veterans Education, Sections 461.20 to add “Space Force” and461.200 to correct a statutory
C. Acceptance of Gifts - Removed

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Mary Dale and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. FY 2024 Internal Annual Audit Report and Procurement Follow-Up

Report—Weaver
B. Introduction: FY 2025 Internal Auditor—Garza and Gonzalez
C. Advisory Committee Member Recognition

V. REPORTS

A. **Report on Agency Departments and Programs.**
1. **Program Operations Division**. Charles Catoe, Division Director of Program Operations, provided the Commissioners with the department updates for Veterans Education, HCAD, Employment, and Claims.
2. **Resource Management Division**. Chip Osborne, Division Director of Resource Management, provided the Commissioners with department updates.
   a. FY2024 4Q Operating Statement
   b. Human Resources End of Year Report
   c. Human Resources – Employee's Engagement Report
   d. FY2024 Performance Measures Report.

B. **Deputy Executive Director Report**. Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates.
1. Veterans Land Board Call Center Update
2. Women Veterans Report

C. **Executive Director Report**. Thomas Palladino, Executive Director, provided a report on the agency's upcoming priorities
1. 89th Legislative session starts in January 2025.
2. New RFA – 2025/2026 cycle.
3. Check Presentations starting September 4th through October 10th, 2024.
4. Veteran Benefit Fairs that will be coming up every few months.
5. AY 2025, 2d half of Biennial budget briefed by Stephanie Robinson, 5% salary increase, operating budget, begin briefing on LAR with final submission date to LBB, September 6, 2024.
6. Needs Assessment incorporating into the Exceptional Items
7. Employee Engagement Survey—Anything over 350 is good; most areas are over 400. One item that needs more attention is Pay and Benefits.

BREAK 10:19 am – 10:30 am

VI. CONSIDERATIONS

A. ***Action regarding the Proposed amendments to Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 452, 452.2, Advisory Committees to remove the Veteran Services Advisory Committee and the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee.*** Kathy Cordova, General Counsel, presented this item.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Secretary Kevin Barber to approve the proposed amendment to Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 452, 452.2, Advisory Committees to remove the Veteran Services Advisory Committee and the Veterans County Service Officer Advisory Committee.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

B. ***Action regarding the Proposed new rules in Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 452, 452.9, and 452.10 to add the Sick Leave and Family Leave Pool.*** Kathy Cordova, General Counsel, presented this agenda item.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chuck Wright and seconded by Vice Chair Mary Dale to approve the proposed new rules in Title 40, TAC, Part 15, Chapter 452; 452.9 and 452.10 to add Sick Leave and Family Leave Pool.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

C. ***Action regarding the Proposed repeal of Chapter 463, Title 40, TAC, Part 15., to repeal the Veteran Verification Letter procedures.*** Kathy Cordova, General Counsel, presented this agenda item.

MOTION: Made by Secretary Kevin Barber and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the Proposed repeal of Chapter 463, Title 40, TAC, Part 15, to repeal the Veteran Verification Letter procedures.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

D. ***Action regarding the staff recommendations to appoint the new Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Members.*** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, presented this agenda item.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Mary Dale and seconded by Secretary Kevin Barber to approve the staff recommendations to appoint the new Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Members.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

E. ***Action regarding the staff recommendation to appoint the new Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Chair.*** Shawn Deabay, Deputy Executive Director, presented this agenda item.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Mike Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Chuck Wright to approve the staff recommendation to appoint the new Fund for Veterans' Assistance Advisory Committee Chair.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

F. ***Action regarding the proposed revision to the Veterans Treatment Courts FVA Grant Award Limits.*** Elaine Zavala, Director, Fund for Veterans' Assistance, presented this agenda item.

No Motion needed

VII. Executive Session (10:52 am -11:15 am)

Chairwoman Laura Koerner adjourned the open and public commission meeting on November 13, 2024, at 10:52 am. This agenda item is authorized to go into Executive Session in accordance with Government Code, at Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code: item of personnel matters.

Chairwoman Koerner called the following individuals into Executive Session:

Commissioner Kevin Barber, Commissioner Chuck Wright, Commissioner Mike Hernandez, Thomas Palladino, Shawn Deabay, Chip Osborne, Kathleen Cordova, Swapna Jain, Tim Shatto, Daniel Graves.

Executive Session reconvened on November 14, 2024, at 11:15 a.m.

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

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

The Commission agreed that the FY 2025, 2Q Commission meeting will be held Thursday, February 13, 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.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Mary Dale and seconded by Secretary Kevin Barber to adjourn the FY2-25, 1Q Commission meeting.
VOTE: 5-0: Motion Passed.

Chairwoman Koerner adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:

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