

Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism

May 12, 2022; 10:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Twin Hickory Public Library

5001 Twin Hickory Rd, Glen Allen, VA 23059

Board Members Present: Naila Alam, Vanessa Diamond, Mark Fero, Peppy Linden, Enid Mpumwire-Machayo, Bryan Pearce-Gonzales, Jamie Seagraves, Julie Strandlie, Sheila Williamson-Branch, Clifford Yee

Board Members Absent: Lily Beres, Jessica Bowser, Lorna Campbell Clarke, Elizabeth Childress Burneson, Cynthia Downs-Taylor, Zachary Leonsis, Priscilla Martinez, Adria Merritt, NaQuetta Mitchell

Virginia Service Commission Staff Present: Kathy Spangler, Analise Adams, Christina Dumas, Samantha Lukaszewicz, Leanne Costantinidis, Kimberly Brown, Shannon Girouard, Jae-Young Choe

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:25 AM by Board Chair Julie Strandlie.

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

The meeting was opened for the adoption of minutes from February 17, 2022 by Chair Julie Strandlie. The motion to adopt the minutes was made by Peppy Linden, Cliff Yee seconded, and all were in favor. Chair Strandlie asked for approval of the agenda. Sheila Williamson-Branch motioned to adopt the agenda, Jamie Seagraves seconded, and all were in favor.

Chair's Report

Chair Julie Strandlie reported that the Virginia Service Commission has been involved in numerous activities including field visits to AmeriCorps programs, finalization of goals and targets of the State Service Plan, implementation of the formula and competitive grant process of AmeriCorps programs, the Member Celebration event, and the annual Volunteerism Summit. Governor Proclamations for both AmeriCorps Week and National Volunteer Week were issued by the Governor's Office.

Chair Strandlie requested that the board complete a worksheet survey of key congressional and state legislators Board members have relationships with for the policy and advocacy committee efforts.

Committee Reports

Program Committee

Sheila Williamson-Branch reported that the Program Committee met on April 26, 2022 and provided a summary update regarding the variety of national service programs administered through the Virginia Service Commission. 12 of the 14 awarded VISTA slots have been recruited, plus one VISTA Leader serving at the following sites through the Commission Capacity Building Project: VDSS Office of New Americans, VDSS Office of Innovation & Strategic Initiative, VDSS Office of Economic Opportunity, VDSS Substance Abuse Initiative, and VDSS Childcare Subsidy. At the last board meeting on February 17, 2022, the launch of the Summer Associate VISTA pilot program was approved. Currently, 10 members are in the

process of being recruited to serve at the following VISTA summer sites for nine weeks: Aspire! - Learning Rocks Program, International Rescue Committee of Charlottesville - New Roots Program, Federation of Virginia Food Banks, and Fauquier Reaches for Excellence in School Health - FRESH Program. The Commission is in the process of planning for the Program Year 2022- 2023 VISTA Capacity Building Project. All but one of the current site partners have requested to return next year with a total of 13 members requested.

Additionally, the Commission's two current slots will be allocated to lifting up the Volunteer Network Center project. Current planning grantees Volunteer Hampton Roads and the Dan River Nonprofit Network will each be allocated one VISTA member to build capacity among the non-profits in their area. The full request for next year is comprised of 13 VISTA members and 1 VISTA leader.

The official AmeriCorps Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) for the Public Health AmeriCorps grant was also received. One single-state grant award for Virginia was awarded to George Mason University in the amount of \$431,995. AmeriCorps members will work in teams to improve community connections and learn how to use data analytics to improve care communication, care coordination, triage, and patient surveillance across two communities in the Northern Virginia area. AmeriCorps members will increase referrals to health and social services for under/uninsured community members. This grant will be administered as part of the Virginia Service Commission's portfolio. Other national direct award recipients will be administered through the AmeriCorps Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. It is estimated that approximately 55 additional AmeriCorps members will be serving in Virginia this coming year through Public Health AmeriCorps.

Following board approval during the last meeting to implement an additional round of grant making using the American Rescue Plan formula funding, the Commission developed a new Request for Application that will be released sometime during June. The goals of this RFA is to increase the number of AmeriCorps members serving in Virginia by combining both a planning phase and an operational phase over two years into one competitive process and to also ensure that all the ARP funding is spent before the end of 2024. This new grant round will require additional effort on the part of Commission Staff and members of the Board over the summer as awards are scheduled for approval and announcement at the next board meeting on September 8th. Board members were invited to join the review panel for this grant process.

Executive Session

Chair Julie Strandlie reported that the Virginia Service Commission is proposing a Funding Plan for 2022/23 that reflects the actions and ranking developed by the review panel which included members of this board. Per Article 5- Section 3 of the bylaws, the Board considered and acted upon grant applications for funds provided by AmeriCorps as required.

Chair Strandlie read the official motion:

"I move that the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism convene in closed session to discuss the results of the procurement processes 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)."

The motion was moved by Vanessa Diamond, seconded by Cliff Yee, and all were in favor. The vote was in the affirmative to enter executive session.

During executive session, Chair Strandlie entertained a motion for the Governor's Advisory Board to approve the recommended Funding Plan for the 2022 distribution of formula and competitive funds from AmeriCorps as presented in executive session. The motion was moved by Cliff Yee, seconded by Naila Alam, and all were in favor. The vote was in the affirmative to approve the funding recommendations.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Chair Strandlie entertained a motion to conclude the closed executive session and reconvene the open session. The motion was moved by Sheila Williamson-Branch, seconded by Mark Fero, and all were in favor.

Chair Strandlie 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.*

Thank you. We will proceed with a roll call.

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."

When Jae-Young calls your name, please answer, "I so certify." The roll call proceeded and all members so certified.

Communications & Events Committee

Bryan Pearce Gonzalez reported that the Commission celebrated AmeriCorps Week by hosting two AmeriCorps site visits and a roundtable discussion involving the director of AmeriCorps Seniors and representatives from the AmeriCorps Regional Office. Visits to AmeriCorps Seniors and an AmeriCorps State program were followed by a roundtable discussion on service and volunteerism.

The Commission also coordinated and hosted the Virginia Volunteer Summit which took place virtually on May 4-5, 2022. Over 300 delegates registered for the two-day virtual summit. A total of 46 speakers and panelists were also engaged in the event. VISTA members and Virginia Service Commission staff assisted as hosts for the sessions. Key partners included Plan RVA and AmeriCorps which hosted gatherings as part of the event. Nine sponsors supported the Virginia Service Foundation with a total of \$11,000. First Lady Youngkin, Secretary of Health and Human Resources Littel, and VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula joined the event. The State Service Plan was officially launched during the Summit.

National Service Awards were recognized at a virtual Member Celebration event on March 8. The Virginia Service Foundation provided the honorees with an engraved award and cash gift of \$250. The honorees had an opportunity to share a few words during the celebration hosted by Clifford Yee, Chair of the Virginia Service Foundation. In other news, the 2022 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award Program nomination process launched on April 18. The Board was asked to consider worthy candidates for the Governor's awards as

they were told they would be receiving information to share with their network of organizations and contacts. The Commission requested that the Governor and First Lady host the Award Reception in person at the Governor's Mansion on September 8.

The Committee is also beginning to discuss a recognition strategy overall as part of the State Service Plan and will have recommendations for the Board to consider at the September meeting. Additionally, the Commission staff, the Communications & Events Committee, and the Virginia Service Foundation are currently reviewing the application and selection process for the Mini-Grant Program to support 9/11 Day and MLK Day and to expand the reach and impact of the program. A recruitment and retention strategy is being worked on to support grantees as they launch their programs this fall. Also in motion is preparation for the awareness and recruitment campaign that is part of the State Service Plan.

The Commission is working on a couple of events that may be of interest to the Board. First, an AmeriCorps Life After AmeriCorps event is scheduled for Friday, June 3 and will focus on members concluding their year of service and those who have recently served. The purpose of this event is to provide knowledge and resources for the next phase of the members' career trajectory. It will be virtual. Second, the Program Directors Meeting will take place virtually throughout the week of July 25. This event is for all AmeriCorps State Grantees and signals the beginning of the new program year. The Commission aims to build the database of AmeriCorps Alumni in advance of the 30th anniversary of AmeriCorps so that recognition, communication, and engagement with Alumni can be more direct.

Advocacy & Public Policy Committee

Julie Strandlie reported that the Policy and Advocacy Committee met on April 14th. Prior to that the Commission visited the General Assembly during Morning Hour on March 10. Julie Strandlie, Cynthia Downs-Taylor, and Analise Adams were introduced in the Senate by Senators Saslaw and Norment and in the House by Delegate Helmer. In addition, field visits have been scheduled for elected officials to visit AmeriCorps state programs. Those that have already taken place included Congressman Wittman who participated along with his staff in a service project at the York River State Park on April 18 to kick off National Volunteer Week. Also on that day, State Senator Monty Mason and Delegate Shelley Simonds visited the AmeriCorps members serving with the Virginia Reading Corps at Hidenwood Elementary School in Newport News. The Commission is partnering with IRC (International Refugee Committee) to host Senator Creigh Deeds in Charlottesville on June 20th. The Board was asked to contact Analise Adams if they would like to attend any of these visits or host a visit with a local AmeriCorps program.

The Committee is currently developing an action plan to address the various policy recommendations that are included in the State Service Plan. As the policy action plan is being developed, the Board was asked to identify members of the General Assembly that they are willing to contact by completing an engagement worksheet.

AmeriCorps Program Highlight

Stephanie Chan, the Assistant Program Director for the Southern Region of NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) was unable to join the meeting in person so AmeriCorps Compliance and Grant Officer Samantha Lukasiewicz presented an overview of the AmeriCorps NCCC program in Virginia (see attachment). NCCC engages 18 to 24-year-olds in team-based national and community service in the United States. The Virginia Service Commission has an MOU with NCCC to support special projects as needs arise. The Commission also works with

the AmeriCorps Regional office to identify and select projects of which organizations apply directly to NCCC for support.

Virginia Service Foundation

Virginia Service Foundation Chair Cliff Yee reported that the Foundation sponsored National Service Awards of \$250 each during the Member Celebration on March 8. Additionally, the Foundation secured various sponsorships totaling \$11,000 for the 2022 Volunteerism Summit with the help of the outreach by various board members and the Commission. The Foundation continues to seek ways to build more capacity with sponsorships.

Chair Yee encouraged the Board to promote the mini grant awards by sharing information in their networks and on social media. A challenge that continues to be worked on is expanding the geographical reach and distribution, as most nominations tend to primarily represent the Central Virginia and Northern Virginia areas. As for the 2022 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards, the aim is to have the award ceremony take place in-person at the Governor's Mansion once again on September 8.

The Foundation is seeking new board members. Governor's Advisory Board members or non board members who are interested in serving can contact Chair Cliff Yee. Of special interest are those with fundraising skills. Finally, the Foundation continues to seek a managed accounted service. Due to the small size of the Foundation, the search expands to retired CPAs or smaller firms. Any recommendations the Board may have are welcome and appreciated.

AmeriCorps Regional Office

See attached for the written report from AmeriCorps Senior Portfolio Manager of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Lora Grady.

America's Service Commission (ASC)

ASC Board Member Vanessa Diamond reported that in support of state service commissions, ASC has been hosting a series of regional training events including the upcoming National Service Training for the Eastern region of the U.S. in Burlington, VT from May 17-19. A large focus on many training events is on advocacy and policy on issues such as cash match allowance and AmeriCorps member living wage. Some pilot programs are being implemented in other states with an interest in building housing partnerships with communities to help support members in an effort to supplement the member stipend. There will be an open forum webinar on May 16 in which the CEO of AmeriCorps Michael Smith meets with the Council of Foundations with a focus on how foundations across the country fund and support national service and volunteerism.

Virginia Service Commission (VSC)

VSC Director Kathy Spangler reported that the Commission completed the budget for the rest of the calendar year and submitted it to AmeriCorps for approval. The Commission Support Grant funds totaling \$839,278 largely cover staff costs and administrative overhead. The Commission Investment Fund totals \$168,609 and supports wage positions, training, and technical assistance. This year the ARP (American Rescue Plan) Commission Support Grant will provide a \$47,523 subsidy to the Commission core expenses. The ARP Commission Support Funds are targeted to support the implementation of the State Service Plan, and through the end of this year, \$83,048 has been allocated to support projects and coordination.

The Commission has already begun work on various aspects of the State Service Plan. Approximately \$289,000 is being allocated for the work outlined in Year 1 of the State Service Plan, which was officially launched at the 2022 Volunteerism Summit last week. The Commission engaged SIR in the early scoping of the Civic Health Index Report and has determined that the first phase of this statewide project can be completed by the end of this year. The Commission will be engaging statewide and national organizations to leverage best practices with the help of Analise Adams and Vanessa Diamond, who has agreed to serve as project chair.

Public Comments and Adjournment

Chair Julie Strandlie opened the floor for any questions or public comments, of which there were none. Upcoming 2022 board meetings will take place in person on September 8 and December 8. The Board will be updated on the request to have the Governor's Mansion host the Governor's Volunteerism Awards on September 8 following the next board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Prepared by Jae-Young Choe

Submitted by Kathy Spangler

Attachments: AmeriCorps NCCC program presentation and AmeriCorps Regional Office Report