

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Record of Meeting – March 28, 2017

Teleconference Call

Members Present

Ericus Adams, Stephen Becker, Iona Black, William Dyson, Matthew Farley, Kelly Halkyard, Trudy Higgins, Shannon Mykins, Anne Ostberg, Cherlyn Poindexter, Linda Sandiaes, Sandra Santy, Nate Snow, Theresa Strong, Patricia Tarasovic

Members Absent

Diane Briggs, Meaghan Gagnon, Meg McCreedy, Anne Ruwet, Kanwaljit Singh, Gayle Wintjen

Others Present

Melissa Georges (staff), Jacqueline Johnson (staff), Kate Scheuritzel (staff)

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Adjustments

J. Johnson welcomed all commission members to the meeting.

Business Reports

A. Minutes of October 25, 2016 Meeting

W. Dyson. motioned to adopt the minutes. Matt F. seconded the motion to adopt the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

B. AmeriCorps State Competitive (K. Scheuritzel)

Three programs in the portfolio, Teach for America-CT, Public Allies, Food Corps submitted continuation applications for their 2nd year of funding. Applications were submitted in January. Continuation funding decisions should be made by late May.

C. AmeriCorps State Formula (K. Scheuritzel)

Five current programs will be submitting continuation applications and 1 program will be submitting a re-compete application. The two planning grants are submitting a formula application and three additional applicants are brand new to the formula process. Applications are due by the end of March and internal and external review process will take place in April.

D. State Service Plan- J. Johnson

A draft of the State Service Plan was sent to all commissioners and staff. An email with feedback instructions will be provided. After receipt of feedback and appropriate edits are integrated into the plan – a final plan will be sent back to the group for review and electronic approval. Ideally, the governor's office will receive the plan for review and signature by April 30, 2017.

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During this time of federal and state budgeting, it is critical to “activate” our Public Policy and Advocacy standing committee. This commission will help communicate a legislative/congressional agenda and coordinate responses about the impact of national service in Connecticut and beyond. A follow up email soliciting committee membership for the three standing committees- (1) Public Policy and Advocacy, (2) Program Capacity and Technical Assistance, (3) Volunteer Recognition, with an emphasis on the Public Policy and Advocacy committee, will be sent to all commission members.

At the 2017 Atlantic Region National Service Training Conference scheduled for June 4 – June 7 in Baltimore, Maryland at the Inner Harbor Marriott, 110 South Eutaw Street. Registration has not opened yet, however it is estimated that the cost will be \$150 per registrant. There is an intention to have a Commissioner-specific track. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Registration fees, travel and per diem are allowable expenses to be submitted for reimbursement. When more information becomes available, it will be forwarded.

The June Commission meeting will dovetail the earlier conference. The training focus of the meeting will be best practices in advocacy and education. Tom Branen with America’s Service Commissions will provide the in-person training on June 27th at 9:00 a.m. The location will be determined at a later date. Please subscribe on the ASC website to receive email communications from the association. The website is www.stateservicecommission.org. Click on the subscribe link. The subscription link asks for first and last name, email address and organization. For organization please put “Connecticut Commission on Community Service”. Then click on “subscribe to list”. You should begin receiving email news alerts and updates shortly thereafter.

Also, the Corporation for National and Community Service’s website – www.nationalservice.gov is a great site to check for information regarding the world of service. You may wish to bookmark the page as a link to review periodically for updates, etc. about national service nationally or specific to Connecticut.

The Corporation for National and Community Service will be conducting a site visit to Connecticut in June. It is tentatively scheduled for the last week of June; no definitive dates have been confirmed as yet.

E. CNCS field office- Anne Ostberg

Senior Corps Updates:

A national RSVP competition will close April 4 – this year’s competition includes three service areas in Connecticut (southern Fairfield County, greater Bristol area, and northern New London County), all of which were previously served by RSVP project sponsors that chose to relinquish their grants. We hope this year’s competition will lead to new grantees in Connecticut.

Senior Corps Week will take place May 15-19 – we will provide any updates about events in early May.

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AmeriCorps VISTA Updates:

As of this week, 66 AmeriCorps VISTA members serve in Connecticut through projects managed by the CNCS Connecticut Office or through national VISTA projects. The Connecticut Campus Compact VISTA project is merging to become Southern New England Campus Compact VISTA project. Our Request for VISTA Concept Papers issued last fall has resulted in three organizations making their way through the final stages of the application approval process.

Other Initiatives:

Next week, April 4th, is the fifth annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. This is a national initiative that currently has engaged more than 4,000 mayors nationwide. Connecticut currently has 32 mayors signed on. We still welcome your participation in the Hartford event – please see the email sent last week. We also welcome your help with any last-minute signups from elected officials across the state.

F. Southern New England Campus Compact- Matt Farley

Campus Compact will be merging CT, RI and Massachusetts operations. The Compact AmeriCorps VISTA project will be reporting to Massachusetts and focusing on educational equity. They are currently recruiting members and working with host sites. Though Matt will still be actively working in CT the physical Campus Compact office will be located in Massachusetts.

Update on Student Leadership Conference: The last conference held at Central Connecticut State University had just under 200 students register. Next fall Quinnipiac University will host the conference. For more information contact M. Farley.

G. AmeriCorps Alums- Shannon Mykins

AmeriCorps Alums just completed AmeriCorps week, March 6 - 10. The week included some trainings from Service Year Alliance on storytelling, advocacy, and professional development. S. Mykins also added that the AmeriCorps Alums were shifting focus to advocacy due to budget concerns.

H. Connecticut Senior Corps Association- Teresa Strong

T. Strong last meeting went very well. The Association is trying to rally together and show strength in numbers. During their past meeting they updated by-laws and completed their first annual report and are on target to meet 4 times for the year.

Planning and Future Initiatives

Next meeting is June 27m 2017 at 9:00 a.m, In-Person

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn – W. Dyson; Seconded by M. Farley. Adjourn at 10:06 am.