

Monitoring Charge: House Bill 114 and Senate Bill 1814

Texas Senate Select Committee on Veteran Affairs

Sean Hanna, LAc, MAOM | August 26, 2026

Military Veteran Peer Network

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The **Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN)** reaches veterans where they live, through people who served. In **FY 2025**, the final year under the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), MVPN:

- Served **60,763** veterans, service members, and their families
- Housed **57 peer service coordinators (PSCs)**, plus volunteer peers
- Led **53,900+ one-on-one sessions** and **4,500+ peer support groups**
- Accounted for **214,000+ total interactions**, on a **\$5 million investment**

Recommendation: Hold one-on-one contacts and peer support groups at or above the FY 2025 baseline.

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance

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The Texas Legislature established the **Texas Veterans + Family Alliance (TV+FA) grant program** through **84(R) SB 55 (Nelson)** to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families.

- The Meadows Institute designed the TV+FA structure and administered the program **at no cost to the state** from 2016 through 2018.
- Community organizations, especially in **rural counties**, plan their staffing around TV+FA funding. Any break in funding will cost veterans the services and the staff who deliver them.

Recommendation: Ensure no gap between HHSC and Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant cycles, while protecting rural grantees with the least margins.

House Bill 114: A Clean Transfer

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HB 114 moved three functions from HHSC to TVC, effective September 1, 2025: the **Mental Health Program for Veterans** (including **MVPN**), the **TV+FA grant program**, and the **Veteran Suicide Prevention Action Plan**.

- In July, at the House Subcommittee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs, we recommended: holding MVPN contacts at the FY 2025 baseline; keeping TV+FA grants continuous; and building the Action Plan around MVPN-transition coordination.
- TVC's testimony confirmed that all legacy functions transferred without interruption: no service gap, no data gap, and no veteran going without a peer or a grant because of which agency's letterhead was on the check.

This is a template the committee could point to for future agency transfers.

Veteran Suicide Prevention Action Plan

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HB 114 also moved responsibility for the **Veteran Suicide Prevention Action Plan** to TVC. The reforms must be fully implemented by **September 1, 2027**.

Recommendation: the Action Plan should:

- Have **targeted goals** and **annual reporting** on reaching and helping **justice-involved veterans**, measured against the estimated overall justice-involved veteran population — not just activity counts.
- Include **specific strategies** and **actions** to reach veterans who transition to **high-suicide-risk careers**, like policing — not just general outreach.
- Include the **full range of veteran suicide prevention efforts** in Texas and explicitly **name a formal partnership with VSI**, delivered through Onward Ops and Endeavors, as one of them.

Senate Bill 1814: The Next Piece

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SB 1814 directs TVC to establish and maintain an **electronic database of service members** who are within **12 months of discharge or release**, including their names and contact information, with their consent.

- Approved state agencies and veteran service organizations can access the database to **connect service members and veterans to benefits**.
- This is the front door a **coordinated referral pipeline** needs, but the smart move is to **connect to data infrastructure that already exists** — not build a new infrastructure.

Recommendation: TVC should coordinate the database with the **Veteran Sponsorship Initiative's (VSI's) existing infrastructure**, already tied into DoD and VA out-processing data, instead of a parallel, disconnected system.

Questions

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Thank You!

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