

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

### Board Meeting Minutes

*December 17, 2015*

*Present:* Anthony Hallman, Lisa Delmore, Scott Jones, Paula Horning, Kate Jaeger, Susan Schwartz, Jane Moore, James Langdon, Kathleen Groat, Christine Beatty, Angela Ahlgrim, Dan Buttery, Scott Fromader, Michael Hinman, India McCause

*Not Present* Amy McDowell, Robert Griffith

*Staff present:* Tom Devine, Amy Porter, Jessica Kessler, Casey Sweeney, Steven Yule

*Program Staff Present:* Andrew Hoyer-Booth, Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association; Ava Hernandez and Charmaine Harris, Public Allies; Bradley Dominique and Sarah Elliott, DATCP Farm to School; Brian Blahnik, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation; Cally Ehle and Alexis Matthews, Easter Seals of WI; Connie Bettin, Dane County Human Services – PASS AmeriCorps; Chad Harrie and Kim Stuyvenberg, UW Oshkosh – Vet Corps; Edie Turnbull, College Possible Milwaukee; Gary Wagner, Renewal Unlimited, Inc. – Portage Fresh Start; Heather Fick, Indianhead Community Action Agency; Karen Dischler and Emily Greene, United Way of Dane County – Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project; Kelly Kotarek, Teach For America Milwaukee; Lois Nugent, Milwaukee Christian Center; Lori Bakken and David Lee, Feeding Wisconsin & Second Harvest; Pat Marcus, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee; Patricia Balke, Wisconsin Association for Homeless & Runaway Services; Steve Blankenheim, United Way Of Dane County – Achievement Connections; Steve Frodl, NCCAP AmeriCorps Team – Greater Wausau Area

*Next meeting:* March 17, 2016 ; location TBD

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Board Chair Lisa Delmore.

### **Introductions**

The Commission members and Serve Wisconsin staff introduced themselves.

### **Public Comment**

Lois Nugent from the Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) presented, giving thanks to the board for their commitment to quality outcomes in AmeriCorps programs and for ensuring that YouthCorps programs stay a vital part of service in Wisconsin. Lois shared MCC's commitment to meet their outcomes and described the work being done on a corrective action plan which outlines the purposeful steps being taken to ensure quality AmeriCorps programming through MCC.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Christine Beatty made a motion to approve the October 15, 2015 WNCSB meeting minutes. Second by Angie Ahlgrim. Unanimously approved.

### **Update from Planning Grant: Second Harvest**

Dr. Lori Bakken and Bakari Wallace of UW Madison and David Lee of Feeding Wisconsin presented the results of the Feeding Wisconsin Feasibility Study to the board. Together, they described the purpose and goals of the AmeriCorps Planning Grant held by Feeding Wisconsin, what accomplishments, lessons, challenges, and next steps the feasibility study produced. The Feeding Wisconsin feasibility study is a three-part study consisting of Situational Analysis, Community Readiness Assessment, and Case Studies/Site Visits to assess the design of their potential AmeriCorps program.

### **Approve Commission Support Grant**

During the October 15, 2015 WNCSSB meeting, the board approved the submission of the 2016 Commission Support Grant. At the December 17, 2015 WNCSSB meeting, Executive Director, Tom Devine, explained the process of submitting, approving, and reviewing the Commission Support Grant. Kathy Groat made a motion to approve the 2016 Commission Support Grant. Second by Christine Beatty. Unanimously approved.

### **Overview of Competitive Application Process**

Program Evaluation & Development (PE&D) Committee Chair, Tony Hallman and Serve Wisconsin staff provided an overview of the 2016-2017 competitive application process.

- **CNCS Competitive Funding Limitations:** Information available from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) at the time of the PE&D Committee meeting was that they estimated a shortage of around \$3 million when adding up funding for all of the eligible Competitive Continuation and Re-compete applicants. New information available from the federal appropriations process is that there may be additional funding available for AmeriCorps programs.
- **Push for Lower Costs per MSY:** CNCS is continuing its pressure on Competitive applicants to lower their Cost per MSY; Serve Wisconsin is continuing to work with applicants toward this CNCS goal.
- **Not Recommending Expansions:** Due to Competitive funding constraints, the PE&D Committee recommended no expansions for Competitive applicants. It was noted that CNCS is requiring Continuation applicants to budget at their 2015-2016 funding level, and applicants that want to request an expansion can do so in their application narrative, with their budget being increased only after CNCS approval of the expansion. Due to the new information available about AmeriCorps funding, staff is recommending that expansion requests be approved for Competitive Re-compete applicants College Possible and WI Primary Health Care Association. Teach for America's Continuation application narrative will be requesting an expansion, but they are required to submit a budget no greater than their 2015-2016 grant amount. In addition to the \$96,000 funding level recommended by the PE&D Committee, staff suggests that the Board recommend that CNCS approve the TFA expansion request.
- **Not Recommending Competitive Funding for New Programs – Consider Eligible Programs for Formula Funding:** Due to Competitive funding constraints the PE&D Committee did not recommend Competitive funding for new applicants: City Year Milwaukee, Milwaukee Community Service Corps, and Summit Educational Association, Inc. Staff is not recommending any changes based on newly available information.

### **2016-2017 Competitive Funding Recommendations**

#### ***2016-2017 AmeriCorps Competitive Applications - Fixed Amount***

Jane Moore made a motion to approve the following Fixed Amount Competitive Applications to be submitted to CNCS for competitive funding consideration for the 2016-2017 program year:

#### ***2016-2017 AmeriCorps Competitive Fixed Amount Applications – Continuation***

<i>Program</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 Funding</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 Members</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 MSYs</i>
<i>Teach for America Milwaukee – Professional Corps</i>	\$104,000	130	130

#### ***2016-2017 AmeriCorps Competitive Fixed Amount Applications – Recompete***

<i>Program</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 Funding</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 Members</i>	<i>Requested 2016 -2017 MSYs</i>
<i>College Possible Milwaukee</i>	\$326,040	33	33
<i>Public Allies Milwaukee</i>	\$544,635	45	45
<i>Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association</i>	\$266,200	22	22

Second by Christine Beatty. Motion passed unanimously.

**2016-2017 AmeriCorps Competitive Applications – Cost Reimbursement**

Christine Beatty made a motion to approve the following competitive applications to be submitted to CNCS for competitive funding consideration for the 2016-2017 program year:

***Continuation Applications – Recommendations***

<i>Program</i>	Requested 2016 -2017 Funding	Requested 2016 -2017 Members	Requested 2016 -2017 MSYs
<i>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee – SPARK, Arts, &amp; Environmental Education</i>	\$245,671	74	21.25
<i>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee – Summer Slide Prevention, Kinder Academy, &amp; Graduation Plus</i>	\$82,753	24	6.32
<i>Dane County Human Services</i>	\$344,449	35	35
<i>Indianhead Community Action Agency</i>	\$113,292	20	10
<i>Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation – AmeriCorps Afterschool</i>	\$344,449	30	30
<i>Milwaukee Christian Center*</i>	\$167,083*	23*	13*
<i>Renewal Unlimited, Inc.</i>	\$185,549	36	14
<i>United Way of Dane County – Achievement Connections</i>	\$257,188	20	20
<i>University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire – ECLIPSE</i>	\$86,717	45	9.52
<i>Wisconsin Association for Homeless &amp; Runaway Services</i>	\$375,941	35	32.5

\*Per the 80% Performance Threshold for Competitive Applications as approved by the Board and included in RFP, the Committee recommends that CNCS not fund Milwaukee Christian Center; however, information regarding program management, performance improvements, and additional corrective action planning will be shared with CNCS to aid them in making their decision regarding Continuation funding for this program. The board requested that the dollar amount, members, and MSY requested be included in the recommendation.

***New/Recompete Applications – Recommendations***

<i>Program</i>	Requested 2015 -2016 Funding	Requested 2015 -2016 Members	Requested 2015 -2016 MSYs
<i>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Barron County</i>	\$198,624	20	15
<i>Easter Seals Wisconsin</i>	\$264,225	51	20.34
<i>Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation – Volunteer Wisconsin</i>	\$604,350	45	45
<i>North Central Community Action Program</i>	\$223,882	30	17.12
<i>United Way of Dane County – Schools of Hope</i>	\$258,000	20	20
<i>University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh – Vet Corps</i>	\$70,008	20	5.29
<i>Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council</i>	\$126,920	20	10
<i>WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade &amp; Consumer Protection</i>	\$193,219	30	15.5
<i>WI Dept. of Public Instruction – Play and Read</i>	\$273,443	24	20

Question was raised as to why University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh – Vet Corps application was not granted an expansion as requested given the new information available about AmeriCorps funding. This decision was held because the PE&D Committee approved a reduction in this application request and it did not follow to increase this application following a reduction.

Second by Tony Hallman to approve the above competitive applications to be submitted to CNCS for competitive funding consideration for the 2016-2017 program year. Motion passed unanimously.

**Ranking of New/Recompete Applications**

Tony Hallman made a motion to approve the following ranking of new/re-compete applications:

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
Marshfield Clinic - Volunteer WI	1
College Possible	2
Western Dairyland	3
United Way of Dane County - Schools of Hope	4
Easter Seals WI	5
North Central CAP	6
WI Primary Health Care Association	7
Public Allies Milwaukee	8
WI Dept. of Agriculture - Farm to School	9
WI Dept. of Public Instruction - Play & Read	10
Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County	11
UW-Oshkosh - Vet Corps	12

Second by Paula Horning. Motion passed unanimously.

**2015 Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report**

Tom Devine shared results from the recently released 2015 Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report. The Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report helps to define both the volunteering experience and civic life in America. These efforts ultimately support the mission of CNCS to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering across America. Wisconsin increased from 5<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in Volunteering among the 50 states and Washington, DC. Other statistics on Wisconsin included 1.58 million volunteers, 32.5 volunteer hours per capita, 147.5 million hours of service, \$3.4 billion of service contributed and 62.2% of residents donated \$25 or more to charity. To see the full report visit: [www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov).

**State Service Plan**

The 2016-2018 State Service Plan goes into effect January 1, 2016. The next steps in this plan will be to promote and support the goals of the plan in the New Year. Continued reflection and assessment of community needs throughout Wisconsin will be the focus moving forward.

**CNCS State Office Update**

India McCause shared that the CNCS State Office has moved to the Federal Court House in Milwaukee. India also discussed the Employers of National Service initiative. The Employers of National Service initiative works to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. This initiative hopes to connect employers with a dedicated, highly qualified, and mission-oriented pool of potential employees, as well as offer national service alumni additional opportunities to apply their skills in the workplace. If you have an organization interested in participating in this initiative please visit, [www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service](http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service)

**Update from Program Director’s Association**

Program Director Connie Bettin, Dane County Human Services – PASS AmeriCorps, shared that the Program Director’s Association has had two meetings, with another meeting scheduled for January 2016. Between meetings, Program Directors continue to use a Wiggio site to share information and support one another in the

management of their AmeriCorps grants. Patricia Balke, Wisconsin Association for Homeless & Runaway Services, expressed thanks to staff and fellow Program Directors for the support and guidance provided.

### **Update from Commission Members**

Kathy Groat shared that an AmeriCorps Alumni is now an assembly woman in her district. Also, Kathy indicated that she would contact the mayor and county executive in her district to encourage participation in the 2016 Mayors Day. Sue Schwartz thanked staff for their hard work and also said that she would contact the mayor and county executive in her district to encourage participation in the 2016 Mayors Day. Scott Jones shared information on UW's Network and the Wisconsin Idea. Also, Scott shared regarding the DPI's WISELearn, a new resource portal for Wisconsin educators, created by Wisconsin educators. Further, an update regarding the dissolving of the No Child Left Behind legislation was shared. Dan Buttery shared the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) to create and implement the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) to assist homeless and chronically homeless veterans in receiving housing services and support for behavioral health treatment. This innovative program seeks to gather more accurate information on homelessness among veterans in Wisconsin, particularly looking at the rural areas, while targeting and increasing access to support networks available. Michael Hinman shared that the construction at the Department of Military Affairs should be concluded in early spring. Angie Ahlgrim shared that she is expecting twin boys in March 2016! Tony Hallman offered thanks to the Serve Wisconsin staff for their hard work.

### **Staff Updates**

Steven Yule discussed the new CNCS policy of requesting that any conflict of interest indicated be sent to them as soon as it is identified. Steven also shared that the Serve Wisconsin monitoring by CNCS has been concluded after only one follow up item. Further, Steven shared that CNCS is undergoing an IT modernization effort and has been gathering feedback from programs and other users. Casey Sweeney shared more background on the Volunteering and Civic Life in America Report, as well as resources to find service opportunities such as the Volunteer Wisconsin website and the Service Year Exchange. Casey described Serve Wisconsin's participation with the [Service Year Exchange \(www.serviceyr.org\)](http://www.serviceyr.org) as a founding state. The Service Year Exchange is an opportunity for individuals to find yearlong service opportunities around the country. Casey also discussed the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day of National Day of Service. Jessica Kessler shared the results of the Volunteer Engagement Trainings and Post Capacity Survey. Overall, AmeriCorps programs throughout Wisconsin demonstrated growth in at least 3 of 8 volunteer engagement best practices, allowing Serve Wisconsin to exceed performance measure goals on the Commission Support Grant Final Report. In the following year, staff, in partnership with Bonnie Andrews, will target specific needs of programs. Amy Porter shared an update regarding the InterCorps Council of Wisconsin and the work being completed by this group. Amy also shared information regarding the 2016 Commission Support Grant focus on Training and Technical Assistance and how staff will work with programs to increase training and technical assistance opportunities. Tom Devine shared reflections from his recent visit to Washington, D.C. noting that many staffers he met while on the Hill were AmeriCorps alumni. Tom shared information from his time speaking to congress people, senators, and staffers. Tom also spent time at CNCS learning about the new initiatives, including the increased focus on research and evaluation. He noted that we need to be sensitive to how evaluation efforts can be different depending on the size, location, and available resources of an agency. He urged the board to be reflective on how to support rural and smaller programs to increase their ability to meet these new standards and expectations.

### **Adjourn**

Tony Hallman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30pm. Second by Kathy Groat. Motion passed unanimously.