



Quarterly Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 10th, 2023

3:00pm-5:00pm

Locations

Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m8849109477a6d2a3f011874729881a0a>

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 2. Roll Call – *please type in your name, and if you are voting or non-voting in the chat*
 - a. Voting Commissioners Present: Allison Angeloni, Ami Copeland, Benjamin Kagan, Brooke Jones, Carolyn Roberts, Natalie Furlett, Rachel Dietkus, Rosie Drumgoole, Scott Clarke, Shawn Healy, Shelley Long, Catherine Leonis.
 - b. Non-Voting Commissioners Present: Anne Schuman, Howard Lathan, John Gremer, Tiffany Holmes, Shawn Gunnoe.
 - c. Staff Present: Allison Miller, Cory Blissett, Andres Fernandez, Toni Terry, Kristen Bethke, Cecilia Maciel, Jacob Jenkins, Kim Doyle.
 - d. Commissioners NOT Present: Bridget Hayman (E), Ashli Nelson (NE), Amy Rueff (NE), Curtis Peace (NE).
 - e. Guests: Heather Foster, Sarah Brady, Courtney Gieb, Kirstin Chernawsky, Sonali Nijhawan.
 3. Approval of the Minutes from 4.20.23
 - a. Rosie Drumgoole motioned to approve the minutes and Carolyn Roberts seconded the approval.
 4. Serve Illinois Executive Director Update (Andres Fernandez)
 - a. Retreat
 - i. Aiming for November 9th and 10th, 2023.
 - ii. Have a budget for Commissioners and Serve Illinois staff.
 - iii. Would be 1 full day for strategic planning and then on the 10th (Veteran's Day) we would do something in support of veterans as a service day.
 - iv. Current location ideas are Bloomington and Starved Rock.
 - b. IDHS Community Service Fund
 - i. This is a proposal that was submitted for additional support for AmeriCorps grantees. It has been approved through the secretary for all AmeriCorps grantees as a means of support dollars to aid in recruitment/enrollment
 - ii. Grantees enrolled in 2023-2024 program years will receive these funds.
 - c. City of Chicago request for support with asylum seekers
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- i. Serve Illinois shared potential job descriptions with organizations acting as asylum seeker centers to see if any AmeriCorps grantees are interested in partnering.
 - d. Serve Illinois' ARPA plan
 - i. Asked for input and ideas regarding how to distribute these funds before they terminate in September 2024.
 - ii. Have talked about issuing a planning grant to smaller organizations that we generally do not have a lot of contact with or areas that we do not have a footprint in.
 - iii. Want to reach out to organizations that are serving rural areas, black, indigenous, and people of color neighborhoods and communities outside of Chicago.
 - e. Climate Corps
 - i. Serve Illinois has been in conversation with an organization that is currently working with 4 other states to develop a climate corps through philanthropic dollars.
 - ii. Would be based on the AmeriCorps program model and would be a 1 year award. It would be approximately \$945,000.00 and \$70,000.00 would be for admin costs. We would potentially be 1 of 5 states participating.
 - iii. If we are interested, we would need to submit a proposal.
 - f. Strategic Plan
 - i. We are looking to secure a consultant to help and support us in building our strategic plan.
 - g. Sonali Nijhawan, Director AmeriCorps State and National
 - 5. IDHS Staff Update (Cory Blissett)
 - a. Personnel Update
 - i. Currently have 18 staff members. On the 16th, our Grants Coordinator will be starting. There is 1 more position that will be filled and that is the Volunteer Program Manager. Interviews begin in September, and we are hoping to have the position filled by November or December. Then we will be fully staffed.
 - b. PY23 Provider Kick-Off Meeting
 - i. The kick-off meeting was held in Chicago with our grantees at the Crowne Plaza.
 - ii. There were 28 grantees who attended. Breakfast and lunch were served and there was a full day of training and collaboration.
 - c. Monthly Provider Meetings
 - i. Will continue every month from August all the way through the end of the program year.
 - d. MAP Enrollment
 - i. We have signed up for the Member Assistance Program (MAP) for all of our programs. This is funded out of the Commission Administrative Grant.
 - ii. This gives all of our members access to medical advocacy, financial and legal assistance, life coaching, work/life resources and referrals.
 - e. AmeriCorps Office of Monitoring Report
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- i. Cory met with the Office of Monitoring in April to run a new AmeriCorps monitoring schedule. They came to Springfield and went over policies and procedures.
 - ii. They have drafted a corrective action plan. Cory has written out the action steps that will be taken and once the corrective action plan is approved, we will have a year to implement the plan.
 - f. IDHS Internal Audit Update
 - i. There was an internal audit by the Office of Internal Audit as part of the transition from Public Health to Human Services. We received the report and most of the findings are very manageable.
 - ii. A report and response has been drafted. It will go to the Secretary of IDHS and the Director of Family and Community Services.
 - iii. There was also an audit of the Board of Commissioners. Documentation, meeting minutes, member names, etc. were submitted. We have now passed this audit.
 - g. Austin, TX Training
 - i. At the end of September several team members are going to Austin, Texas for training.
 - ii. This training is focused on financial management, member recruitment, and grant management.
 - h. Grantmaking Training in Washington D.C. in October
 - i. Cory and Andres will be going to Washington D.C. in October for a grantmaking training opportunity. It will focus on federal regulations and grant making.
 - 6. Calendar of Events (Cecilia Maciel and Jacob Jenkins)
 - a. August
 - i. Illinois State Fair: August 10-20, 2023
 - ii. Sensory Station IL State Fair Project: August 10-20, 2023
 - iii. Governor’s Hometown Awards: August 16, 2023
 - b. September: Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 -October 15, 2023)
 - i. 9/11 Day Set Up: September 10, 2023
 - ii. 9/11 National Day of Service: September 11, 2023
 - iii. Black Women’s Equal Payday: September 21, 2023
 - c. October:
 - i. Latina’s Equal Pay Day: October 5, 2023
 - ii. Indigenous People’s Day: October 9, 2023
 - d. November: Native American Heritage Month
 - i. Veteran’s Day: November 10, 2023
 - ii. Family Volunteer Day: November 18, 2023
 - iii. Trans Day of Remembrance: November 20, 2023
 - iv. Native American Women’s Equal Pay Day: November 30, 2023
 - 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Natalie Furrett
 - i. Retreat planning
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- b. Finance & Governance – Scott Clarke
 - i. Preliminary review and discussion of by-laws completed by Executive Committee.
 - 1. The Executive Committee has done a preliminary review and discussion of the by-laws.
 - ii. Training requirements for state board appointees reviewed.
 - 1. Commission positions may be forfeited if trainings are not completed.
 - iii. Additional members of the Finance and Governance Committee are needed.
 - c. Public Policy – Tiffany Holmes
 - i. Education Award Tax Relief
 - 1. Legislation was passed on a federal level in 2021.
 - 2. There is a coalition called Service National who is working on a federal level to get this piece of legislation introduced again into Congress.
 - 3. Tiffany Holmes is in the process of planning a meeting with this coalition.
 - 4. In relation to Illinois, one of the questions that came up was if someone is taking advantage of the AmeriCorps education award there is the possibility of being taxed. Tiffany Holmes has been working with Senator Doris Turner to determine if college students and veterans are being taxed. If they are being taxed, there will need to be an amendment of the 1986 and/or 1990 IRS tax code.
 - 5. If it is determined that they are taxed, we would need to create a fact sheet to explain this and also circulate a petition. Another option is doing a Dear Colleagues Letter to the Illinois General Assembly, and also getting it in the media to bring more awareness about this.
 - 6. Currently waiting on Senator Doris Turner’s office to provide who other coalitions are who may be interested as well.
 - d. Public Relations – Cathy Leonis
 - i. Looking for new members
 - ii. Governor’s Hometown Awards
 - 1. Cathy Leonis asked if the Governor would be present and said she would talk offline to staff about this.
 - iii. Newsletter
 - 1. The Summer Newsletter has gone out.
 - iv. 9/11 Day volunteer push
 - e. Recognition Committee –Amy Rueff
 - i. Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards: Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the South Shore Cultural Center in Chicago.
 - ii. 2023 and 2024 cohort winners will be combined for one reception.
 - iii. Nomination application will be released Fall 2024.
 - iv. GHTA Applications were distributed widely throughout the state.
 - v. 48 Communities submitted applications covering all of our target areas, which align with AmeriCorps targets.
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- vi. GHTA Application was updated in 2022 to make the process more equitable and inclusive of all communities.
 - vii. Deficit-based language was replaced with asset-based language.
 - viii. All questions and language that dealt with monetary resources were removed.
 - f. AmeriCorps – Allison Angeloni
 - i. Recruitment/Retention of AmeriCorps members
 - ii. Recruitment of new agencies and diversifying portfolio
 - g. Strategic Planning – Allison Angeloni
 - i. Strategic planning retreat tentatively planned for November – more details to come
 - h. AmeriCorps Update – Shawn Gunnoe
 - i. There are 6 new Vista projects in the works around Chicago.
 - 8. Public Comment
 - a. N/A
 - 9. Next Meeting Date
 - a. 11/16/2023
 - 10. Adjourn
 - a. John Gremer motioned to end the meeting and Scott Clarke seconded the motion.
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