

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 Present: 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 Communication and Outreach Committee's report was incorrect. The total number of volunteers hours for 9/11 Day of Service should be 1,200 and not 12,000. Vanessa Diamond requested a motion to approve the change and minutes. A motion was properly made and seconded, and unanimously approved, for the correction and approval of the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

The floor was opened for the adoption of the agenda by Vanessa Diamond. Vanessa requested a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was properly made and seconded, and unanimously approved, for the adoption of the agenda as presented.

The Board split up into committee meetings.

After collecting their lunches, the board reconvened for the lunch presentation.

AmeriCorps Program Lunch Presentation

Joy Pugh, Director of Virginia College Advising Corps, and two AmeriCorps members from the program presented to the board during its working lunch. Their program's members work with many high school and middle school students, counselors, administrators and parents within their locations to assist students with preparing and submitting college applications and FAFSA forms, as well as applications for scholarships and institutional aid. Members also arrange college and campus visits and help students register for ACT or SAT tests. The College Advising Corps responded to the board's questions related to the program.

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. The Competitive and Formula RFAs will have a preference for applications addressing three critical areas - education, economic opportunity, and services to veterans. They also spoke about the active outreach and planning work staff is conducting in Petersburg, Richmond, and South Hampton Roads areas to encourage new AmeriCorps applicants. They discussed the State Commission's upcoming 'peer exchange' trip to Maryland.

Communication & Outreach Committee

Mark Fero reported that the Speaker's Bureau Survey received seven submissions to be a part of the program. A contact person will be provided on the website 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 Volunteerism Awards 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's chair. Kimberly Ligon 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 Volunteerism Awards. Leah requested that board members encourage people to make nominations for the awards. 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. Regarding the May Conference, the committee discussed the needs for speakers, presenters, keynote speakers, and workshops. Gail Doyle is accepting recommendations 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 Alum 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, Kimberly Ligon and Kellie Mattingly, who provided a presentation on the 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 also reported on Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents volunteers work with children at one-on-one sessions, work on curriculum, and serve a minimum 15-40 hours per week. The program is income eligible and complete intensive training is required before and during their services. There is no income restriction, however, for RSVP volunteers and they can serve any amount of hours per week. Senior Companions support seniors in staying in their homes. 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 the categories of 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 DVS debt collection letter has not yet been received. VCU's debt fees were paid to CNCS and we are waiting on their reimbursement. Gail, Fran and Amanda have a scheduled a call with the new AmeriCorps' Director, Chester Spellman. We will discuss how CNCS can help us in promoting AmeriCorps. The February 22, 2018 meeting will be held at the Department for 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 Bowser provided an update on elections within the Virginia Service Foundation: Chair, Elizabeth Childress; Vice Chair, Jessica Bowser; Secretary, Ashley Hall; and Treasurer, Mark Fero. The Foundation members are seeking sponsorships and donations for the Volunteerism Conference. MLK Mini Grant applications will close December 15, 2017.

Adjourn

Leah Dozier offered a motion to adjourn. The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Prepared by Jovon Taylor

Submitted by Amanda Healy for Gail Harris