



## ***SerVermont Commission Meeting***

*Go To Meeting - Virtual*

***21 January 2016***

***(Approved 4/14/16)***

**Members in Attendance:** Lee White, Betsy Ward, Jim Coutts, Dan Noyes, Jason Shute, Madeline Strasser, Sabina Haskell, Christy Gallese, Susan Cheesman, Thomas Hark, Doug Kievit-Kylar

**Staff in Attendance:** Philip Kolling, Robyn Baylor, Sharon Hearne

**Attended by Phone:** N.A.

**Unable to Attend:** Justin Morande, Guy Isabelle, Shelley Park, Jason Gosselin, Ryan McLaren, Peter Hayward, Ashley Burke, Lisa Schold, Jacob Bogre

### **10:00 am Welcome and Introductions: Inform**

Phil Koenig, brought the meeting to order at 10:00 AM asking those present to introduce themselves and to say who it is that they represent (and what our favorite holiday tradition was).

### **10:05 am Approve December Grant Meeting Minutes and October Meeting Minutes**

Jason called for approval of both the December Grant Meeting Minutes and the October Meeting Minutes. Jim pointed out that the December Meeting Minutes included a sentence with a missing verb. To be amended. Jim moved as amended. Both meeting minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

### **10:10 am New Data: Inform**

#### **AmeriCorps Program Progress Compliance: Sharon**

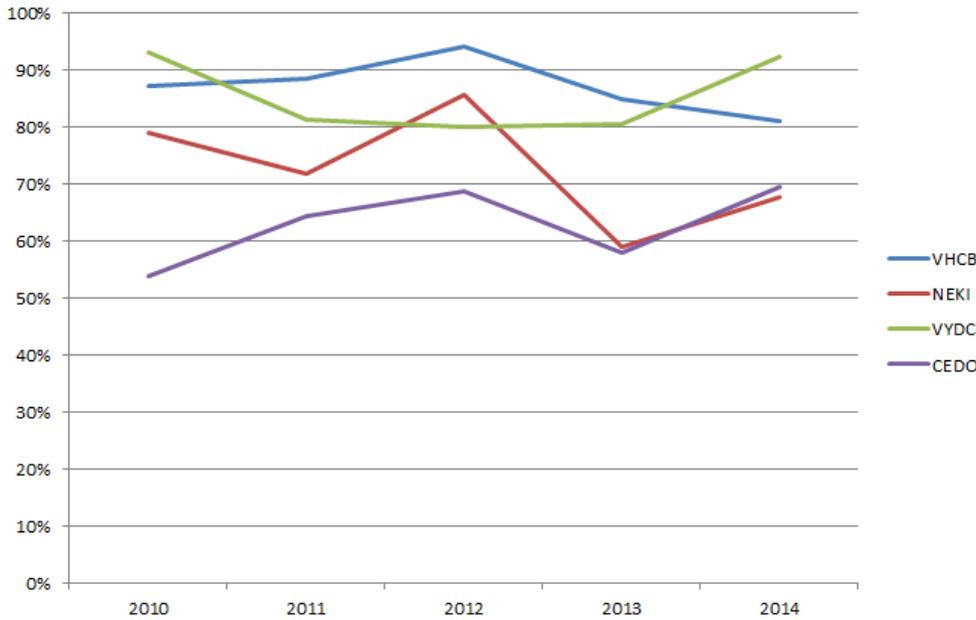
Sharon completed all eight (8) AmeriCorps Compliance/Site Visits. There was noted significant staff turnover with the planning grant programs with program startup in September. There are now 50% more programs PLUS the two (2) planning grants. Betsy called for acknowledgement of Sharon's efforts.

#### **Enrollment / Retention Stats: Phil and Sharon**

Phil shared how it was that there was improvement for all programs, but one...and the Vermont Higher Education Council was working on a plan to improve. (See chart and tables on reverse)

# Member Enrollment / Retention

as a performance indicator as calculated as by % of slots and MSY awarded vs. filled



## OCTOBER

	Slot Awd.	Slots Fill	%
VHCB	36	26	72%
LEAP	38	16	42%
VYDC	26	13	50%
CEDO	22	10	45%
ECO	20	20	100%
VCC	50	0	0%

Current Year Enrollment			
	Slot Awd.	Slots Fill	%
VHCB	37	31	84%
LEAP	38	18	47%
VYDC	28	19	68%
CEDO	22	12	55%
ECO	20	20	100%
VCC	50	0	0%

## PSA Progress: Phil

Phil reported that the PSAs were continuing to be aired – and will continue into 2016. Might an indicator of the efficacy of PSAs be tied to AmeriStates ranking? In Vermont we would only know if it was a Vermonter that was inspired by the PSA. Currently, funded programs in Vermont are comprised of roughly 50/50 Vermonters and Out-Of-Staters.

- \$287,096 in Airtime (through 12/31/15) – up from \$267,784 (June 2015)
- \$86,000 spent – Since PSA was released
- \$201,376 given as in-kind match – \$129,088 for use as match 2015
- 36,544,430 audience impressions – Up from 31,986,430
- 2,111 broadcasts reported
  - Up from 1,996 last meeting
  - 0 paid spots

## Federal Budget: Phil

The Federal Government passed the budget...and it was rather favorable to the AmeriCorps program (the president proposed an increase). Budget was \$50M ahead of FY 2015. Regarding Instruction, CNCS needs to work with State Commissions to improve training and technical assistance, and program development. Budget enhancement for FY 2016 may provide ability to hire consultants, trainers, etc.

CNCS	FY15 Enacted Level	FY16 President's Budget	FY16 House Proposed	FY16 Senate Proposed	FY16 Omnibus
State Commission Grants	\$16,038,000.00		\$0.00	\$16,038,000.00	\$16,038,000.00
AmeriCorps State & National	\$335,430,000.00	\$425,105,000.00	\$318,046,000.00	\$270,000,000.00	\$386,000,000.00
AmeriCorps VISTA	\$92,364,000.00	\$96,885,000.00	\$92,364,000.00	\$90,000,000.00	\$92,364,000.00
AmeriCorps NCCC	\$30,000,000.00	\$30,500,000.00		\$30,000,000.00	\$30,000,000.00
Senior Corps	\$202,117,000.00	\$202,117,000.00	\$202,117,000.00	\$196,637,000.00	\$202,117,000.00
Volunteer Generation Fund	\$3,800,000.00		\$0.00	\$3,800,000.00	\$3,800,000.00
Social Innovation Fund	\$70,000,000.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000,000.00
Innovation, Demonstration & Other Evaluation	\$3,600,000.00	\$3,601,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,600,000.00	\$3,600,000.00
	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$4,000,000.00
Subtotal of Operating Expenses	\$758,349,000.00	\$763,208,000.00	\$612,527,000.00	\$614,075,000.00	\$787,919,000.00
National Service Trust	\$209,618,000.00	\$237,077,000.00	\$50,000,000.00	\$145,000,000.00	\$220,000,000.00
Salaries and Expenses	\$81,737,000.00	\$86,176,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	\$80,000,000.00	\$81,737,000.00
Office of the Inspector General	\$5,250,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$5,250,000.00	\$5,250,000.00	\$5,250,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,054,954,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,092,461,000.00</b>	<b>\$687,777,000.00</b>	<b>\$844,325,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,094,906,000.00</b>

**State Budget: Phil** Phil described the State Budget as tight. \$73.5K part of AHS budget. There has been no follow up with finance at this point.

- Currently No Cuts
- Sent budget justification to AHS
  - No follow up (in a good way)

**10:20 am Partners Activities and Updates: Inform / Discuss**

**Launch: Phil**



There was GREAT feedback on the First Launch including Senior Corps and the Governor's Service Awards!



### **National Conference: Sharon (Betsy, Dan)**

Sharon reported out on her attendance at the National Conference on Service & Volunteering. She attended workshops on engagement (in general), organizational capacity building, and youth engagement. Dan attended an interesting workshop on communicating program return on investment. Betsy attended an informative workshop exploring the hidden costs associated with volunteerism. Robyn attended retention-related workshops and explored VISTA/AmeriCorps alumni programs (networks seem to be thriving).

### **Collective Impact Conference: Phil**



The conference offered opportunity to explore the notion of collective impact as a strategy for developing/funding new programs and ideas (Brattleboro?) Such collaborative efforts offer the possibility of bringing potential partners together to explore how it is that AmeriCorps members might be leveraged to achieve preferred outcomes.

### **DEMHS Conference: Phil**



The DEMHS Conference (held at Jay Peak) explored the potential AmeriCorps role in disaster service and management. Still to be explored further: AmeriCorps partnership/hosting opportunities.

In December 2015...



- 88 Members Trained
- Trained by Red Cross (Barre)
- Coordinated through Emergency Operations Center –or–
- Directly with programs

An activation process is being developed. The Red Cross is not currently using the VT ALERT System – but soon will! Jason pointed out that liability issues still need discussion and resolution.

## CNCS Ideation and Evaluation Report Out: Phil

Phil attended the CNCS Ideation & Evaluation Conference at which...

CNCS Research Summit  
Focus on Evidence

- CNCS acknowledged barriers to new programs
- Admitted that evaluation is expensive, but necessary (clustering (programs – CNCS paying for randomized control trials when evaluating programs – but, not always practical)

## ASC TTA Fund Planning: Phil



Phil reported that ASC is working with Commissions to develop a proposal to CNCS (and likely must spend money rather promptly)

## MLK Day: Phil and Sharon (Doug / Jason)

Updates were provided on events held on Martin Luther King Day.



10:30 am Program Management: Inform / Discuss

## New PO at CNCS: Phil and Sharon

Phil met with Levar Michael, a new PO at CNCS. Levar is interested in learning what we do...and how we do it.

## Contracting: Phil and Sharon

There currently exists a contracting backlog (particularly for SeniorCorps). Contracts are within the AHS Fiscal Office.

**Background Checks: Phil and Sharon**

Phil and Sharon pointed out that the issue of background checks is more straightforward. CNCS now has a vendor with presence in all states to run those checks that cannot be run by the Vermont Criminal Information Center (VCIC). Betsy inquired about the cost to programs. Phil said there was a 10% increase in cost for rural checks (\$34/person = regular fee).

**Grant Submission: Phil and Sharon**

Phil offered his thanks to Sharon for her efforts to submit grants to CNCS on MLK Day! (And this, after spending a hard-working morning at the Food Bank!!!). CNCS targeting May 8<sup>th</sup> for a competitive funding decision. April 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> will be issuing clarification requests for competitive grant programs. April 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> will be for issuing continuation and new applications (with an approximated month turnaround to CNCS).

- Two strong new applicants
- Three strong continuations
- Reasonable to think we might get a new competitive
  - \$791,988 in new / formula requests
  - \$191,988 requested above available funding
  - VYCC funded would mean LEAP, CEDO and VHEC could be funded
  - LEAP funded would mean others funded AND planning grants could be made available OR second competition opened

VYDC	\$	325,000
VHCB	\$	368,669
ECO	\$	261,424
	\$	955,093
VYCC	\$	196,249
LEAP	\$	296,292
	\$	492,541
VHEC	\$	105,895
CEDO	\$	193,552
	\$	299,447

**State Service Plan: Phil**

Needs public input (Front Porch Forum Survey coming soon) based on AHS Service Plan. Information-Specific activities yet to be built in.

- Survey via FPF
- “Refresh” plan
- Align with AHS Strategic Plan

- Include focus on strategic CNCS areas
- Specific activities we lack: disaster, encore • Stay broad to allow for opportunity
- Yearly focus can be included in specific activities

#### SURVEY QUESTIONS:

- Background info
- What are the most pressing needs facing your agency and/or community? Which of these do you feel can be addressed through service?
- How can Vermont engage more people in volunteering and national service to meet pressing community needs?
- Questions on CNCS priority areas
- What strategies should we pursue within the CNCS priority areas?

#### **Training & Technical Assistance**

- About 1 FTE expected: \$75,000?
- Used to build capacity of national service field
- Long term value training vs. conferences and one-and-done events
- When guidance comes out, plan will be developed
- Starting conversations with stakeholders now

**Website: Re-launching: Phil** Not live yet, but will be migrated soon. Already with a new, cleaner look!

#### **10:45 am Sustainability / Transition Prep: Betsy: Inform / Discuss**

Betsy took the floor to discuss program sustainability and transition preparation. It was noted that the Executive Director (ED) is a Governor-appointed position. The Commission lobbied the Governor to appoint someone with AmeriCorps/VISTA knowledge and experience.

With the election of a new Governor in 2016 it was decided that a small committee be formed to play out possible scenarios and plan for the future (with regard to program leadership – ED). Tom requested of Phil if he was interested in reappointment...and Phil responded in the affirmative. Jason requested whether or not the ED could be made a classified state position. Susan offered how program sustainability and transition (should this be made necessary) is a #1 concern for CNCS with regard to the Commission. Contact people for the Governor's liaison were listed as Laura Gray and Dawn O'Toole, COO at AHS. With regard to ED compensation, the state has a pay range for EDs. It is

the Secretary of Administration who determines who gets a COLA. A small group was formed and will be meeting to discuss further.

**11:00 am Upcoming Events: Inform**

- February or March: Commission Meeting
- April 6: Mayor's Day
- April 21: Regular Commission Meeting
- April 25: CNCS AmeriCorps Clarification
- May 2-4: National Service Regional Conference
- May 17 & 18: AmeriCorps Conference

**By 11:30 am Close**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, (

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DK-Kylar', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Doug Kievit-Kylar  
Secretary