

Virginia Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Office of Attorney General 202 N. 9th Street Richmond, VA 23219

Board Members Present: Jessica Bowser, Elizabeth Childress, Vanessa Diamond, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Ashley Hall, Gina Lewis, Seema Sethi, Julie Strandlie, Steven Valdez, Leslie VanHorn, Leah Dozier Walker

Board Members Absent: John Chapman, Omari Faulkner, Peter Goldin, Zachary Leonsis, Amy Nisenson, Tashiara Scott, Rachel Thomas, James Underwood

CNCS Staff Present: Tynetta Darden

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

The board meeting was called to order at 11:14 AM by Chair Vanessa Diamond. A quorum of members was confirmed.

Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda was unanimously approved. (Strandlie/Lewis)

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted. (Van Horn/Strandlie)

The Board moved into sub-committee meetings and their working lunch at 11:30 AM.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 PM.

Executive Session.

Program Committee Report: presentation and concurrence with recommended funding of 2018/19 AmeriCorps programs.

Vanessa Diamond informed the Board that the Program Report needed to be presented in closed session to discuss the proposed funding for the AmeriCorps grants for 2018/19. She then read the rules for a public board to go into closed executive session.

Vanessa Diamond stated: "We have notification from CNCS that the 2018-19 competitive funding decisions AND our 2018-19 formula allocation will not be finalized for several weeks. Until the notices of funding are received from CNCS, Virginia's 2018-19 Funding Plan cannot be finalized. Based on two structured review processes, however, we are able to consider a proposed Funding Plan that reflects the actions and ranking developed by the review teams. Given that we do not have final funding amounts available, this funding information is not yet ready to be shared. Doing so would jeopardize Virginia's relationship with its funder, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and with potential subgrantees. Public discussion of terms and conditions may adversely affect our position in negotiating contracts. I will soon ask for a motion and subsequent action, reflecting the requirements and intent of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, to close this meeting while we consider the 2018-19 Funding Plan. Once we close the meeting, *only issues pertinent to funding recommendations may be discussed*. Following the closed portion of the meeting, we will reconvene in open session. At that time, I will ask if any member of this body believes that there was a departure from the discussion requirements. If anyone believes that there was a departure from the requirements, he or she must state so, and indicate the substance of that departure. Next, we will record a roll call vote in which each of us certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements AND only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which

the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body. *This* vote will be included in the minutes of the open meeting.”

Vanessa asked the Board Members if they had any questions. There being none, Terry Frye made the following motion: “I move that the Governor’s Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism convene in closed session to discuss the results of the competitive procurement process for investing public funds in AmeriCorps programming opportunities pursuant to the investment of public funds exemption at Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, and the possible award of public contracts involving the expenditure of public funds and discussion of the terms or scope of such contracts, pursuant to the award of contracts using public funds exemption at Section 2.2-3711(A)(29).”

Leah Dozier Walker seconded the motion; and the Board so moved. The Board then went into Executive Session to discuss embargoed funding information.

The Board ended the executive session and re-opened the meeting at 2:11 PM with Vanessa Diamond stating, “I will now accept a motion to conclude the closed session and convene in open session. “ Julie Strandlie made the motion to return to open meeting, Mark Fero seconded the motion and the Board moved. Vanessa stated, “Consistent with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, we will conduct a roll call affirmation in which each of us is asked to certify the appropriateness of the content of the closed session. Prior to that, however, I now ask whether any member of this body believes that there was a departure from the requirements of the FOIA. If so, please share that information now, and identify the substance of that departure. The question here is for you to certify that to the best of your knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements AND (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.” Jovon Taylor took roll call of each Board member present to so certify that only embargoed information was discussed during the closed session and each Board member so certified.

Ashley Hall requested a motion to concur with and support the Program Committee’s recommended Funding Plan for 2018/19 distribution of formula funds from CNCS as presented. The Board recognizes that adjustments will be necessary based on final available funds. The Board will receive a report of the final distribution of funds when contracts are finalized. The board collectively approved and moved on the motion.

Program Committee Report

Ashley Hall reported the committee discussed the tentative competitive RFA. There were four competitive applications submitted by Virginia to CNCS. The committee thanked Leslie and Gina for assisting with the formula applications review process. There were only two new formula applications along with our current formula programs. In response to the special targeted funding application that focused on opiates, child prevention, foster care, and infra-structure, only one application, City of Hopewell, was received related to infra-structure.

Volunteer & Special Events Committee Report

Julie Strandlie reported that the committee discussed the Governor’s Volunteerism Award applications and adjustments that may need to be made for next year. The candidates are being judged on a specific area and not on broad aspects of volunteerism and the duration of their service. Also the committee will consider whether to limit the number of applications one person/group can submit. Staff will send a draft of revisions with the possibility of an initial review prior to a final review of applications. The requirements and presences of winners were discussed.

The committee thanked the Board members and staff for their participation in the previous AmeriCorps and volunteerism events. Vanessa Diamond stated that acknowledgement letters are being sent out to non-winners with their nominator’s information.

Director’s Comment

Gail Harris provided updates on the evening reception to be held at the Executive Mansion. There are about 120 people expected to attend the event, which includes the 9 award winners and their guests. Gail provided updated information on the Volunteer Conference. If Board members have signed up for the conference, they are expected to attend since their registration fees will be paid for by the State. The registration app is ready for use with sessions and other

important information related to the conference. Door prizes will be given and more door prizes can be used. Jessica Bowser volunteered to take photos of the awards ceremony at the conference.

Outreach & Communication Committee Report

Steven Valdez reported that the committee discussed previous events in Virginia. For AmeriCorps Week, there were 8 events conducted. Jessica attended DCR Virginia Beach and he attended CARITAS events. For the National Service Recognition Day, there were 5 events held. Tynetta Darden thanked the committee for their participation and noted the increase in Mayor & County leader support.

Steve encouraged members to participate in the Speaker Bureau. Gail Doyle informed the Board that stories will be sent out to regional editors for local newspapers.

Public Comment

Elizabeth Childress reported for the Virginia Service Foundation. The Foundation will provide several scholarships for the conference. Elizabeth Childress is working on updating the Foundation's rules, regulations, by-laws, etc.

CNCS State Office Director's Report

Tynetta Darden thanked everyone for the great team effort on the National Recognition Day. Their new CEO had the opportunity to view the Commonwealth of Virginia's team work, meet members, and other great aspects of Richmond.

OVCS Director's Report

- Gail Harris announced that Congress approved increases for CNCS' funding. The total increase was \$26 million; State Commissions will share an increase of \$1 million and training/technical assistance funding will increase as well. Gail thanked the Board for their efforts toward the increases.
- Gail informed the Board that NCCC teams performed 4900 hours with 349 members and NCCC FEMA had 283 members with 110,000 hours with estimated \$4.3 million in assistance within the last three years in Virginia.
- The OIG investigation of DVS and the resulting penalty has been reimbursed back to our budget.
- If you are up for reappointment but have changed the address, job, and/or position, please let the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office know. If no changes are needed, they will contact members to see if they would like to be reappointed.
- The General Assembly bill to remove the sunset clause attached to this Board was approved.

A motion to adjourn was requested by Vanessa Diamond. The Board motioned, seconded, and moved. The meeting ended at 4:05PM.

Prepared by Jovon Taylor

Submitted by Gail Harris