



Commission on Volunteerism
and Community Service

www.Serve.Illinois.gov

Quarterly Commission Meeting

February 7th, 2016

1pm – 4pm

Locations

Illinois Department of Public Health
422 S. 5th Street, 4th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Thompson Center – Room 9-036
100 W Randolph St
Chicago, IL 60601

Call-In Option

Dial: 888-494-4032; Access Code: 4037150212#

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present (Springfield)

Frederick Nettles, Chair; Jeff Turnbull; Barb Byrnes; Giraldo Rosales; Wendy Bell (Guest, DCEO)

Commissioners Present (Chicago)

*John Hosteny; Beth Ford; Jane Angelis; Cynthia Sims; Jenne Myers; Adam McGriffin; Anne Schuman;
Laura Davis; Nisan Chavkin*

Commissioners Present (Call-In)

*Dora Welker; Steve Silberman; Julian Brown; Debra Marton; Sara Stapleton (CNCS); Jennifer Witzel; Barb
Tubekis*

Staff Present

Scott McFarland, Executive Director; Michelle Hanneken; Kelia Beck; William Coussens

Call to order was made by Chair Nettles at 1:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

- Myers made a motion to approve the minutes for the commission meeting on October 11th, 2016
- Ford seconded, the motion was agreed to by voice vote

Executive Director's Report – Scott McFarland

Review of Commission Impact

- Commission impact report made available in packets
 - Return on investment numbers particularly good: \$124 provided in service for every \$1 of state and federal funds invested
 - Next major ASC survey will be released in coming months; will allow for comparison across states
 - Goal of expanding reach beyond the current 49 counties served highlighted

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Staffing

- Welcome to Michelle Hanneken, new Volunteer Programs Manager
 - Previously worked in disaster response and volunteer management at IEMA
 - Gave brief intro/bio to the commissioners
- Discussion of Governor's Hometown Awards as new project, with increase in staff availability
 - Wendy Bell, previously head of the award at DCEO, gave a short presentation; award not presented for last two years due to budget and staffing restraints
 - McFarland encouraged commissioners to approve bringing award to Serve Illinois; objections and concerns raised about staff time available
 - Discussion tabled (and vote on approving award removed from New Business) until special meeting on February 21st, 2017

Budget

- State budget discussion
 - Lack of budget not impacting federal funds for programming; reimbursements processed in timely manner by the state
 - Pending lawsuit against paying state workers would impact all state agencies, contingencies would be put in place to ensure programs continue being managed properly; similar scenarios surrounding potential state employee union strike

Audit

- Final decision from auditors
 - Full report in packets; McFarland gave a quick rundown of findings
 - All disallowed costs being recovered at the moment, and funds will be paid directly from programs to CNCS
 - For further transparency, all monitoring reports will be made available to commissioners and all are invited to join at upcoming monitoring visits (schedule in packets)

Commission Appointments

- Working closely with the Director's office at IDPH to push through needed appointments; CNCS also asked to furnish a letter for the Governor reiterating that current membership levels are non-compliant

CNCS Report – John Hosteny

CNCS

- Transition
 - A farewell message from outgoing CEO Wendy Spencer can be found [here](#)
 - The acting CEO is Kim Mansaray, formerly Chief of Program Operations
 - No transition landing team has made contact with CNCS yet
 - Budget is stable under a continuing resolution through April 28th, 2017
- Important dates
 - MLK Day of Service was on January 16th, 2017; details of this year's projects are [here](#)
 - The next CNCS Board of Directors meeting will be February 15th, 2017; information can be found [here](#)
 - Mayor and County Recognition Day is April 4th, 2017; please reach out to your local officials and encourage them to sign on to this initiative (more information [here](#))
 - North Central National Service Training will be May 8th – 10th, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio
 - AmeriCorps Week for 2017 will be March 4th – 11th
 - Senior Corps Week for 2017 will be May 15th – 19th

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Illinois

- Funding Opportunity
 - RSVP Expansion Grant opportunities can be found [here](#); grants are for expansion into counties currently not being served and opportunity expires in early April
- VISTA Recent Awards
 - Youth and Opportunity United (website [here](#))
 - Serving at-risk students living in poverty and academically below grade level; project goal is to build volunteer recruitment and training infrastructure
 - Illinois Safe Schools Alliance (website [here](#))
 - Serving LGBTQ students in high schools with high dropout rates and with lack of access to health care; project goal is to build capacity to open Central Illinois office, develop partnerships, and find resources to support educational and health needs of students
 - CASA of Cook County (website [here](#))
 - Serving foster children under jurisdiction of Cook County Juvenile Court currently facing high rate of abuse, neglect, and academic failure; project goal is to build volunteer management program, increase number of advocates reaching children who will in turn be more likely to leave child welfare system

Executive Committee Report – Fred Nettles

-Chair Nettles announced he will be stepping down from the Serve Illinois Commission after this meeting; his service to Illinois was recognized by the commissioners and he was presented with an engraved gavel and sounding board

Volunteer Recognition Committee – Barb Tubekis

-Nominations still open for Governor's Volunteer Service Awards (submit [here](#))

Outreach Committee Report – Chris Errera

-No Report

Strategic Planning Committee Report – Jeff Turnbull

-Discussion of strategic plan to take place during Old Business

Foundation Report – Debra Marton

- Website is www.serveillinoisfoundation.org
- Next meeting on February 14th, where new committees will begin to report on initiatives
- Still waiting to receive feedback on 501(c)3 status

Regional Commissioners Committee Report – Anne Schuman

-No Report

Resource and Development Committee Report – Cynthia Sims

-Discussion of commission retreat; consensus decision made to hold in late October 2017, likely at Starved Rock State Park

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Staff Reports – Scott McFarland

AmeriCorps

-2017-18 NOFO

- 44 total applications received; 23 approved by Executive Committee and submitted to CNCS for competitive review
- Competitive review results released at the end of April
- Formula review process underway; peer review will begin in coming weeks with all scorings and full staff reports on each applicant made available before June 1st funding decisions

-Monitoring Visits

- Schedule of upcoming visits included in packets; commissioners should contact Mike Esper if interested in attending any listed
- Total of 16 visits scheduled before the end of May in order to increase oversight of new programs, those with new staff, and those previously out of compliance

-AmeriCorps Week

- March 4th – 11th, 2017

-Disaster Corps

- 34 AmeriCorps members fully trained and ready for deployment in event of emergency
- Kelia and Michelle working to schedule next in-person training with IEMA
- Commissioners interested in becoming trained should contact Kelia

-Mayor and County Recognition Day

- April 4th, 2017; goal to significantly increase number of officials signed up in Illinois from last year; please reach out to local officials (more information above in CNCS report)

Volunteerism

-Volunteerism Plan

- Michelle laid out plan for increasing involvement with volunteer connectors, regional conferences, and potential for Volunteer Generation Fund funding from CNCS

-Regional Conferences

- April 6th – Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference
- June 7th – Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference
- August 16th – Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration
- October 20th – Northwest Illinois Volunteerism Conference

-Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

- Kelia reported that nominations coming in, but more needed in areas of youth, national service, and organizations
- All nominations due by Friday, February 17th
- Commissioner review to begin in late February
- Awards reception on April 25th

Communications

-Website/Social Media

- Report in packets; January 2017 saw highest social media traffic ever

-Newsletter and Outreach

- Blog posts and nonprofit spotlights need suggestions from commissioners
- Commissioners highlighted that Volunteer of the Week great after just one year, and driving traffic to our sites (special thanks given to Kelia)

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-Radio Campaign

- Ran October-December 2016; increase seen in web traffic and phone calls
- Budget for 2017 has \$40,000 set aside; staff will work with outreach committee to put together plan, likely targeting AmeriCorps recruitment seasons in early and late summer

Old Business

Strategic Plan/State Service Plan

- Plan review within commission yielded little feedback
- Approval of draft plan would allow for public posting and comment period before finalization
- Myers moved to approve and publish draft plan
 - Turnbull seconded, the motion was agreed to by voice vote

New Business

Governor's Hometown Awards

- Vote postponed two weeks and removed from agenda (see discussion above)

Election of Chair

- McFarland reiterated bylaw rules governing leadership elections
- Turnbull nominated by Chair Nettles
 - Seconded by Rosales, and accepted
- No other nominations received, Turnbull elected by acclamation

Election of Vice Chair

- Marton nominated by Ford
 - Seconded by Rosales, and accepted
- No other nominations received, Marton elected by acclamation

Scheduling Upcoming Meetings

- Meetings scheduled for the following dates
 - Special meeting to discuss Governor's Hometown Awards
 - February 21st, 2017 at 2pm (Springfield and phone)
 - Quarterly meetings
 - April 25th, 2017 (Springfield and phone)
 - June 1st, 2017 (Springfield, Chicago, and phone)
 - October 11th, 2017 (Springfield, Chicago, and phone)
- Tentative commission retreat scheduled for late October 2017

Rosales moved to adjourn the meeting

- Ford seconded, the motion was agreed to by voice vote

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm by Chair Turnbull

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