

## **Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism**

September 27, 2018; 10:15 AM – 3:20 PM

Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center

1000 Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center

Glen Allen, VA 23059

Board Members Present: Lily Beres, Jessica Bowser, Tynetta Darden, Vanessa Diamond, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Ashley Hall, Tyee Davenport Mallory, Seema Sethi, Julie Strandlie, James Underwood, Steven Valdez, Leslie Van Horn

Board Members Absent: Elizabeth Childress Burneson, John Chapman, Omar Faulkner, Zachary Leonsis, Gina Lewis, Amy Nisenson, Leah Dozier-Walker

VDSS Staff Present: Patricia Doyle, Gail Harris, Amanda Healy, Jae-Young Murphy, Roxanne Saunders

Guests Present: Kimberly Ligon, Kellie Mattingly, Annette Lamoreaux

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The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:31 AM by Board Chair Vanessa Diamond. Vanessa welcomed the committee to the first meeting of the year.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of minutes**

The floor was opened for approval of the minutes from the April 10, 2018. The motion to adopt the minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

### **Introduction of new members and staff**

Vanessa Diamond had board members introduce themselves with a brief background. Julie Strandlie introduced her guest Annette. New board members welcomed by the Board were Tyee Davenport Mallory of the Office of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine and student Lily Beres of the University of Virginia, as well as new OVCS staff Jae-Young Murphy.

### **Overview and Funding 2018-2019: Competitive and Formula**

Amanda Healy opened with the guiding principles of AmeriCorps program funding. With over 200 AmeriCorps sites in Virginia, existing programs that are expanding were highlighted as well as additional sites in southern Virginia. Amanda reviewed the 6 CNCS focus areas. Amanda then presented the 2018-2019 funding plan from April 2018 with the 3 funding scenarios and funding plans, highlighting that a lot was uncertain in April. Stated was a desire for larger programs with wider spread instead of many small programs to manage. Additional interests mentioned were programs offering concrete skills preferably in some industry-recognized certification, possibly a planning grant, and to be more based in rural communities. Amanda displayed a \$60,000 increase in AmeriCorps state competitive funding, with a resulting total of \$608,736 for CARITAS, City of Richmond Opioid, and IALR of Danville. Vanessa Diamond asked if IALR is funded twice. Amanda explained that IALR responded to an RFA to identify opportunities for youth aged 18 or older who have dropped out or are struggling academically to be trained in IT certifications. They would then serve in local schools and train students in IT processes. Many new sites in southern Virginia are affiliated with the IALR program. Mark Fero spoke highly of the

facility as well as the great need for it. Among the “First Round” of AmeriCorps state formula funding, Amanda highlighted that Beans & Rice, Inc. is working with an underserved population as efforts are being made to strengthen the program. IALR is the program that moved from formula to competitive funding. Rappahannock Goodwill has expanded. The Literacy Lab is the first million dollar project and has spread from NOVA to the greater Richmond region and now into Hampton Roads. Among the “Second Round” the Boys & Girls Club of Lynchburg is small but expected to grow at next cycle. Amanda summarized the funding portfolio and asked if there were questions to which there were none.

Gail Harris requested that Board members mingle with AmeriCorps members at 11:30 for lunch followed by a launch ceremony where the Board was asked to join Vanessa Diamond in delivering the oath to the members. At 11:20 the Board adjourned to their working lunch. Afterwards the Board reconvened to break out into committee meetings.

### **Open Session**

At 2:19pm Vanessa Diamond reopened the session by having Board members share any noteworthy moments or conversations during the launch event for AmeriCorps members.

### **Topical updates:**

#### **Conference Listening Session**

Vanessa reminded the Board of the Volunteer Listening Session that was held at the May State Volunteerism Conference. Vanessa Diamond and Leah Walker facilitated a session attended by members from volunteer centers across the state. Discussion focused on how to support national service and promote volunteerism and civic engagement. Also discussed was support for the ways individuals mobilize themselves and cross collaborate between regions as part of the goals stated in the State Service Plan. Finally the group provided ideas of how the state office could support their local volunteerism efforts.

#### **Disaster Preparedness**

Gail Harris updated on disaster preparedness at an organizational level. 20% of her position supervises the 2-1-1 program which assists with issues such as eviction, utility bill help, child care, etc. There are 120,000 calls per year plus inquiries made via the website. Another role of 2-1-1 is responding to additional questions during disasters per Governor. Our work helps to mobilize nonprofit organizations in times of disaster and manage volunteers and donations. There needs to be a way to manage and harness the energy from unaffiliated volunteers. There currently lacks a central hub for volunteerism in the state of Virginia. CNCS wants commissions to be ready in times of disaster. There’s an unmet need to manage and screen volunteers, give safety training, and line up with existing nonprofits. In the works is the search for a disaster prep and coordinator to help get AmeriCorps members prepared for disaster. Julie Strandlie’s guest Annette Lamoreaux added her observations in the Houston disaster and suggested translators as another way to help mobilize and manage volunteers.

#### **CNCS Transformational Plan & CNCS Funding: Your Advocacy**

Gail Harris reported that Barbara Stewart is the new CNCS director. Barbara Stewart became the new CNCS director in February. In June Ms. Stewart issued a Transformation and Sustainability Plan for CNCS. Gail reviewed the various components of the plan and indicated that she will keep the Board apprised of future changes. The CNCS funding looks great. Gail reported that the Labor H Health and Human Service Budget includes an increase for CNCS. The budget has been approved by the Senate and is expected to be fully approved and signed prior to the end of the federal fiscal year. Gail thanked the

Board for their advocacy over the past year and indicated they would be notified of opportunities to advocate in the coming year.

### **2018-2019: The Year Ahead**

Gail Harris requested that the Advisory Board mark on their calendar the next board meetings on November 29 and February 28, 2019. The April meeting date is to be determined for the volunteer award ceremony at the Executive Mansion.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **Program Committee**

Ashley Hall was selected as Chair of the Program Committee for 2018/19. Ashley Hall reported plans for 2019/20 and the goal to have a smaller number of programs and to focus on strengthening and growing existing programs. The 2018/19 portfolio has 15 programs, which is more than the 10-12 programs recommended in the Board's guiding principles. Therefore the Program Committee is recommending limiting the competitive and formula application process for 2019/20 to only existing portfolio programs. Ashley further explained the advantages of this application process and then asked board members by show of hands to indicate their agreement with this approach. After this request from Ashley, the board indicated their support for this approach by show of hands.

Ashley reported that CNCS Training and Technical Assistance funds will be used to add 3 new part time positions addressing disaster, program data review, and project management. Finally, the program committee suggested that all board members should have an opportunity to visit AmeriCorps programs/organizations in Southwestern Virginia. The full board expressed their willingness and interest in doing so.

#### **Volunteers and Special Events Committee**

Julie Strandlie reported that she was selected as Committee Chair again. Julie reported that in the joint meeting with the Outreach Committee, ways to increase participation for Governor Volunteerism Awards were discussed. To assure that final winners reflect geographic and nomination diversity, a second level of review is recommended following the board member review and scoring. The second tier review committee should be comprised of the chair and vice chair of the Board plus the chair of each of the three subcommittees. The group also agreed to change the deadline to submit nominations to December 15 with the promotion starting next week. The Board was asked how to reach out more to other regions, particularly the Southwestern and Southside parts of Virginia. It was suggested to use United Way and the Chamber of Commerce. On the 9/11 Day of Service, it was reported that data is still being collected due to a delay caused by the hurricane. Ashley Hall reported that the Virginia Service Foundation provided six mini grants for 9/11 Day of Service projects.

#### **Outreach & Communications Committee**

Steven Valdez was selected as Chair of the Committee for 2018/19. Steven first reported that programs are still completing their 9/11 Day activities and the committee will report out on the final results at the next meeting. Steven also reported that the Outreach Committee discussed looking at Wordpress plugins for document sharing among the board, as well as the marketing and booking of the Speaker's Bureau. The committee reviewed a history of the past three years of the Governor's Awards nominations and winners and could see definite need for more nominations in certain regions, including Southwest Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, and Southside Virginia. The committee also sees a need to increase the number of nominations in certain categories like Youth, Educational Institution, Small

Business, and Faith-Based Organization. Steven asked the Board as a whole if they would rather reach out to individuals and organizations they knew in these areas themselves or have the committee divide up a list of contacts for the Board to reach out to. Board members agreed to assist staff in directing the nomination form to contacts in their regions.

### **CNCS State Office Director Report**

Tynetta Darden reported that the Virginia State Office has awarded 3 new VISTA projects: Appalachian Sustainable Development- Abingdon which works to increase individuals' access to healthy and fresh produce and support agricultural business development for economic opportunity; EnRichmond Foundation which promotes healthy futures supporting public land space in Richmond; and Family Services of Roanoke which increases resources and education for mental health and opioid issues in the Roanoke Valley. CNCS celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 21, 2018 with the Virginia Commission staff by volunteering at FeedMore in Richmond and packing 425 snack packs. There is an open Senior Corps RSVP NOFO that closes November 7, 2018. This funding opportunity is only open in the following service areas: Ten Counties in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas; Norfolk, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Isle of Wight; and thirdly Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, Warren, and the City of Winchester. Tynetta indicated that the Notice of Funding Opportunity and specific geographic service areas can be found at [www.nationalservice.gov/rsvpcompetition](http://www.nationalservice.gov/rsvpcompetition). Tynetta directed the Board to see [Appendix A](#) for a full list of the available opportunities.

### **Final remarks**

The board members were encouraged to view Gail Doyle's interactive map of AmeriCorps program sites in Virginia, and the session ended with a viewing of the new AmeriCorps recruitment video presented by Gail Doyle.

### **Adjourn**

Vanessa Diamond adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Prepared by Jae-Young Murphy

Submitted by Gail Harris