

CTVSC Meeting - June 21, 2016

Casey Wade called to order at 1:13.

Introductions:

- * Casey Wade - TWC
- * Caleb Steed - TSCS Dir of Recruiting
- * Michael - (?)
- * BethAnn Warwick - ACC
- * Tom Orlando - Homes 4 Vets
- * Anna Baker - TVC
- * Christopher - MVPN
- * (missed name) - Army Survivor Services
- * Roberta Roque -DAR TX
- * Amy Pensyl - TexVet
- * Jonathan Leistiko - TexVet
- * Jennifer Soretti - Operation GoodJ
- * Andrew Bolens - Digital Heroes - At-home tech jobs for veterans
- * Paul Julio - TVC Employment
- * Bo Buell - AFB Exect Dir
- * Zen VanLoan - Camp MAYb
- * Dareen McQueen.- Goodwill Job resources

Spotlights TVC Women's Initiative Program

Anna Baker

Manager of the Women Veterans Program at the TVC.

Started in 2011. Became a program in 2015 after a legislature mandate. She's an Air Force veteran.

"The one thing that our program is not - it is in no way shape or form meant to demean men or segregate women. Our goal is to connect women veterans to each other, to local resources, and to the state and federal resources available to them. Our goal is to empower women veterans to seek out the resources available to them."

Women veterans have similar experiences to make veterans, but when they come home, they have to suppress and subsume their experiences to take care of the rest of their family. When they do this, they don't have the bandwidth to seek out the veteran services they have access to and/or need.

We're going around the state and hosting seminars that start with a small gala that honors women veterans. We've had three so far: Houston, San Antonio, and Lubbock. Note that locals organize these events; we reach out to community leaders to coordinate and organize them. The next dat's are about connecting to resources and employers; workshops and panels, etc..
Coming Up: Harlingen, (somewhere), El Paso, then Austin (Jan/Feb 2017)

We're also doing virtual coffee seminars to accommodate the schedules of women who can not attend. Go to <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Virtual-Coffee.aspx> for more info.

TSTC Veterans Program / Initiative

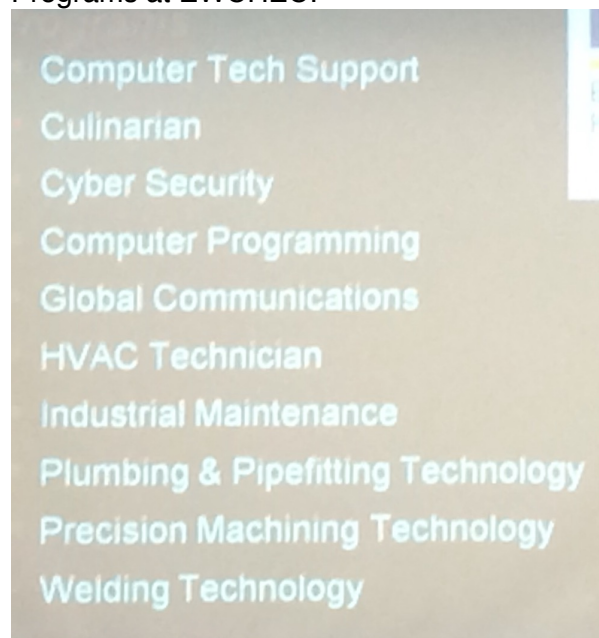
Caleb Steed - Director of Recruiting at the Hutto Campus

Texas State Technical College

They provide an associates, and UT will accept their credits toward a full bachelor's Only state-funded Technical College in Texas that receives funding in their particular way. They're provided based off of placement of their students (within 120 days of graduation). The pamphlets talk about their criteria and placement rates. Last year, they placed at 84% (which is good).

They focus on jobs that fill the skills gap between the number of middle-skill jobs and middle-skills workers (roughly 11% gap).

Programs at EWCHEC:



They want to partner with VSOs for knowledge and events. They're hosting an event with 20 tables for vendors.

Gave an overview of their website at <http://tstc.edu/vbook>
Hoping to enroll 340 students in the next year.

Next Thursday - 30th they're having a registration event from 10 to 2.

Q: Hazlewood?
A: Yes!

Q: Assistance from the National Guard?
A: I'm pretty sure we do.

Noted that they will cut programs that aren't getting

Q: How do you work with Community Colleges?
A: The CCs offer academic classes - the academic core. We offer the technical classes.

Q: Semesters?
A: We do trimesters.

Q: Cybersecurity? What about experience and A+-style sets.

A: We've partnered with industry leaders to get certified by them. We train them up to be able to take the tests for any certification they need.

Old Biz Austin Furniture Bank

Bo Buell

- * Thanks to a pro bono Atty via Texas C-BAR, we have a Certificate of formation - EIN and non-profit status and by-laws; all going forward.
- * We served a single mom female veteran in the last few months; she was diagnosed with Gulf Syndrome and was laid off with unpaid leave; lost her home; spent 2 months with her daughter in the Salvation Army. Those are the people we serve, in conjunction with ECHO, Caritas, Front Steps, the VA... We got to deliver a house full of furniture to this woman and her child. That's what we do - that's our driving force. We're pushing to fill this real need in Austin.
- * 95% of the people we've served since Feb 1 have been veterans, and they're all real people.

Bikes For Vets

Paul Julio

M's. Mendoza from Meals on Wheels had a bike for a veteran.

The Yellow Bike Project provides bikes to vets in specific programs.

M's. M and I created a program for veterans to participate in. I build bikes. M's. M sources them from CapMetro and campuses. I've built one bike so far. I had a big meeting with Yellow Bike; I thought I could build a bike an hour. It took me a day. We get trashed bikes and try to find what's usable. It's going to be super-slow. If you know a veteran who needs a utility bike to get to work or the store, contact me or Adrienne Mendoza.

I will meet the veteran at a location (Yellow Bike), confirm with a DD214, and they get a bike. Please keep in mind that it takes a long time to put them together, so don't flood me! The Yellow Bike project has been very friendly, but I have not pinged them for help yet.

The YBP is at: 1216 Webberville Rd, Austin, TX 78721
They have very limited parking - only 3 or 4 spaces.

Q: If we want to donate a bike...

A: You can go there, let them know it's for "the veterans - Paul". You can also give the bike to me and I'll put it in my jeep.

There's no \$ changing hands. If this gets momentum, I'll encourage the YBP to pick this up.

This is for veterans who are not eligible for bikes via other programs, like Caritas or Meals on Wheels.

We're gathering lights, helmets, etc. We're creating a liability waiver to protect us and the YBP.

Q: Once they get the bikes, can they take them back there for service?

A: Oh yeah! They can also use it, bring it back, and let another Vet get it.

CTVSC Outreach Committee

-Call for people that should be at the CTVSC who aren't here, please send their info to Jonathan, he will extend an invitation to them.

-Raffle Idea

-Jon will print more invite cards for the CTVSC meeting in general

Casey Wade proposed to stabilize CTVSC meeting location

Jonathan also proposed an additional 'field trip' meeting the week before.

No dissenters.

New Biz July Meeting: VSO Spotlights and Location?

Paul Julio is the chair.

Spotlights? - Caritas? HUD/VASH Case Manager or Outreach Specialist? ECHO to report on functional zero?

Paul: ECHO & Caritas. Help people understand that the work is ongoing.

Amy: A user path: What happens when someone comes to Casey and needs a job? What happens when someone comes to Pia and needs a place to live? What is the process to get someone out of homelessness? What do those paths look like? What does it take to get a VASH voucher? Where does a person who's waiting for coordinated assessment do? What is coordinated assessment?

(Extended discussion of the state of housing the formerly homeless.) Bo suggested bringing in a client. Paul asked if a panel would be good? The idea was favorably received.

How many orgs here are grant-funded? FVA? ACC Vet programs? (none)

Calls For Help

HNO is a great source for general household chore yard work. If someone needs that, HNO will provide that help. 60 kids and one adult.

Williamson County Senior Services Meals on Wheels can act as a channel for this.

BethAnn Warwick: I'm looking for grants for veterans education.

Chris A: 20 million grant in two parts one at the end of this month and another one coming along. IT's a mental health grant. I've been working to create a one-stop shop in Austin. I'm talking to key players and getting MOUs. Caritas will provide services along with Samaritan Center. I'll be reaching out to

you for participation and MOUs with dollar amounts. Reach out to me!

Amy: We've been working on how to find what we have; In our Coalitions section - there's a Funding for VSOs section (grants, etc. for PTSD, E. Dole Foundation, etc.); and a Services for VSOs section, like tool banks and Texas C-BAR.

Engagement and Outreach to Local Governmental Bodies

County VSOs
Mark Berger
Allan Bergeron
City Council Members

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Casey: Vet Job Fair tomorrow at Workforce Solutions. Interviews on the spot.

Paul: Veterans who are scared of job fairs - give them my contact info; I'll help them make warm hand-offs. I'll do what it takes to help them.

The 7th Annual Distinguished Artist Veterans Exhibit

Deadline: August 1, 2016

VSA Texas invites all Veterans with Disabilities/Wounded Warriors living in Texas to submit artwork to the seventh annual Distinguished Artist Veterans exhibit. This year we are combining our art exhibit with our new Writing class and calling it The Re-Integration Project: a writing and art collaboration for Texas Veterans. There is no fee to submit artwork to this call for entries and artwork in all media are eligible. The exhibit will be on display at the Terrazas Branch of the Austin Public Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX 78702 from August 31-October 24, 2016. A reception and reading of veteran writings will be held on

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 from 7- 8:30 pm as part of the library's Aural Literature program. Questions? Contact April Sullivan at april@vsatx.org or 512-454-9912.

Success Stories

AFB + VA = Beds

AFB = Warner Brothers = Nice Furnishings!

(Sherif person) = One gent called who'd done coordinated assessment. Now he's signing a lease with help from a HUD/VASH case worker.

BethAnn ACC - Grant ended in May - They filled every spot (600 veterans) got their degrees and got out there. With your help, we completed every slot in that grant.

Casey: ACC was one of two or three across the state that met their goal. It wasn't easy. They really pushed!

Pia: Paul reminded me - We got awarded for another year from the TVC. We're adding two counties to our four - Bell, Croyel, Bastrop, Hayes, Williamson, Travis. We're also allowed to cover vehicle maintenance. Our homeless veterans intervention program got funded again. Our goal is 80 to 85 homeless veterans we'll be helping with employment. We're covering Williamson county.

Casey: Recycled Rides - VFW - 3 vehicles for the Austin area. We don't know this for sure, but keep an eye out for it. Note that the vehicles will not be awarded until November. We don't know when the application process will begin. The application process will be a little longer than last year.

Q: Are they good cars?

A: Progressive partners with Calibre Collision. The cars are technically totaled by Progressive. Other partners volunteer labor and parts, refurbish the cars, and they get gifted. These cars are *nice*.

Qualification: Vet must not have a car.

Adjourned at 3:00.

Corrections / omissions? email
jonathan@texvet.org