

Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism

September 28, 2017; 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

VDSS Central Regional Office

1604 Santa Rosa Road, Henrico, VA 23229

Board Members Present: Jessica Bowser, Elizabeth Childress, Tynetta Darden, Vanessa Diamond, Ashley Hall, Zachary Leonsis, Gina Lewis, Amy Nisenson, Seema Sethi, Julie Strandlie, James Underwood, Leah Dozier-Walker

Board Members Absent: John Chapman, Omar Faulkner, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Peter Goldin, Tashiara Scott, Rachel Thomas, Steven Valdez, Leslie VanHorn,

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

Guest Present: Kimberly Ligon, Weade Wallace, Ebane Ward

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Elizabeth Childress. Elizabeth welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the year.

Adoption of Agenda

The floor was opened for the adoption of the agenda by Elizabeth Childress. James Underwood motioned the adoption of agenda, Leah Dozier-Walker seconded the motion and the Board moved to adopt the agenda.

Approval of May 15, 2017 minutes

The floor was opened for approval of the minutes by Board Chair Elizabeth Childress. Vanessa Diamond motioned the approval of the minutes, Zachary Leonsis seconded the motion and the Board moved to approve of the minutes.

Introduction of new member and staff

Gail Harris introduced the new Board member, Gina Lewis, to the committee. Gina Lewis' current position and brief background were provided to the Board. The Board welcomed Gina Lewis as a new Board member.

Election of Officers

Per the by-laws, the Chair and Vice-chair are elected annually. Elizabeth Childress opened the floor for the Board Chair nominations. Ashley Hall nominated Vanessa Diamond for the Board Chair. Jessica Bowser seconded the nomination. No other nominations for the Board Chair were provided. The Board voted and elected Vanessa Diamond as the new Board Chair. Elizabeth Childress opened the floor for the Vice Chair nominations. Ashley Hall nominated Leah Dozier-Walker for the Vice Chair. No other nominations were provided for the Vice Chair. The Board voted and elected Leah Dozier-Walker as the new Vice Chair. Vanessa Diamond, as the new Board Chair, presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Updates from 2016/2017

Gail Harris and Amanda Healy delivered a presentation to the Board on the many changes and activities that had taken place since the last Board meeting in May 2017.

Gail Harris had compared former and current portfolios and reviewed the changes. The 2016-17 portfolio funded twenty programs. For the 2017-18 portfolio, all programs had to apply for funding. Gail reviewed the programs that received competitive funding and the movement of one program to formula funding, in order to expend more of those State dollars. Also one program decided not to accept their award. Several programs were able to receive additional funds. With the remaining formula funds, the Virginia Department of Education was added to the portfolio as a planning grant. City of Richmond had submitted a special application on the opioid crisis. The application was approved for formula funding but not finalized due some changes within their organization. Staff had sent a list of requirements to the city prior to finalizing the program.

Amanda Healy reported on two visits from CNCS since the last meeting. Our CNCS Program Officer and two Fiscal Officers conducted multi-day on site monitoring visits. Those reports have not been received yet.

Gail Harris informed updated the Advisory Board on one historical instance of non-compliance which resulted in a program repayment and another ongoing investigation of a program.

AmeriCorps Program Presentation

Weade Wallace and Ebane Ward from The Literacy Lab joined the Board during their working lunch. They presented a detailed description of The Literacy Lab program and noted the many areas in Northern Virginia and the Richmond/Petersburg area that they are serving. They fielded many questions from the Board members.

2017/18: the Year Ahead

Gail Harris provided the Board with updates on The Volunteerism and Service Conference, contacts with The First Lady, and important 2017/2018 dates. The completion of Program Directors' training in July 2017, the AmeriCorps Team's Annual Planning Retreat in August 2017, and the AmeriCorps Annual Training Symposium in September 2017 were reported by Amanda Healy. In these trainings, the staff was provided with detailed information on background checks and prohibited activities (political, religious, and abortion services). CNCS & AmeriCorps' levels of funding will continue to support program development and training, committee support funding, and administration. Richmond has a NCCC team helping with the clean-up of Evergreen Ceremony for the next five weeks. The next team is scheduled to arrival between November to December 2017.

2017/2018 AmeriCorps team's goals

The team's goals were presented by Amanda Healy. Roxanne Saunders will oversee and process all internal fiscal transactions while ensuring they are accurate, filed timely and cost efficient. Joy Wade and Roxanne Sanders will oversee that subgrantees are fully compliant in the operational and fiscal areas. Gay Plungas will oversee the subgrantees' performance measurement and ensure they are in compliances with CNCS' rules, regulations and guidelines. Kimberly Brown and Gail Doyle are responsible for building and maintaining strong communities and volunteer relations within Virginia State Commission. Kimberly Brown will also oversee that the members have superior experiences with serving with Virginia's AmeriCorps. Joy Wade will manage a strong program portfolio for 2018-19 and beyond for Virginia Commission.

Public comment

Ashley Hall announced that the Virginia Service Foundation has given away 8 mini service grants. They also have increased their Board size by adding two new members.

Leah Dozier-Walker announced that the Governor's Office is accepting nominations for organizations for the Governor's Excellence in Educational Award.

The Board split up into sub-committee meetings.

Sub-committee reports

Outreach & Communication Committee

Zachary Leonsis reported that the committee reviewed the different strategies used last year to increase internet traffic. The committee is considering a new URL, www.service.virginia.gov; the first year's data from all web sites were reviewed; and a budget to promote visits to the sites were discussed. There were two major 9/11 events—one in Richmond and the other in Northern Virginia. Over 500 volunteers participated and over 1200 volunteer hours in community service were donated. The launch dates for new members are scheduled in Richmond on October 27 and in Danville and Northern Virginia on October 20. The committee discussed ways to increase the nominations for The Governor's Volunteerism Award in areas and organization with low numbers. No new Program Chair was selected due to low committee attendance.

Volunteer & Special Events Committee

Julie Strandlie was elected the Chair for the Committee. The committee made changes to the volunteer nomination application. The National Service Awards' nominations will open on October 27 and closes December 22. The committee will use all available resources to transmit the information to the public. The Volunteerism and National Service Conference will be May 21st and 22nd and the hotel availability has been verified. The committee was seeking ideas to attract people to come to the conference on Sunday night.

Program Committee

Ashley Hall reported that the Committee discussed the competitive and formula proposals for 2018-19. Notice of funding opportunities will continue and be conducted as last year with two separate grant opportunities: competitive and formula. Competitive funding reviews are planned to begin in December 2017. Formula funding reviews are planned to begin in March 2018. The committee's focus while reviewing will be in educational, economical opportunity, and veterans. Ashley reported that Virginia's application for Volunteer Generation Funds for 2017/18 was not selected for funding. The committee is seeking other ways to increase Service Enterprise around the communities and state. Ashley Hall was elected new Chair with Leslie Van Horn as the Program Vice Chair.

CNCS State Office Report

Tynetta Darden reported that CNCS will operate under a continuing resolution from October 1 until December 8. All agencies will operate under the previous fiscal year levels. There will be an Opioid project RFP released in mid-Oct when the VISTA NOFA opens. Three new VISTA programs were funded in 2017 – Averett University (Dansville area), Alliance to End Hunger and Capital Region Collaborative.

Final Announcements

Gail Harris announced that the First Lady and Governor will accept food donations for FeedMore Food Bank tomorrow at P.M. in Richmond as a Day to Serve donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Vanessa Diamond reminded the Board that monetary donations make huge impacts during and after disasters.

Adjourn

Vanessa Diamond adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Prepared by Jovon Taylor

Submitted by Gail Harris