



Quarterly Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 2022

10:00am – 12:00pm

Locations

Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

Virtual Meeting Credentials:

Meeting credentials made available to meeting invitation or request the meeting link at dhs.serveillinois@illinois.gov

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Alison Angeloni, Ami Copeland, Bridget Hayman, Carolyn Roberts, Curtis Pease, David Christensen, David Gremer, Laura Davis, Natalie Furlett, Nisan Chavkin, Scott Clarke, Tiffany Holmes, Ayoka Samuels, Rosie Drumgoole, Marci Johnson, and Anne Schuman, Scott Clarke, Bridget Hayman, John Gremer, Curtis Pease, Carolyn Roberts, Catherine Leonis,

Staff Present: Jacob Jenkins, Katrina Ellis, Ayoka Samuels, Ajay Cherukuvada, Noy Lithila, Toni Terry, Sean Gallardo, Teesha Pendleton

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 2. Roll Call
 - a. Andrea is taking minutes and attendance.
 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting – page 3 under section 7 subsection C, subsection 3, iii, revise minutes to rediscuss – shifting from being bi-partisan to non-partisan – minutes approved on 08/04/2022
 4. DHS Welcome Address – Secretary Grace Hou
 5. AmeriCorps Update – Ayoka Samuels Update
 - a. Grant opportunities – AmeriCorps ARP Education grant: the Agency is now accepting more applications. Volunteer generational Fund – around student success, looking at colleges/universities. Opportunities for non-profits to apply for AmeriCorps.
 - b. Midwest Region update – looking for VISTA recruitment specialist/hiring staff.
 - c. AmeriCorps travel – now approved to travel.
 - d. AmeriCorps new Vista projects
 - e. Post COVIS staffing decisions – please read on own.
 6. Executive Director Report – Ayoka Samuels & Serve Illinois Staff
 - a. DHS Transition Update
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- i. Family & Community Services: Office of Community & Positive Youth Development. Serve Illinois is now a bureau within the Office of Community and Positive Youth Development.
 - ii. Additionally, Serve Illinois has a proposal for a staff capacity increase. Our Springfield office has moved to the Harris Building (100 South Grand Ave)
 - b. Calendar of Events (Jacob Jenkins)
 - i. We have a list of important events that are coming up for Serve Illinois.
 1. August 11-21 – Illinois State Fair, in Springfield. Downstate staff will be working as well as Serve Illinois intern. Governor’s Hometown Awards. Four finalists coming to Springfield, DuPage County, O’Fallon, IL, Lincoln, IL, and South Beloit, IL are coming to compete on August 18th, 2022. Judging is currently underway for Governor’s Volunteer Service Award. Deadline is being extended. Email going out to all officials extending the date for application for Service Award for 08/08/2022.
 2. 9/11 Remembrance Day at Union Station – Great(Grand) Hall on 09/12 in partnership with 9/11 committee. Three different shifts, Jacob will post in Base Camp.
 3. National Service Opening Days will take place in October, 2022.
 4. Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2022.
 5. Dr. Martin Luther King National Service day is a requirement for all AmeriCorps programs.
 6. National Service Day – a requirement for agencies.
 - c. New Commissioner Update
 - i. *Please see PowerPoint for additional information.*
 - d. Staff & Intern Updates
 - i. Serve Illinois is happy to announce there has been an increase in staff. Teesha Pendleton – Program Officer assigned to Upstate Illinois, Katrina Ellis – Program Specialist assigned to Upstate Illinois. Toni Terry – Program Officer for Downstate Illinois. Andrea Spellman - Program Specialist downstate Illinois. Noy Lithila – Grant Administrator. Anticipating the hiring of an Administrative Assistance, Bureau Chief. Communications specialist has been hired, starting the 16th of August. No manager positions have been filled yet. Manager positions are caught up in negotiations.
 - ii. Organizational structure – Please see PowerPoint for additional information.
 - iii. There is concerned about all of the positions and where responsibilities lie.
 - e. Initiatives and Projects
 - i. Life Progressive Initiative
 1. *Not a government grant. Please see PowerPoint for additional information.*
 - ii. Departmental Partnerships
 1. *Please see PowerPoint for additional information*
 - 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 - i. Postponing retreat
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- ii. Laura Davis – no longer on commission. Jim Dixon has also chosen to step away for right now.
 - iii. Nominations – possibly 6 people who want to be commissioners. They put in applications over a year ago.
 - b. Finance & Governance – Scott Clarke
 - i. Audits – any outside, IDHS, and former IDPH. New onboarding for new commissioners.
 - ii. Trainings – we need to stay up to date on training such as, ethics, HIPPA, etc....
 - iii. Legal and Compliance Onboarding for Commissioners - forthcoming
 - iv. Reporting relationships/compliance issues for our Commission needs to be addressed.
 - v. Our bylaws need to be updated.
 - c. Public Policy – Tiffany Holmes
 - i. Education Award Tax Relief, Action for 2023. Too late to do it this year. Possibly Sen. Doris Turner will be a sponsor but we need one more sponsor as well, looking for a Republican.
 - d. Public Relations – Cathy Leonis
 - i. Recognition Committee Collaboration – would like to have a more aligned plan with this committee.
 - ii. Serve Illinois Internal/External Messaging and Marketing – we are going to continue working on this to align with goals for 2022-2023.
 - iii. Other comments - none
 - e. Recognition Committee – Jacob Jenkins
 - i. Governor’s Hometown Awards – August 18th (State Fair)
 - 1. Award areas increased to reflect our priority areas
 - 2. Two tickets – entrance ticket, and parking ticket
 - 3. Judging at 2, then pictures are to be taken.
 - ii. Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards – Planning on October 28th, time TBA
 - 1. Judging process: reviewed and revamped
 - 2. Looking for about 10 judges.
 - 3. Would like to have all scores in by September 12th or 13th.
 - f. AmeriCorps – Ayoka Samuels
 - i. Since July 1, 2021, 13 program providers rescinded their awards or decided not to continue with Illinois AmeriCorps (various reasons: fiscal capacity, staff capacity for programs and Serve IL, no longer interested in using AmeriCorps funds to achieve goals)
 - ii. AmeriCorps Committee to complete AmeriCorps State Service Plan (a part of the overall strategic plan; submitted to AmeriCorps)
 - iii. Challenge Areas to Address: recruitment/retention of young adults; recruitment of new agencies to apply for AmeriCorps program grants
 - iv. Strategic Plan Contribution: Goals submitted
 - v. Grants for 2022-2023 Program Year:
 - 1. Continuation grants for existing program providers (35 agencies)
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2. 10 NEW agencies to be a part of the planning grant cohort for FY2023
 - a. Required for new agencies to have 1 year of planning THEN apply for a full program implementation grant following year
 - b. Strategy to diversify funding portfolio
 - c. Strategy to increase the number of members and areas served via Illinois AmeriCorps Programs
 - d. Board members volunteers needed: to read applications
 - e. Board Vote on Recommendations: August 2022 meeting
 - g. Strategic Planning – Allison Angeloni
 - i. Strategic Plan Considerations
 1. Building – hiring/onboarding
 2. Board retreat – timing and agenda.
 8. New Business
 9. Old Business
 10. Public Comment
 11. Adjourn
 - a. Cathy motioned to end the meeting and Ami seconds. Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.
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