



Quarterly Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 9th, 2023

4:00pm-5:00pm

Location

Department Of Human Services (401 S Clinton St, Chicago, IL 60607); - 1st Floor Training Room

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 2. Roll Call
 - a. **Voting Commissioners Present:** Allison Angeloni, Amy Rueff, Benjamin Kagan, Natalie Furlett, Rosie Drumgoole, Scott Clarke, Shelley Long, Dr. Tony Sanders
 - b. **Voting Commissioners Not Present:** Ami Copeland, Ashli Nelson, Brooke Jones (excused), Carolyn Roberts (excused), Rachel Dietkus, Shawn Healy (excused)
 - c. **Non-Voting Commissioners Present:** Catherine Leonis, John Gremer, Tiffany Holmes
 - d. **Non-Voting Commissioners Not Present:** Anne Schuman, Howard Lathan,
 - e. **Staff Present:** Allison Miller, Cory Blissett, Andres Fernandez, Kristen Bethke, Kimberly Doyle, Rachael Tuxhorn, Cecilia Maciel, Raja Banerjee, Jacob Jenkins, Davida Fanniel
 - f. **Guests Present:** Shawn Gunnoe, Gwyndolyn Moss
 3. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Scott Clarke motioned to approve the minutes
 - b. John Gremer seconded the motion
 4. Serve Illinois Executive Director Update - Andres Fernandez
 - a. 2024 Meeting Dates
 - i. Aiming to do two in-person and two virtual in 2024
 - b. Discussion and approval to release ARP NOFO along with PY 2024 funds that will include allocation to planning grants, migrant support, and climate corps
 - i. Dr. Tony Sanders motioned to approve the funds
 - ii. Natalie Furlett seconded the motion
 - c. Pleasant Hill and all semi-finalist and finalist visits and recognition
 - d. Serve Illinois Leadership Team and All Staff Retreat
 - e. AmeriCorps Symposium
 - f. 30th Anniversary of AmeriCorps: Join us in celebration
 - g. Committee members needed
 - h. Commissioners needed
 5. IDHS/Serve Illinois Leadership Update
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- a. National Service Program – Davida Fanniel
 - i. Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) – Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)
 - 1. The National Service Program has sent the Inter-Governmental Agreement to the University of Illinois for signature for the Illinois Civic in the Classroom Curriculum. Once the signed copy from U of I is received, we will forward it to OCA for signatures and roundtable. Dr. Asif Wilson and team will develop a curriculum for teachers in Illinois on Civics. Teachers will train other teachers in the state on Illinois Civics in the Classroom.
 - ii. AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service To America) - Proposed Concept
 - 1. Met with Andres on conceptualizing a program possibly with the 8 Foodbanks in the state that deal with the immigrant crisis for our state. Waiting for Andres to decide on the kind of program he wants and what he would like to do for VISTA. To date, we are still waiting.
 - b. Volunteer Program – Jacob Jenkins
 - i. Volunteer Recognition
 - 1. 2023 running total of Governor’s Certificates of Appreciation: 625
 - 2. 2023 running total of Recognition Pop-Ups: 23
 - ii. End of the Year Volunteer Report
 - 1. Volunteers recruited, engaged, and managed: 1,695
 - 2. Volunteer hours and savings:
 - a. Hours X \$31.80 = \$128,758.20
 - 3. Total volunteer hours: 4049
 - 4. Volunteer holiday cards project: 10,000 holiday cards
 - 5. Veterans pledge as of 11/9/2023
 - iii. Volunteer Trends
 - 1. 2,801,864 formal volunteers contributed 183.5 million hours of service through organizations worth an estimated \$5.7 billion
 - 2. 28.3% of residents formally volunteered through organizations
 - 3. 55.6% of residents informally helped others by exchanging favors with their neighbors
 - c. AmeriCorps Program – Kristen Bethke
 - i. Grantee Update
 - 1. Serve Illinois has 30 AmeriCorps programs. There are currently two NOFO’s out, one for Competitive Traditional and one for Competitive Fixed
 - ii. Officer and Specialist Update
 - 1. We developed a clear outline of duties for both officers and specialists. Both officers and specialists have been working hard to gather important information for program files. As a new team, everyone is continuing to learn all things AmeriCorps
 - iii. 30th Anniversary Update
 - 1. The bureau is working to develop a plan for each month to ensure recognition of the 30th anniversary. We are working to divide and
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conquer everyone's involvement in ideas on how to best recognize the 30th Anniversary

6. Calendar of Events - Cecilia Maciel and Jacob Jenkins
 - a. November: Native American Heritage Month
 - i. Veteran's Day: November 10, 2023
 - ii. Veteran's One Act of Kindness Campaign: November 1st-12th
 - iii. Veteran's Holiday Cards: November 11th- December 15th
 - iv. Family Volunteer Day: November 18, 2023
 - v. Trans Day of Remembrance: November 20, 2023
 - vi. Native American Women's Equal Pay Day: November 30, 2023
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance & Governance – Scott Clarke
 - i. Update on Internal and External Audits
 1. State of IL has not submitted their 2022 single audit. AmeriCorps has put a hold on our funds
 2. How commissioners can support us through this process
 - ii. Training requirements for Commissioners
 1. Emphasized the importance of completing trainings in a timely manner and attending meetings both quarterly and for commission meetings
 - b. Recognition Committee –Amy Rueff
 - i. To close out Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Program Manager Davida Fanniel and Volunteer Programs Manager, Jacob Jenkins, attended the CRF Pink and White Breast Cancer Awareness Ball to present Governor's Certificates to Jaunice Walker and Sharon Williams. As a part of AmeriCorps' 30th Anniversary, both women were selected as honorary AmeriCorps members for their work supporting public health.
 - ii. The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards application deadline was extended to November 1st. We have received over 60 applications!
 - iii. GVSA Illinois Residency Language was updated.
 - iv. GVSA: South Shore Cultural Center has been secured as the venue for April 25, 2024
 - c. AmeriCorps Report – Serve Illinois
 - i. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Wind Down
 1. The Biden Administration invested one billion dollars of American Rescue Plan funding in AmeriCorps. These funds were to be used through fiscal year 2024. Last summer congress rescinded any unspent American Rescue Plan funds. The agency has begun planning for operations post ARP.
 - ii. National Service Recruitment Event
 1. The Midwest Region has a VISTA recruiter serving the region, Gabby Jones. Gabby is planning a national service recruitment event in Indiana in early 2024. Heather has connected Gabby to Willie to begin the planning process.
 - iii. Illinois National Service Highlights
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1. The Chicago mayor's office was just awarded a new VISTA project to assist with the immigration, refugee, and asylum seekers program. The project was awarded 8 VISTA's and 1 VISTA leader. The mayor's office plans on recruiting for the VISTA positions in January of 2021.
 2. On 11/2/23 AmeriCorps CEO Michael Smith and Midwest Senior Portfolio Manager Shawn Gunnoe met with city and state leadership to learn more about the immigration crisis in Illinois. Michael is dedicated to assisting the city and state by leveraging available AmeriCorps resources and partnerships.
 3. The Midwest Region received 8 planning grants in 2023. We are working to bridge the planning grants to the commissions to make the grantees aware of the AmeriCorps operational application process.
 4. Illinois was awarded one planning grant, The Gary Comer Youth Center.
- iv. AmeriCorps Grant Opportunities
1. Current funding opportunities may be found [here](#).
 - a. AmeriCorps VISTA Request for Concept Paper: Concept Papers Due November 16, 2023
 - b. AmeriCorps NCCC: Concept Papers due November 1, 2023
 - c. Public Health AmeriCorps: Continuation applications due January 4
 - d. AmeriCorps State and National Native Nations Grants: Applications due April 5, 2024
8. State Plan/Strategic Plan
- a. Together vs. standalone
 - i. Going to work on Strategic Plan and then the State Plan
9. Public Comment
10. 2024 Meeting Dates
- a. A survey will be sent to all Commissioners to vote on meeting dates for 2024
11. Adjourn
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