



Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2016

Heart of Texas Goodwill Learning Center
2601 Commerce Street, Belton, TX 76513

Agenda available at: <http://www.texvet.org/postings/agenda-vsact-meeting-march-16-2016>

Approximately 35 people attended the meeting. You can download a photo of the sign-in sheet from: <http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/vsact-sign-in-2016-03-16.jpg>

Katie Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05

Steering Committee Update

The Steering Committee discussed:

- * Meeting format and direction; decided that we won't start meetings with intros, but leave that to the second half - networking.
- * Discussed that we may hold the meeting in other locations (?).
- * We've created a Facebook group to facilitate info-sharing and calls for assistance. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/247931565544109/>, join the group, and start sharing!
- * We're setting up a standardized survey that people we refer to services can use to evaluate service performance. We'll give out cards (and put them online for print out) at a future meeting.

- * Encouraging VSACT attendees to go to other service's locations and provide a short on-site "here's what we do" training.
- * Encouraging VSACT members to bring other interested people who have not attended to VSACT meetings.
- * Setting up a committee to act as a liaison between the COG and VSACT.
- * If you want to present in April, please contact Katie Martin.

Military Forces State Family Programs

Jessica Carter (Temple) and Natalie Lowe (Waco)

You can download the presentations at:

<http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/ng-family-program-FAC.pptx>

and

<http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/sfp-overview-dec2015.ppt>

- * 18 across the state
- * Mission: Provide guidance, resources and support to family members
- * Contrary to popular image of National Guard as "weekend warriors", the National Guard has huge numbers of people on active duty - Africa, Romania, etc.
- * The kids of National Guard members go through the same things active duty kids go through, but they don't get the same kind of support active duty does. That's where we come in.

They have access to a vast array of programs that serve all branches, all family members.

- * Assist with intervention, yellow ribbon program, benefits like TriCare, etc.

- * Strong Bonds - Chaplain run - single soldier retreats, marriage Counseling, etc.
- * FRG Training & Recognition
- * Yellow Ribbon Program - A four-to-five stage program of family reintegration.
- * Child and Youth programs: College prep, youth camps, etc.
- * Military OneSource & Red Cross State consultants
- * Also involved in JCF.
- * Survivor Outreach Services
- * Financial Assistance: operation Homefront, USA Cares, VFW - Unmet needs program, VFW - MAP Program,

Family Assistance Center Overview

(SEE 2 PICTURES)

Deployment Focus

(Pre-, During-, and Post-Deployment)

Please refer to the slides for more info:

<http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/ng-family-program-FAC.pptx>

and

<http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/sfp-overview-dec2015.ppt>

Contact Info

State Family Program Office hours: Mon-Fri 0700-1730
2200 W. 35TH Street, Bldg. 34, Austin, TX 78703
W (800) 252-8032; (888) 443-2124 (Spanish); Fax (512) 782-6953

CPT Shayla Ray • SFP Director • (512) 782-5322
Julie Ramirez • SFP Program Coordinator • (512) 782-1235
<https://www.txmf.us/txmf-state-family-program>

24 hour assistance hotline: 1-800-252-8032 • !-888-443-2124 (Spanish)

Questions

Q: You serve all components. I have an army retiree. He's having problems with getting ID cards, etc. Can I refer him to you?

A: Yes. The only thing that's only for the guards is the foundation.

Intros & Updates

Carol Colley



They provide legal services in civil cases: Bankruptcy, divorce, Family law, etc. (See flyer at: <http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/lone-star-legal-aid-about-us-2016-03-16.jpg>)
Only low income (up to 300% of Federal poverty line)

Our office is in Belton, but we'll provide info to almost all local counties.

We're working on community outreach.

On the spot legal advice, may take on long-term cases.

We have heavy case load, but we have lots of new attorneys, so we're taking new cases.

We're willing to travel to them and meet them.

We also address holistic issues (financial training, etc.)

Q: How frequent are your clinics?

A: We do them as needed. We have different styles of clinics, depending on context. We adjust to meet need.

We have a clinic coming up: March 22 10-2 at the Vet Center at the Workforce Solutions location in Killeen. (See flyer at: <http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/legal-clinic-2016-03-22.pdf>)

Q: Call? Walk-in?

A: We do permit walk-ins. They can also call the 800-number. We can do a lot over the phone.

Q: What about veterans above 300% poverty? Do you provide referrals?

A: It depends on the setting. If they're face-to-face, I'll likely help them.

Q: What do you define "poverty level" as?

A: That's a complex question, but it's roughly \$1,248 per month. There's lots of different factors. Assets, bills, etc. If you have someone, just have them call and apply.

Q: Corrective action for VA stuff?

A: Yes, we have a specialist.

Q: Do you help with VA benefits appeals?

A: Yes. We actually tend to do more appeals than claims.

Q: Will you help dependents?

A: Yes.

Q: Bell County Bar Association affiliation?

A: Yes, but that's a new connection.

Announcements

Garrison Commander's orientation

March 29 - Fort Hood - Club Hood 9 AM. Community outreach. (The speaker learned about this at the Harker Heights Veteran's Council meeting)

VA 50th Anniversary of Vietnam

March 29 -, 10:30, at the VA. Fair, etc. See flyer at: <http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/VVC-flier.pdf>

Welcome Home Celebration

April 8 at Texas Stars in Round Rock (Hockey Stadium) Job Fair too (as part of the tailgate) from 5 to 7 that day.

Tickets via flyer email address.

Parking will likely not be free (\$8), but the game is free.

More info and flyer at: <http://www.texvet.org/events/texas-stars-military-appreciation-night>

Operation Phantom Support

(John) We serve 1,000 families per week. Tomorrow is our Food Day - We give out food with proof of



Questions or errors? • jonathan@texvet.org

service. 315 E. Ave C
Killeen, TX 7654. Open from (12?) to 5. We provide food for 2 weeks at a time. Thrift store, car repair; lots of programs to help vets. Furniture, etc. Been there for 3 years. Starting a homeless vet employment program.
See their brochure at: <http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/op-phantom-support.jpg>

Vet Treatment Court

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT
27th, 146th, 169th, 264th, 426th JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



SAMANTHA HAYNES
CSCD Veterans Court Coordinator
CSCD Social Worker
309 Priest Drive
Killeen, Texas 76541-7193

Office Fax
254-618-4125 254-634-7403
samantha.haynes@co.bell.tx.us

1 yr anniversary. Coming up. March 24th @ 3PM at the court
Diversion for vets who end up in the legal system and have a mental health issue that correlates to the cause of their legal issue.

See the flyer at: <http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/bell-county-vet-court-1-year-anniv-2016-03-24.pdf>

Monday April 4 - new massage therapy program starting.
Learn lots of self-care techniques.
Massage program

Monday April 7 - Reflexology open house.

Combat boot vets like foot massages! =)

Operation Stand Down Central Texas

April 23

We're seeking items. Helping homeless veterans.

Flyer at: <http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/osd-central-texas-2016-04-23.jpg>

Free HNO BBQ At Reunion Ranch

Saturday, May 28

850 County Rd 255, Georgetown, TX

Info at: 512-515-1268

Heroes Night Out Boots and Bling

April 15 - party at Reunion Ranch

Flyer at: <http://www.textvet.org/sites/default/files/boots-and-bling-hno-0216-04-15.jpg>

CTVSC Veteran Job and Resource ROM (Refuel on the Move)

March 30 @ Goodwill of Central Texas, 6505 Burleson Rd,
Austin, TX 78744

On the spot job interviews with employers for qualified veterans. On the spot case worker intake.

See <http://www.textvet.org/vccrom2016> for more info.

Attach Your Flyer to the Minutes!

Email your flyers, business cards, etc. to Jonathan Leistiko if you want them included in the minutes: jonathan@textvet.org

Honor The Sacrifice

~HONOR THE SACRIFICE~
American people supporting America's Warriors!

ANDREW J. DEATON
CEO

OUR MISSION: To honor and assist our servicemen and women and their Families who sacrifice so much for so many, that we may all enjoy our precious American freedoms.

(254) 368-1011
ceo@honor-the-sacrifice.org
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Are you a Veteran in need or know one who is?
Contact us today to see how we can help!

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If you want to share your info to a wide audience, send it to us in a social media-friendly format (like a JPEG). We have over 70,000 Facebook followers • Support@honor-the-sacrifice.org

Virtual Job Fair

100+ employers
Only for SSDI veterans.

TX Center Point Vet Services

Travis County: Financial Assistance, Homeless Reintegration
Brochure at: <http://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/center-point-2016-03-16.jpg>

Seeking Treatment Court Peer Mentors

Please contact Michael Jackson: <mailto:mjaxonjr@hotmail.com>
Next training via BEITZ on the 23rd.

Honor the Sacrifice Seeking Animal Trainers

We're also helping dogs/animals. We're looking for good animal trainers to rehabilitate traumatized animals from Fort Hood.

Workforce Solutions Job Fair

Hilton Garden Inn in Temple - July 26

Transition from Federal Treatment Courts

Judge Mansky in Waco
Considering allowing active duty soldiers to use local treatment courts. This is relevant because it sounds pretty positive. If you know a soldier in the treatment court on the federal side, encourage them to apply. Note: Still has to be correlated to military-associated trauma.