



Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, June 30, 2021

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Present:

Steve Solomon
Allison Angeloni
Senyah Haynes
Ayoka Samuels
Jim Dixon
David Christensen

- ASC- This is an organization that provides advocacy to all state commissions. They help us on a federal level; provide training and technical assistance; serve as a pass-through agency for different grant opportunities.
- Role: they focus on national and federal government advocacy
- Hill days are where they meet with different elected officials in the senate- want to make sure appropriations committee keeps us in budget and gives increases.
- They like commissions to engage with our board members who have relationships with elected officials and who can join in these meetings.
- Meeting with Dick Durbin coming up. The desire is to have this committee to be a part of it.
- Eventually the desire is for us to meet with many leaders in the state of Illinois; meet with us to talk about what we do, how they can help
- ASC also has another advocacy group –States For Service, unclear of difference as of yet
- ASC makes sure we are on point with American Rescue Plan as it relates to AmeriCorps
- They have conferences that commissioners can attend. Many are online, some are in person. Commissioners may want to come to part of the conference.
- ACS meetings happen often, Ayoka is still learning the regularity.
- There is a conference coming up in-person in October.
- Steve- maybe we can develop an annual report for this group- we want to make sure they know what we do and get them to understand the importance.
- Ayoka- we have funds to pay for 4 people to attend the conference. Ayoka, Karen, (staff) and 2 more.
- Allison- Voices for National Service (lobbying arm for City Year) Service Year Alliance- both do public policy... she has worked with them in the past. Wondering if getting briefed from them would be of benefit.
- Ayoka- Service Year Alliance has reached out; Ayoka will investigate further to understand fully what they do and the points of connection.
- Steve- want to understand what we as a commission should be doing here in Illinois- education and awareness? How do we better tell our story to the folks in Illinois? Is there public policy that we need to change in some way?

Improving Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State.





- Ayoka- David and Jim have experience on state level- tell us what questions we should be asking.
- Steve- how do we create meaningful relationships with these state legislators- who is the important audience? Let's create a tiered approach in doing this. Who do we need to talk to annually, twice a year, quarterly; who can we communicate to via email and how often? As a team we need to figure out these priorities.
- In the state, you need to talk to whoever is representing you. For us, is there a liaison in the legislature who we are beholdng to? That we report out to? Start there.
- Jim- we need more funding and more staff.
- Allison- the bill that just passed to move Serve Illinois- where did that energy come from?
- Ayoka- We were ok when it was presented to us from the governor's office. Also, from what she can surmise, with the pandemic, it seemed like the commission was a fish out of water. Director of DHS was interested in reengaging with Serve Illinois. It used to be with DHS, and they are happy to have us back. Full transparency: we didn't get the support from IDPH that we needed and this move makes us hopeful.
- Jim- one thing to look at is- years ago program we gave award to volunteers. Paper. We need from the recognition committee some terminology and criteria, then go to the legislature to explain the program and eventually have the commissioner and state rep go to present the award. Good press too.
- Allison- it would be interesting to know how we compare to our sister states commissions
- David- Make the report less than a page, have the backup there, and make it high impact. Also big accomplishments- also plans for an increased budget
- Jim- they all want to know "what's in it for me" they need to be prepped when we ask for more money. Tell the reasons why, because the other folks asking for money do. We need an agenda and pre-meeting before we meet with a legislator. And we come in and run the meeting. Bring materials with you. Don't send ahead of time- they will get set aside. Only a one-pager.
- Steve- agreed with all the points mentioned. Looking to Jim, David, and Allison as folks to help-out due to their experience.
- Ayoka had closing update from American Rescue Plan- it is steadily evolving, she will keep all posted.

Action Items and Next Steps:

- Develop a plan to create greater awareness of Serve Illinois' work across the state and specifically in key districts. (Steve)
- Need to better understand which elected officials our commissioners are connected to.
 - Develop and send survey about who your state rep is, what level of engagement have you had, any more you know we should know about? County officials, city officials. Springfield, Chicago, Peoria, etc. (Steve)

Improving Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State.





- Work with Communications to develop a protocol for including federal, state and local officials in any media opportunities, when appropriate, to build a stronger relationship with them.
- Schedule an informational call with America's Service Commission and States for Service (Ayoka/Senyah) – in process
- Schedule an informational call with Voices for National Service (Ayoka/Senyah) – in process
- Review America's Service Commission meeting and conference schedules, to determine best opportunity for staff to attend and whether or not it makes sense for a member of the committee to attend virtually or in-person. (Ayoka)

Schedule On-going Committee Calls

Committee agreed to meet every other month and **the next meeting will be on August 30 at 2PM.**

Consider the following schedule for the remainder of the next 12 months:

- August 30, 2021 @ 2PM (confirmed with committee)

Proposed Monthly Meeting Schedule

- October 28, 2021 @ 2PM
- December 16, 2021 @ 2PM
- February 24, 2022 @ 2PM
- April 28, 2022 @ 2PM
- June 30, 2022 @ 2PM

Improving Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State.

