

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

The City Of El Paso

April 22 , 2024



CITY OF EL PASO



Goal 1 – Cultivate an Environment Conducive to Strong, Sustainable
Economic Development

Goal 5 – Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication
Amongst all Members of the Community

Goal 8- Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community





The Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee

Mayor	Ruben Ramirez	Term Expires - June 17, 2027
District 1	Brian Kanof	Term Expires - September 07, 2027
District 2	Ron Jackson (Vice Chair)	Term Expires - July 19, 2027
District 3	Donna Juarez	Term Expires - September 11, 2027
District 4	Roberto Garza (Secretary)	Term Expires - June 29, 2025
District 5	George Elsaesser	Term Expires - May 08, 2027
District 6	Donald Brown	Term Expires - Mar 25, 2028 VACANT
District 7	VACANT	
District 8	Melissa Harcrow (Chair)	Term Expires - October 03, 2027

Homelessness

Mission: Our mission is to be a beacon of hope for El Paso's homeless veterans. We dedicate ourselves to empowering these heroes towards a future of self-reliance and stability, through compassionate support, community partnerships, and relentless advocacy.

Vision: We envision an El Paso where homelessness is not the legacy of our veterans. Our dream is a community united in ensuring that every veteran is honored with the essentials of a dignified life: a home, comprehensive care, and unwavering support, as a testament to their invaluable service to our nation.

Priorities and Guiding Principles: The focus is on providing immediate shelter and long-term housing solutions for homeless veterans, coupled with comprehensive health and employment support.

Homelessness (Cont.)

Recommendations

- **Incentives for Landlords:** Encourage landlords to rent to veterans by offering incentives such as guaranteed rent, damage coverage, or tax benefits.
- **Focus on Prevention:** Implement programs aimed at preventing homelessness among veterans
- **Integrated Service Delivery Model:** Utilize the coordinating systems are already available for various services such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment, job training, and housing assistance.
- **Long-term Support and Follow-up:** Offer ongoing support and follow-up services to ensure that veterans remain housed and receive continuous care for any ongoing needs. Encourage organizations to share transparent, accurate, and timely data in the city, state, and nationwide.

Mental Health

Mission: Our mission is to move the mental health services and systems forward. We will advocate for a strong and expedient mental health care system that identifies challenges and promotes stabilization.

Vision: Our Veterans and Families experiencing mental health and substance abuse will have access to care options. Our Veterans and their Families deserve to have continuum of care, pathway to recovery, and integrated holistic options for lifelong success.

Priorities and Guiding Principles: Our Strategic Plan will prioritize services for mental health and substance abuse. It will focus on equity and access to care. It will create a holistic map of mental health options within our city to move from acute, to stabilization, to recovery.

Mental Health (Cont.)

Recommendations

- Work with community partners to prepare a Mental Health portion of the 2025 El Paso needs assessment questionnaire.
- Continue to participate and collaborate with crises intercept mapping governors challenge initiative to identify resources and best practices for mental health.
- Work with the Public Health Department to create a holistic map of mental health options within our city.

Employment

Mission: To recommend initiatives, programs, and legislation that will enhance employment opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses

Vision: Our Veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses will have access to meaningful employment options that will result in the retention and recruitment of military talent in the City of El Paso.

Priorities and Guiding Principles: Our efforts will be focused on facilitating opportunities for the transitioning service member and spouse population in and around El Paso in order to retain their valuable talent and experience in our community.

Employment (Cont.)

- **Recommendations**
- Create a Spouse Fellowship Program in partnership with the City of El Paso and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Host a trades employment fair.
- Continue to support and build upon the existing city Veteran employment services.
- Use available city resources and leverage the city's relationships with the Hispanic and El Paso Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Fort Bliss and beyond, advocating for hiring veterans and military spouses.

VAAC

2024 Presentation



Questions