

## **Wisconsin National and Community Service Board**

### Board Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2015

- Present:* Anthony Hallman, Christine Beatty, Lisa Delmore, Kathleen Groat, Paula Horning, Kate Jaeger, Robert Griffith, Jane Moore, India McCause, Dan Buttery, Scott Fromader, Susan Schwartz, Michael Hinman
- Not Present* Amy McDowell, Angie Ahlgrim, Scott Jones, Jim Langdon
- Staff present:* Tom Devine, Amy Porter, Jessica Kessler, Casey Sweeney, Steven Yule
- Program Staff Present:* Brian Blahnik, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation; Patricia Balke, Wisconsin Association for Homeless & Runaway Services; Karen Dischler, United Way of Dane County Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project; Steve Blankenheim, United Way Of Dane County – Achievement Connections; Chad Harrie, UW Oshkosh – Vet Corps; Gary Wagner, Renewal Unlimited, Inc. – Portage Fresh Start
- Next meeting:* December 17, 2015

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:41 a.m. by Board Chair Lisa Delmore.

### **Introductions**

The Commission members and Serve Wisconsin staff introduced themselves.

### **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Tony Hallman moved to approve the June 4, 2015 WNCSB meeting minutes. Second by Christine Beatty. Unanimously approved.

### **Review of 2015 Tentative Board Meeting Dates**

- \* December 17, 2015 - Funding Competition, Competitive
- \* March 17, 2016
- \* June 2, 2016 – Governor Awards & Funding Competition, Formula

### **Updating Board member position descriptions– Action**

Paula Horning moved to approve the staff proposed changes to the Board Member Position Descriptions and to remove the language regarding visiting at least one AmeriCorps program site each year. Second by Tony Hallman. Discussion was had regarding the line in the position descriptions under the board member responsibilities section that states, “Give priority consideration to visiting at least one AmeriCorps program site each year”. It was determined that visiting a program site should be noted during funding consideration discussions but that visiting a site does not necessarily result in a conflict of interest. New motion to approve the staff proposed changes to the Board Member Position Descriptions, keeping the language regarding giving priority to visiting at least one AmeriCorps program site each year by Tony Hallman, second by Christine Beatty, motion passed unanimously.

### **Motion to approve submission of the 2016 Commission Support Grant– Action**

Kathy Groat moved to approve the submission of the 2016 Commission Support Grant. Second by Tony Hallman. Motion passed unanimously. The board will receive a copy of the Commission Support Grant prior to the December Board meeting.

### **Review and Approve 2016-2018 State Service Plan– Action**

Paula Horning provided background on the creation of the 2016-2018 State Service Plan as well as the public survey results. Kathy Groat motioned to approve 2016-2018 State Service Plan as it is submitted. Second by Christine Beatty. Motion passed unanimously. The State Service Plan will remain a standing item on the meeting agenda.

### **2014-15 Member Survey Results**

Jessica Kessler provided highlights from the 2014-2015 Member Survey results. Overall, this survey showed a positive trend for AmeriCorps programs in Wisconsin with an overall response rate of 60%.

### **2016-17 AmeriCorps Request for Proposals**

Program Officer Jessica Kewin explained that the 2016-17 AmeriCorps\*State Request for Proposals based off the 2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was released on August 24, 2015. Serve Wisconsin received 36 Notices of Intent to Apply; 12 continuation competitive applicants and 10 currently funded recomplete applications, 14 new applicants. Applications are due on November 4, 2015.

### **2015 AmeriCorps Symposium Recap**

Susan Schwartz and Tom Devine provided a recap of the 2015 AmeriCorps State and National Washington DC Symposium. Sue discussed the wealth of information shared and the intense use of acronyms. Tom Devine shared that each year CNCS does a better job of providing the important training staff and programs need to maintain compliant and highly effective AmeriCorps programs.

### **CNCS State Office Update**

India McCanse thanked Tom Devine for fostering the focus on collaboration between the Commission and CNCS State Office. This year the two offices, among other collaborative efforts, are engaging in a peer review exchange for applications received. India also shared that 20 states around the nation will be participating in an Opening Ceremony on October 16, 2015. She provided updates on the Employers for National Service initiative and that Casey Sweeney and she were going to start planning the 2016 Mayors Day. India also discussed that she would like to see a large participation from Wisconsin programs for the Martin Luther King Jr. national day of service.

### **America's Service Commissions Update**

Kaira Esgate, CEO of America's Service Commissions (ASC), presented to the board sharing an overview of the work done by ASC, how commissioners can interact with ASC, the top 10 items ASC is currently working on, appropriations updates, and important initiatives such as the President's Task Force and A Billion Plus Change. Her powerful, and detailed, presentation provided an update on funding and changes that are happening with national service and the CNCS. Information shared on the many service initiatives that keep surfacing – A Billion + change, Service Year, 21st Century, School Turnaround, Resilience AmeriCorps, Operation AmeriCorps, STEM AmeriCorps, United We Serve, etc. and how they impact AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps funding, helped to address some of the confusion for Commissioners in regards to how commissions fit in with them and the larger national service landscape.

### **Franklin Project, Service Year, Voices for National Service**

Amanda Smidt Panciera, Chief of Staff for City Year Milwaukee, Franklin Project Ambassador of Milwaukee, and AmeriCorps alumni presented to the board describing national service initiatives such as the Franklin Project, Service Year Exchange, and Voices for National Service. These initiatives work to promote the idea that national service can become a cultural expectation of all young Americans, as well as providing the avenues for connecting service participants and educating elected officials about the important work of national service.

### **InterCorps Council of Wisconsin**

InterCorps Council (ICC) representatives Alyssa Berschneider (Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps member '14-'16), Penny Sharp (Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps member '08-'10), and Amanda Smidt Panciera (City Year AmeriCorps member '09-'10) presented to the board regarding the history, structure, and goals of the

InterCorps Council of Wisconsin. Together the ICC is composed of 11 members and alumni from AmeriCorps\*State and National, VISTA, and Senior Corps. The InterCorps Council of Wisconsin will advocate for national service and build awareness of the opportunities to increase citizenship through program and alumni collaboration, organized service events, and community outreach.

### **Activity**

Board members participated in a quick interest survey to assess WNCSB member's interests, talents, and expectations for participation on the WNCSB. The survey results are intended to be used to increase effective leveraging of the board.

### **Update from Program Directors Association**

Karen Dischler, United Way of Dane County Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project provided the update from the Program Directors Association. Karen described the extreme difficulty programs are having this year with recruitment and enrollment. She assured the board that programs are doing their very best, but that recruitment and enrollment remain a significant concern of the programs.

### **Update from Commission Members**

No Commission members had any updates to share at this meeting.

### **Staff Updates**

Serve Wisconsin Staff shared the following Updates:

Amy Porter: Amy shared that on Friday, October 16, 2015 the Wisconsin AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony at the Alliant Center in Madison, Wisconsin will take place. Senator Baldwin, former Governor Tommy Thompson will speak at this event and board members are encouraged to attend.

Steven Yule: Steven described the recent CNCS monitoring visit conducted in July at the Serve Wisconsin office. Overall, the monitoring visit did not find any major compliance items. All items found at the monitoring visit have been addressed.

Casey Sweeney: Casey shared the recent news that Wisconsin has agreed to be a founding state with the Service Year Exchange. Through the Service Year Exchange AmeriCorps programs around the state will have the opportunity to enhance their recruitment scale and reach. Casey also requested that board members share any names for potential peer reviewers for the 2016-2017 grant competition that was underway.

Jessica Kessler: Jessica described the Program Evaluation Workshop Serve Wisconsin was putting on for AmeriCorps programs around the state. These workshops have been developed in response to the growing importance of quality evaluation and evidence as indicated in the 2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity released by CNCS. Jessica also shared the feedback Serve Wisconsin received from the July Financial and Grants Management Institute. The FGMI had participants from 26 states and was extremely well received. Finally, Jessica shared the progress on the volunteer engagement trainings being provided to Serve Wisconsin's AmeriCorps programs.

Tom Devine: Tom thanked the staff and board for their continued dedication to high quality AmeriCorps programming in Wisconsin. Tom also shared with the board the state's new STAR system.

### **Adjourn**

Kathy Groat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:29pm. Second by Kate Jaeger. Motion passed unanimously.