

Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism

November 30, 2017; 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM

VDSS Central Regional Office

1604 Santa Rosa Road Henrico, VA 23229

Board Members Present: Jessica Bowser, Tynetta Darden, Vanessa Diamond, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Peter Goldin, Ashley Hall, Zachary Leonsis, Gina Lewis, Seema Sethi, James Underwood, Leah Dozier.

Board Members Absent: John Chapman, Elizabeth Childress, Omari Faulkner, Amy Nisenson, Tashiara Scott, Julie Strandlie, Rachel Thomas, Steven Valdez, Leslie VanHorn

Staff Present: Gail Harris, Amanda Healy, Joy Wade, Roxanne Saunders, Kimberly Brown, Patricia Doyle, Jovon Taylor, Gay Plungas

Guests Presenters: Kimberly Ligon, Kellie Mattingly

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Vanessa Diamond, Board Chair. Vanessa welcomed committee members to the meeting.

Adoption of minutes

The floor was opened for the adoption of minutes by Vanessa Diamond. Patricia Doyle reported that the Outreach & Communication committee's report was incorrect. The total numbers of volunteers' hours on 9/11 should be 1200 and not 12,000. Vanessa Diamond requested a motion to approve the change and minutes. Gina Lewis moved for approval of the minutes as corrected. James Underwood seconded the motion and the Board moved on the correction and approval of the minutes.

Adoption of agenda

The floor was opened for the adoption of the agenda by Vanessa Diamond. Vanessa Diamond requested a motion to approve the agenda. James Underwood motioned the approval of the agenda and it was approved.

The Board split up into sub-committee meetings for one hour.

AmeriCorps Program Lunch Presentation

Joy Pugh, Director of Virginia College Advising Corps, and two AmeriCorps members from the program presented to the Board during their working lunch. Their program's members work with many high and middle school counselors, administrations, students, and parents within their locations to assist students with applying for and receiving college funds from scholarships, FASFA, grants, and any institutional aid. They also arrange college and campus visits and help students register for ACT or SAT, and submit college applications. They responded to the Board's questions related to the program.

Sub-committee reports and updates

Program Committee

Terry Frye reported that the committee discussed the current and future processes of the 2018-19 RFPs and RFA. RFPs and RFA will focus on three criteria areas, which are educational, income and services to veterans. They also spoke about the active outreach and planning that Amanda will perform in Petersburg, Richmond, and South Hampton Roads areas to encourage new AmeriCorps applicants. They discussed the State Commission's upcoming collaboration trip to Maryland.

Outreach & Communication Committee

Mark Fero reported that the Speaker Bureau Survey received many entries and selected seven speakers. A contact person will be provided on the web site for scheduling of speakers. The committee reviewed how social media sites are used in circulating information on AmeriCorps and events. Jessica Bowser spoke on how she and other board members can contribute in supporting AmeriCorps on Facebook. The committee thanked all staff and board members who attended launch events in Virginia. The 2018 Governor's Volunteers Award includes nine categories and the committee is encouraged to spread the word on this event in hopes of increasing applications. All AmeriCorps programs are required to participate in the MLK day of service. Steven Valdez was re-elected as the Committee Chair. Kimberly from CNCS spoke about the National Service Recognition Day that will be held on April 3.

Volunteer & Special Events Committee

Leah Dozier reported that the committee discussed the Governor's Volunteer Awards. Leah encouraged the committee to encourage people to apply for the award. The judging of the applications will be conducted during January. The staff will request that the Governor host the awards ceremony at the Executive Mansion. The committee discussed the needs for speakers, presenters, keynote speakers, and workshops for the 2018 Volunteerism Conference. Gail Doyle is accepting recommendations for them and all contact information should be sent to staff. Board members are encouraged to collect items for door prizes for the conference. The committee discussed and recommended to the Board that a new award category be added to the National Service awards presented at the conference. The new award will be for a National Service alumni who is now working / living in Virginia. The Board endorsed this new award, if the Virginia Service Foundation is willing to pay for one additional award.

Beyond AmeriCorps State

Tynetta Darden introduced the committee to her staff, who provided a presentation on CNCS Virginia State Office and National Service projects. Kimberly Ligon described the National Service Timeline from 1960 to 2012 of Senior Corp, VISTA, Peace Corp, NCCC, National Community Service, FEMA and CNCS. All VISTA projects must be income focused, encourage community empowerment, have sustaining solutions, and have no direct services. VISTA applications are non-competitive, accepted all year, and have a cost share. Tynetta Darden reported on AmeriCorps Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents volunteers work with children complete one-on-one sessions, work on curriculum, serve a minimum 15-40 hours per week, income eligible, and complete intensive training before and during their services. RSVP is another program. There is no income restriction and volunteers can serve any amount of hours per week. Senior Companions program support Seniors in staying in their home. Kellie Mattingly spoke about the NCCC (Traditional Corps and FEMA Corp). NCCC is a community service program that encourages leadership skills, team work, and outreach, public speaking, and other skills. NCCC members are placed in teams and assigned a vehicle to travel within five different regions and complete different projects. Their projects are under these categories: natural and other disasters, inter-structural improvement, environment stewardship, urban and rural involvement, and energy conservation. FEMA Corp members work directly for FEMA for their entire service year.

CNCS State Office Director's Report

Tynetta Darden reported that Senior Corp Conference will be held July 16-18, 2018 in Crystal City, Virginia.

Virginia Commission Director's Report

Gail Harris provided several updates. The debt is still not available and the Board will be informed when it does become available. The VCU's fees were paid to CNCS and we are waiting on their reimbursement. Department of Veteran's debt from CNCS has not arrived yet. Gail, Fran and Amanda have a scheduled call tomorrow with the new AmeriCorps' Director, Chester Spellman. We will discuss how CNCS can help us in promoting AmeriCorps. February 27, 2018 meeting will be held at the Department of the Blind and Vision Impaired on Azalea Road in Henrico, VA. There is a calendar with all upcoming dates and events in your folder.

Public Comments

Jessica announced the sub-committee's new positions - chair, Elizabeth Childress; vice chair, Jessica Bowser; secretary, Ashley Hall; and treasurer, Mark Ferro. The Governor's Volunteer Award and board members are seeking sponsorships and donations. The MLK's mini grants will close on December 15.

Adjourn

Leah Dozier requested a motion to adjourn. The Board approved and the meeting was adjourned by Leah Dozier at 3:30 PM.

Prepared by Jovon Taylor
Submitted by Gail Harris