



CITY CLERK DEPT
2021 AUG 23 AM 10:26

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

June 25, 2021 – 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams
Live Streamed via City's website:
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>
Television on City15

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

MINUTES

Members Present

Carl Dwyer introduced Lance Lehr
Tephania Hopper
Bruce Biegel
Hope Jackson
Laura Butler
Don Parrott
Justin Rotti

Members Absent

Bruce Biegel

Unfilled Positions

District 4
District 8

1. **Call to Order** at 10:09AM
2. **Roll Call.** 5 of 9. Quorum. 6 of 9 later in meeting
3. **Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of May 21, 2021.** Minutes Approved Unanimously
4. **Citizen Comment Period:** Individuals limited to 3 minutes; no specific action may be taken. NO COMMENTS
5. **El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update:** Mike Amaral, Director. NO UPDATE
6. **El Paso County Veterans Assistance Program Manager – Carl Dwyer.**
 - a. Crisis Intercept Mapping continues to meet. The purpose is to work toward having no Veteran suicides in community. In the next 30 days they will be ready to schedule the first in person working group.
 - b. The County of El Paso Veteran resource directory will release its semiannual publication in July. If anyone has any updates or inclusions send to Carl Dwyer.
 - c. The County will host a memorial to remember the Veterans of the August 3rd, 2019 mass shooting on 22 July 6pm. The Ceremony is called "Healing through Honor". Please watch for several community events planned from July 3 to Aug 3.

- d. Carl Dwyer introduced Alexis McCray who is the new County Veteran Advisory Board Chair Women.
7. **Receive an Update on the Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Ben Miranda**
 - a. Active Clients Housed: 7 - Clients in process: 4 - Exited clients: 1
 - b. - Total Landlords we are working with: 4
 - c. - Challenges: Client that has been exited from the program was involved in illicit activity coming from his apartment due to bad influences he was surrounding himself with. The client was provided with necessary education, resources and appropriate program expectations, however he continued with non-compliance of the apartment rules and program expectations. For all other clients, barriers clients or case workers have faced have been promptly address and resolved for the continuum of care of the clients.
 - d. - **Accomplishments:**

Accepted Social Work Intern to the program. Intern has served 120 hours.

* Clients have become less dependent on case workers for daily living due to them reaching most of their goals.

* Most clients have all their necessary identifying documents (ID, Birth Certificates, DD214, SS Cards), or are currently in process. Even clients in process' through case management.

*3 clients are looking for stable jobs and continue to look for better opportunities. 1 client is working on SSDI benefits. 1 has SSI. 2 clients have stable employment.

*3 clients are seeking higher education opportunities, currently looking for grants and tuition waivers.

*All active clients have been registered with mental health and medical, pantry services and other community resources. Most have been enrolled in Texas Veterans Network.
8. **Community Update: NO UPDATE**
9. **Discussion and Action: Semi Annual Brief to Council scheduled June 8, 2021.**
 - a. The date of the brief will change to correlate with the strategic timeline of the city. The City budgeting process is from March to August. The first brief to Council will be in March and brief as a follow up in September. This aligns with the City budgeting process. The vote to change the brief was unanimous.
 - b. Paul Albright advised that it is important for committee members to tune in to council when possible to see what is being approved and stay in tune with the process. Lance Lehr advised that we all talk to reps and communicate regularly. We must also work on getting 2 districts filled.
 - c. The next brief to Council is September 14, 2021.
10. **Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Chairs update on assigned focus areas.**
 - a. Bruce Biegel – Employment Fort Bliss expo in July (13-15). The current status of SHRM Class to hiring managers in the City: The original speaker dropped out at the last minute. Josh Atkinson with PM Prolearn put it off one month in July for all of the directors. The end of July class will include panelists, discussion and interaction. Will use Lean Six Sigma for class. Slides will be provided and a special meeting will be scheduled to allow a quorum for the class.
 - b. Hope Jackson – homelessness: A committee initiated by county met with the homeless community to talk about how to effectively end Veteran homelessness within the City. Camille educated everyone on what the Master List is and how it

functions and how stakeholders use it to make sure we are meeting needs. There will be further scheduled meetings with the way ahead. Concern from Hope Jackson: The report from Endeavors VTBRA program with the number of Veterans Housed. Endeavors briefed seven yet the Master list shows nine. The master list has 75 names on it and seven don't want to be a part of the program. That leaves 68 eligible for pilot. Why is the master list not being used to populate the program? Should have filled 20 vacancies now. Lance stated we must work to ensure correct data and have one point of contact. Justin stated that the coalition is saying they are eligible and city is saying they need to try other programs first. Communication issues. Hope stated that we need metrics or no standard. Every service provider is getting city, county or VA funds. There must be accountability for the organizational partners.

- c. Stephanie Hopper –Marketing / Outreach. One Wednesday the subcommittee met and developed three goals. Goal 1: Develop brand identity and establish more partnership with FT. Bliss and Veterans. Have more presence on the city splash page /landing page for vets resources. Must have more engaging outreach. Update the logo with El Paso / Fort Bliss Centric theme (stand out better). Build Vet testimonials and have pictures of VAAC members on the website. Goal 2: expanding social media to Instagram and twitter. We would like access. There is a lot of info, but we need to make sure it's diverse. LinkedIn would be great too because it is professional. Establish social media campaigns to generate buzz. Create a Veteran small biz month campaign, Veteran of the week, and spotlight a non-profit monthly. Goal 3: outreach activities. Go to events and hiring fairs. Create a Veterans shark tank: This will start competition (small businesses in the community) give money to start business and offer mentors that can provide with marketing plans. VBA, Chamber etc. Justin: UTEP did something like that with state of Texas; Paul will be at all events. Lance to Paul: Use assistance with bridge fellows/interns to get help with all of this. City should be able to get us access after signing paperwork and will talk to legal about vet shark tank. Next FY: get help for Paul to make a department.

Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update.

- a. 100th anniversary of WBAMC. July 1 -> important or make sure council rep gets invite.
- b. DCEP: July 12 a grant will be submitted to build a an ease of access for WBAMC
- c. Flags Across America will host two events on Saturday June 26th. The Korean War armistice ceremony at 9am and a PTSD awareness walk at 6PM.

11. Announcements: Limited to Veteran and Military Events pertinent to the El Paso Region.

- a. Laura: Onward 2 Opportunity cohort announcing for September. Ft. Bliss Hiring fair, July 13-15.
- b. Healing through Honor July 22nd Ascarte park
- c. Paul Albright is giving classes to mental health facilities.

12. Next VAAC Meeting: July 16, 2021 at 10:00 AM MDT Virtual Meeting online.
13. Adjourn. 11:30AM

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meeting Act.) The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward items for public discussion, as appropriate.

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEGOTIATIONS

Sign Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to the Community Development department at phone number 915-212-1654 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of these Minutes will be provided in Braille, large print or audiotape upon request. Requests must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

POSTED THIS 23 DAY OF August AT 10:15am BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.