



Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Minutes

March 20, 2025 Microsoft Teams Live
Streamed via City's website:
<http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>
Television on City 15
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

MINUTES

Members Present

Ron Jackson
George Elsaesser
Donna Juarez
Donald Brown
Melissa Harcrow
Brian Kanof
Ruben Ramirez

CITY CLERK DEPT
2025 MAR 25 PM1:54

1. **Call to Order.** 10:01 AM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call.** 7 of 9 - Quorum met.
4. **Discussion and Action:** To approve the minutes of January 16, 2025, Motion and second. Approved
5. **Discussion and Action:** To approve the minutes of February 20, 2025, Motion and second. Approved
6. **Citizen Comment Period: Mariana Reyes, Simplicity Home Care,** presented on home care services for veterans eligible through VA benefits.
7. **El Paso VA Health Care Clinic Update – Mark Rielo**
 - a. Update on improved wait times, currently down to 11 days for new primary care patients.
 - b. Update on Community Care coordination, case management, and upcoming Whole Health Summit at the Beast Rec Center (April 5, 2025).
8. **El Paso County Update – Antoinette Hunt**
 - a. Grant update: Awaiting Texas Veterans Commission decision (April 16).
 - b. Recap of unaccompanied veteran burial and Women's PACT Act Clinic.
 - c. Upcoming Events: State of Homelessness (Mar 26), Veterans Breakfast (Mar 27), Vietnam Veterans Pinning's (Mar 28 & 29), Veterans at the Park in May.
9. **Team Red, White & Blue Presentation – Delilah Chisholm**
 - a. Overview of RWB mission and activities.
10. **Katie's Way Plus Presentation – Adam Rocke and Dr. Jason Wyman**
 - a. Presentation on behavioral health services and deep transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy.
11. **Monthly Subcommittee Updates:**



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- a. **Employment:** Provided follow-up on ROI regarding follow-up services from employment agencies. Announced upcoming subcommittee meeting (April 8) to begin planning for a Trade Fair.
- b. **Homelessness:** Preparing subcommittee recommendations with city planning assistance.
- c. **Mental Health:** Working on scheduling a VA MECHUM presentation. Promotion of Whole Health Summit and separate family-focused holistic mental health event at Elephant Butte (April 5). Updates on Veterans Treatment Court grant from Elks National Foundation.

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12. Annual Council Update Scheduled for April 28, 2025:

- a. Discussion on Council Update. Subcommittee presentations due April 3 for internal briefing and preparation.

13. Military and Veterans Affairs Division Update – Paul Albright

- a. Legislative updates: Spouse employment, anti-discrimination bill for military families, and expanded mental health support.

14. Announcements:

- a. **State of Homelessness Event – March 26**
- b. **Army Emergency Relief Dinner – April 1**
- c. **ADC Conference – March 31 to April 2**
- d. **Our Community Salutes – April 16 @ UTEP**
- e. **Honor Flight Welcome Home – April 26 @ 5:30 PM, El Paso Airport**
- f. **Borderplex Expo – March 21-22, all-day events**
- g. **Provider Summit scheduled for September 17-18**

15. Future Agenda Items

- a. Follow-up presentations from community partners.
- b. Continued VAB and VAAC collaboration updates.

16. Next VAAC Meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM MDT Hybrid- in person.

17. Adjourn. 11:30 AM.

Approved By: