



Quarterly Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 20th, 2024

3:00pm-5:00pm

Locations:

In-person:

Chicago: 401 South Clinton Street Chicago, IL 60607 -- 7th floor executive conference room

Springfield: 100 S Grand Ave E Springfield, IL 62762 -- 3rd floor executive conference room

Virtual Meeting Via WebEx:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m9ec38e9ca4ff0283e37a70d97c09df9e>

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furlett, Chair
 2. Roll Call
 - a. **Voting Commissioners Present:** Allison Angeloni, Benjamin Kagan, Natalie Furlett, Rosie Drumgoole, Scott Clarke, Dr. Jamarco Clark, Carolyn Roberts, Shelley Long, Marci Johnson for Tony Sanders, Gwyndolyn Moss, Amy Rueff
 - b. **Voting Commissioners Not Present:** Ashli Nelson (excused), Brooke Jones, Noureen Hashim, Ami Copeland
 - c. **Non-Voting Commissioners Present:** Catherine Leonis, John Gremer, Howard Lathan, Tiffany Holmes
 - d. **Non-Voting Commissioners Not Present:** Jennifer North, Anne Schuman
 - e. **Staff Present:** Allison Miller, Andres Fernandez, Kristen Bethke, Kimberley Doyle, Rachael Tuxhorn, Cecilia Maciel, Jacob Jenkins, Davida Fanniel, Anthony Wanless
 - f. **Guests Present:** N/A
 3. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Unable to approve minutes due to not meeting quorum
 4. Serve Illinois Executive Director Update - Andres Fernandez
 - a. Reminded Commissioners of required trainings
 5. IDHS/Serve Illinois Leadership Update
 - a. AmeriCorps Program – Kristen Bethke
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- i. Formula Traditional and Fixed Grants were approved by the Board and waiting for final approval at IDHS Administration. We have 4 new grantees: The Boys and Girls of Elgin, Neighborscapes, Chicago Debates, and Gateway to the Great Outdoors
 1. We had a team of 3 reviewers to grade 3 planning grants. The planning grants have been scored and all 3 will be funded at a maximum of \$125,000 each. We will work with each grantee on any changes to their budget as necessary
 2. The three planning grants include:
 - a. The Black Educational Advocacy Coalition, Mt. Vernon, Illinois for \$125,000
 - b. Believe in Students, West Chester, Pennsylvania for \$125,000
 - i. See attached Word document
 - c. Campus Compact, Chicago, Illinois for \$125,000
 - ii. We will be holding a Quarterly Program 2024 Meeting in Chicago on August 1, 2024, and have sent a Save the Date to our programs
 - iii. We continue to update our AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager with regular updates and answer questions as appropriate
 - b. National Service Program – Davida Fanniel
 - i. Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF)
 1. Dr. Wilson (U of I) presented the National Service Program Team, Bureau Chief and Executive Director the five learning modules for the Illinois Civics in the Classroom Curriculum. He and his team have been working diligently on the development and framework of this project. His team consists of national Civics experts, Illinois teachers, students and civic leaders. They are developing and designing a synchronous professional learning experience for teachers and teacher trainers that meets the outcomes of Illinois State Learning Standards for Civics
 - ii. AmeriCorps VISTA
 1. The completed VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) application was submitted to AmeriCorps via e-grants on Thursday, May 30, 2024. Serve Illinois has requested a total of (4) VISTAs for The Serve Illinois Community Based Food Security Project. For the project we are collaborating with River Bend Food Bank in Des Moines, Iowa, and St. Louis Area Food in Bridgeton, Missouri. Both food banks provide coverage for several counties in Illinois
 - c. Volunteer Program – Jacob Jenkins
 - i. Illinois Disaster Response Volunteers Project
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1. 118 Volunteers signed up to support disasters in Illinois
 2. Currently supporting four Long-term Recovery Groups
 3. Partnered AmeriCorps NCCC with Westside Long-term Recovery Group (NCCC team will be deployed to Chicago the last week in June)
 4. Marketed and connected grant writers and grant administration volunteers with the Southside Resilience and Recovery Coalition
 - ii. Sensory Station at the Illinois State Fair (August 10-18)
 1. Developed MOU with the Department of Agriculture to recruit and manage volunteers
 2. Currently recruiting, training, and vetting volunteers for open shifts
 3. All volunteers must pass an Illinois State Police background check and sign Serve Illinois Volunteer Waiver
 - iii. 9/11 Day of Service at Chicago Union Station (9/10 and 9/11)
 1. Serve Illinois is the main recruitment partner. The Volunteer Team has set a goal of 210 volunteers, which will include our Illinois AmeriCorps Programs, Members, and Alum
 2. 9/11 Day has set a meal pack goal of 500,000 meals for Chicago
 3. Serve Illinois invites all commissioners to attend on 9/11
 4. [Register for the Chicago Meal Pack for 9/11 Day - Support Staff Tickets, Wed, Sep 11, 2024 at 7:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)
6. Calendar of Events – Volunteer Team
 - a. June
 - i. June 11-14 Points of Light (Houston, TX)
 - ii. June 19 Juneteenth
 - iii. June 28 Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference
 - b. July
 - i. N/A
 - c. August
 - i. August 8-18 Illinois State Fair and Sensory Station
 - ii. August 14 Governor's Hometown Awards
 - d. September
 - i. September 11 - 9/11 National Day of Service
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee – Natalie Furllett
 - i. Strategic Plan
 1. Discussed options for updating the Serve Illinois Commission Committees
 - a. Discussed if this would require changes to the by-laws



- b. Currently, the by-laws state that Serve Illinois has specific committees: Executive, PR, Recognition, State Service Plan and Strategic Planning, Governance and Finance, AmeriCorps, and Public Policy
 - c. Many commissioners are not part of any Committees, and this would allow them to join once the Committees are decided
 - d. Once changes are made, they would need to be voted on in September 2024
 - e. Potentially combining PR and Recognition to work together. This would allow there to be a bigger Committee that would be multifunctional
 - i. Co-chairs, staff liaison, and then subcommittees if needed
2. Remote versus in-person attendance
- a. Only those who attend in person count toward quorum. This must be kept in mind with the virtual attendance policy
 - b. This is most pertinent to voting members versus non-voting members
 - c. Discussed keeping the rooms used for this meeting as the regular rooms for our meetings (in both Chicago and Springfield)
3. Decided to start working with the goals from the Strategic Plan and build off of them
4. Now that Serve Illinois staff has been built up to nearly fully staffed, what role do Commissioners play in supporting their work?
- a. The AmeriCorps Committee was originally needed due to not having enough AmeriCorps staff members to read and score applications. Now that it isn't the case, is it still needed?
5. Members of the Commission
- a. Can have up to 40 Commissioners. Of those 40, it's 25 voting and 15 non-voting
 - b. No more than 50% of the Commission can be appointed from the same political party
6. Discussed what the underlying focus or goal of Serve Illinois would be moving forward
- a. Ideas brought up were food security in Illinois, securing additional funds, bringing in new AmeriCorps programs, new
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services, and broadening Serve Illinois by connecting with other agencies that provide services in communities (state and local)

ii. By-Laws

1. To update the by-laws, the updated information must be sent to the Executive Committee two months before the meeting and one month before the meeting to all other Commissioners. In this meeting, the additions would be voted on
2. Andres Fernandez, Cathy Leonis, and Natalie Furlett are going to create a working document to use as a draft to bring ideas to the next meeting in September
 - a. If we are going to vote on by-law updates in September, the draft would have to be sent out in mid-July to meet the two-month requirement

8. Public Comment

- a. N/A

9. 2024 Meeting Dates

- a. 9/18/2024 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- b. 11/20/2024 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

10. Adjourn

- a. Scott Clarke motioned to adjourn the meeting
 - b. Jamarco Clark seconded the motion
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