

Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism

February 28, 2018; 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Virginia Department of Social Services

1604 Santa Rosa Road

Richmond, VA 23229

Board Members Present: Lily Beres, Jessica Bowser, Elizabeth Childress Burneson, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Ashley Hall, Gina Lewis, Tyee Davenport Mallory, Seema Sethi, James Underwood, Leslie Van Horn, Steven Valdez, Sheila Williamson-Branch, Tynetta Darden, and Kimberly Ligon

Board Members Absent: John Chapman, Vanessa Diamond, Omari Faulkner, Zachary Leonsis, Julie Strandlie, and Leah Dozier Walker

VDSS Staff Present: Gail Harris, Roxanne Saunders, Kimberly Brown, Joy Wade, Gay Plungas, Jae-Young Choe, and Gail Doyle

Guests Present: S. Duke Storen, VDSS Commissioner

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Elizabeth (Liz) Childress in the absence of Board Chair, Vanessa Diamond. Liz welcomed the committee to the third board meeting of the year.

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

The floor was opened for the adoption of the agenda by Liz Childress. The motion to adopt the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

The floor was opened for approval of the minutes from the meeting on November 29, 2018. The motion to adopt the minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

Introduction

Liz Childress opened the floor to Gail Harris who informed the committee that the Board Chair Vanessa Diamond was away attending the International Points of Light Training Conference in India. Among forty-three countries in attendance at the conference, Vanessa was one of the three attendees representing the U.S.

America's Service Commissions (ASC) Leadership Convening

Gail Harris reported on some takeaways from the ASC Leadership Convening event which took place the week of February 11-14, 2019, attended by herself and Vanessa Diamond. The first topic brought to their attention was the transformations taking place with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). All fifty state offices of CNCS are in the process of closing. Virginia will be part of the Mid-Atlantic region which will report to its new office location in Philadelphia. The transformation will condense the number of offices down to five regional offices throughout the country. In the new model, each state commission will have a Portfolio Manager, rather than as is currently the case, a Fiscal and Program Officer. With totally separate duties there will also be a Compliance Officer in Washington, DC.

All these changes are occurring in phases across the nation. The Mid-Atlantic office in Philadelphia is slated to open in June 2020. ASC is communicating with CNCS in recognition of the need to connect geographically and the avenues through which we will connect to Vista and Senior Corps programs. Also

discussed at the two day event were ways to implement universal service and to establish a norm for all to serve at least a year of either military, national, or public service.

Recognition

Liz Childress presented membership certificates and pins from the Governor's Office to several new and reappointed Board members including James Underwood, Sheila Williamson-Branch, Lily Beres and Tyee Mallory.

At 11:01 a.m. the Board broke out into sub-committee meetings.

Sub-Committee Reports

At 11:45 a.m. the sub-committees reconvened and Liz Childress reopened the session for their reports.

Program Committee

Ashley Hall, Chair, provided updates on the new CNCS background check requirements. To avoid the issuance of fines, a mandatory process has been put in place for programs to enter all information into one central database—an easy to access system, although with some difficulties involved in the transition, will keep the tracking of background checks more uniform. Background checks must be completed and entered into the database by the end of March 31 for all members serving in Virginia. The Department of Education has expressed interest in applying for formula funding, and by April 1 CNCS should be informing OVCS about Competitive funding awards.

On the 2019/2020 funding cycle: All current programs will be eligible to receive a contract renewal; none will be required to submit a new application – only a continuation application which is less rigorous. CNCS has approved and VDSS is moving forward with the approach of not holding an open RFA process due to the increased number of current programs, existing program expansions, and an uncertainty about the 2019-2020 funding allocation from CNCS.

Joint Committee: Outreach and Communications & Volunteerism and Special Events

Liz Childress reported in the Chairs' absences for both the Outreach and Communications Committee and the Volunteerism and Special Events Committees. Liz extended her appreciation to board members for the time they put in the selection process of the Governor's Volunteerism Awards. The winners have been selected and are being vetted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. As of February 28, 2019, confirmation is pending from the Governor's Mansion on the use of the mansion and a date for the ceremony. The winners, who have not been notified yet, represent a more diverse range of geographical regions--almost all regions of the Commonwealth. Liz also reported on the review process and possibility of lengthening review time for subsequent years.

Currently the Volunteerism Conference has 232 attendees registered and 6 exhibitors. The Board was asked to send forth anyone interested in being an exhibitor. Confirmed are two plenary speakers: Dr. Cynthia Newbille of Richmond City Council who serves on several boards as well as Ron Culberson back by popular demand. For the video contest there will be prizes for the top three. Additionally, 35 workshops have been booked with no repeat presentations. Ideas from the Committee for door prizes were welcomed.

Remarks from the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services

Liz Childress welcomed and introduced Commissioner S. Duke Storen, highlighting almost thirty years of his life focused on poverty alleviation and dedicated to social policy and vulnerable populations. Storen thanked the Board members for their service on the Committee. After providing some background on how he ended up from soup kitchen volunteer to his current position, he thanked the Board for promoting community service by being enablers. Storen asked the Committee to ask themselves what can be done to accelerate community service in Virginia and how VDSS can help with the board's efforts more.

The Virginia Department of Social Services is currently undergoing transformations, with goals focused more intentionally on outcomes and less so on performance measures. That is, to focus more on outcomes and triumph over poverty and other challenges in the community. DSS is adopting a measure of poverty called the ALICE Measure in order to measure self-sufficiency. Policy changes are occurring. Storen also spoke about the VDSS priority of food insecurity and the goal to eliminate hunger and food insecurity for all children in Virginia. Storen views programs that feed children as a high priority. Storen encouraged the Board to place a lens of social determinants on its priorities and asked the Committee to think more on outcomes.

At 1:40 p.m. the Committee reconvened from a working lunch.

Strategic Planning

Gail Harris presented on setting new guiding principles for the 2020 program funding year. A set of guiding principles from 2016 was reviewed along with what has happened since. In an open discussion to set guiding principles for 2020-2021 and beyond, the Board came to a consensus to realign and make it a priority to focus on three of the six CNCS focus areas: Education, Economic Security, and Health Futures—especially regarding the opioid epidemic and also hunger. These would rank at a higher priority than Services to Military Families, Environment (which will be further considered at the April meeting), and Disaster.

The Board agreed to a target number of programs of 10 – 12 each year and agreed that new programs could be accepted with a smaller number of MSY (fewer than 10) during their startup phase. The Board agreed to continue use of the three year funding cycle. Gail concluded by asking the Board what can be taken away from the Commissioner's remarks and what can be done differently.

Public Comments

Ashley Hall (appointed to act as Chair for the remainder of the meeting) opened the floor for any public comments. Steven Valdez spoke on behalf of the Virginia Service Foundation that all monetary funds were in place for the Volunteerism Conference and that scholarships are currently being reviewed.

CNCS State Office Director Report

Tynetta Darden elicited support for National Service Recognition Day and indicated that more information would be forthcoming.

Virginia Commission Updates

Gail Harris reported that two P-14 wage positions have been filled utilizing the AmeriCorps Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) fund: 1) AmeriCorps Monitoring and Compliance Specialist and AmeriCorps Data and Quality Assurance Coordinator. A third P-14 position that had also been budgeted remains open: AmeriCorps Disaster Training and Preparedness Coordinator. As for the open position for

AmeriCorps Program Manager, many applications have been received and narrowed down to twelve with interviews to be conducted soon. The TTA grant will continue to fund training events for both AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Program and State Commission staff as well. Leaders from almost all programs will join the State Commission Staff for the 2019 ASC National Service Conference in June.

Closing and Adjournment

Ashely Hall adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Prepared by Jae-Young Choe

Submitted by Gail Harris