



**Wisconsin National & Community Service Board Meeting**  
**March 10, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

<i>Board Members Present:</i>	Christine Beatty (chair), Angela Ahlgrim (vice-chair), Theresa Clark, Laura Doolin, Anthony Hallman, Benjamin Lehner, Leah Lechleiter-Luke, Margaret (Jane) Moore, Tamara Mouw, Adam Riley, Yolanda Shelton-Morris, Jana Steinmetz, Yekaterina (Katia) Tovmenko,
<i>Board Members Not Present:</i>	Paula Horning, Kate Jaeger, Ibrahim Jalloh, Amy McDowell, Leah Moore, Donald Placidi, Susan Schwartz, Patricia Takamine
<i>Staff Present:</i>	Jeanne Duffy, Tracey Brent, Kyle Clower, Stephanie Jewell, Margie Kriel, Robin Lee, Alexis Matthews, Steven Yule
<i>Program Staff and Guests Present:</i>	Barb Evans, Kara Ignasiak, Shelly Kaiser, Maria Otto, Amanda Ross

**Call to Order**

Christine Beatty called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Public Comment**

None

**Review & Approve Minutes from the October 7, 2021, Board Meeting**

***ACTION ITEM – Jane Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2021 WNCBSB meeting. Second by Angie Ahlgrim. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**Executive Committee**

Christine Beatty reported on the December 22, 2021, Executive Committee meeting that was held to conduct business that was initially intended to occur during WNCBSB meeting scheduled for December 16, 2021, but could not occur due to lack of quorum. Christine updated the Board about the Executive Committees actions which included approving the competitive applications for submission to AmeriCorps and the motion to approve the rankings for new and recompetete programs. Christine also reported that the committee passed motions to approve the release of the 2022-23 Formula RFP in February and to approve the 2022-24 State Service Plan.



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## **Public Policy & Outreach Committee**

No Report

## **Program Evaluation & Development Committee**

Anthony Hallman gave a brief overview of the committee and highlighted its next meeting.

## **Board Officer Elections**

Christine Beatty described the practice that the Board has used regarding elections for the board chair and vice chair, their terms and that they are scheduled to take place at the first meeting of the year.

Angie Ahlgrim informed the Board that she was stepping down as a board member and would not be able to stand for election for a continued leadership position after serving as vice chair.

Christine Beatty opened the floor for nominations to serve as the WNCSB chair and vice chair.

Following a discussion by the Board, Christine Beatty was nominated to serve as Board chair and Yolanda Shelton-Morris was nominated to serve as vice chair.

***ACTION ITEM – Angie Ahlgrim motioned that the Board elect Yolanda Shelton-Morris for WNCSB vice chair and Christine Beatty for WNCSB chair. Second by Adam Riley. Both nominees were elected unanimously to their positions.***

## **Board Committee Assignments**

Christine Beatty had committee chairs identify their current committee members, explaining that this would be an opportunity for newer board members to join committees, particularly with the expiration of the terms of multiple board members on May 1. Christine then asked board members to express interest in committees they would like to join and for the Board to formally vote them onto their committees.

***ACTION ITEM – Tony Hallman motioned that Adam Riley be added to the Program Evaluation & Development Committee and that Yolanda Shelton-Morris and Jana Steinmetz be added to the Public Policy & Outreach Committee. Second by Jane Moore. Motion passed unanimously.***

## **Update from 2022 ASC Leadership Convening**

Paula Horning delivered a brief overview via pre-recorded video about the 2022 ASC Leadership Convening that she and Jeanne Duffy attended in February. She reported on meetings with federal AmeriCorps leadership and other state commissions and visits with members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation. She described that three takeaways she had from the convening were requests for AmeriCorps to clarify roles/responsibilities of staff and improve responsiveness to emails, the second being that state commissions would like input into the new technologies/platforms that AmeriCorps is proposing, and the third was the role that private funding can provide for commissions as a potential future discussion for WNCSB members.

## **2021 Year in Review**

Jeanne Duffy gave an overview presentation on AmeriCorps programming and Serve Wisconsin activities over the past year. Highlights included AmeriCorps program impact statistics, service in response to COVID-19, the growth of the VISTA initiative, the progress made strengthening VOADs through VGF funding, changes to the RFP, outreach and media efforts, the launch of The S-Files podcast, the Governor's Service Awards, AmeriCorps member and staff trainings, and monitoring updates and findings.



### **Governor's Service Awards**

Kyle Clower gave an overview of the changes to the Governor's Service Awards application and categories for 2022. The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 26 at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison. Kyle informed the Board that a new Volunteer of the Year category was added this year, with honorees chosen from within the six Wisconsin Emergency Management regions used for our Volunteer Generation Fund efforts. He then described the application's restructuring was in response to feedback from staff and peer reviewers. Nomination review will be in April. He asked the Board members if any would like to serve as reviewers, with multiple members volunteering to help review nominations.

### **2022-2024 State Service Plan**

Jeanne Duffy discussed the new tracking sheet that has been developed for gauging progress on the goals for the 2022-2024 State Service Plan and asked for feedback from board members either during the meeting or over the coming days.

### **Public Records Training**

Jeanne Duffy reminded board members about required public records training and that she is working to make sure the training will be available, as Jane Moore discovered it could not currently be accessed.

### **Board member terms expiring**

Jeanne Duffy informed the Board that a significant number of Board member terms are expiring on May 1. She has reached out to all of these board members. Jeanne provided instructions to the board members about the process to reapply for their board position. She asked those that are planning on reapplying to please submit their letter expressing their willingness and desire to serve another three-year term soon so the governor can make the reappointments before the May 1 deadline.

### **Volunteer Generation Funds & VISTA Update**

Jeanne Duffy reported to the Board that Serve Wisconsin now has staff in place to lead these two initiatives. Stephanie Jewell is the new VISTA Program Officer and Robin Lee transitioned from the position of Fiscal Officer into the new position leading our Volunteer Generation Fund efforts. Stephanie Jewell and Robin Lee then briefly introduced themselves to the Board.

### **AmeriCorps Program Directors Association Update**

Amanda Ross from Be Well Fox Valley gave a brief report about struggles many programs have experienced in member recruitment and their discussions to find out of the box ways to address member recruitment, while also supporting members and their host sites. She expressed excitement for the federal efforts to increase the living allowance, which has been a concern for recruitment. She expressed that with retention rates, issues they have experienced have been members leaving for employment opportunities with higher pay and mental health concerns members have experienced.



### **AmeriCorps Seniors Program Association Update**

Barb Evans provided an update from the AmeriCorps Seniors Program Association, reporting that their programs continue moving forward and becoming more operational as pandemic restrictions are lifted. Although some schools have not allowed Foster Grandparent and RSVP volunteers to return to in-person service at this time. She expressed that a challenge programs are experiencing is finding drivers for their programs, particularly meal delivery. The Department of Health Services recently began a marketing campaign to help with volunteer recruitment for these efforts.

Barb described some professional development activities the AmeriCorps Seniors program directors are doing. These include twice-monthly 30-minute online virtual lessons and a mentoring program. She also announced that they would be hosting a state conference on August 4-5 in Stevens Point.

Barb also expressed appreciation from the AmeriCorps Seniors programs for the addition of the AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer Award and the recognition of all AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers that reach the 20-year service milestone to the Governor's Service Awards last year.

### **AmeriCorps (federal) Update**

Katia Tovmenko provided the Board with multiple AmeriCorps agency updates. Katia began by discussing AmeriCorps Week, taking place the next week, sharing details about their social media press kit for promoting AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors.

She then discussed AmeriCorps funding opportunities. There are upcoming deadlines on March 23 and June 1 for AmeriCorps VISTA concept papers and on May 4 for Tribal AmeriCorps funding. She also stated that applications for AmeriCorps Seniors rescue plan funding for new applicants are currently being reviewed and that the competition for Public Health AmeriCorps programs is wrapping up and that they hope to announce successful applicants in the coming weeks.

Katia then discussed regional hiring updates. They have made offers to two portfolio managers in the region and they have one opportunity for a portfolio manager and one for an associate portfolio manager that are open right now on <https://www.usajobs.gov/>. She encouraged board members to share these with those they know that might be interested and said that with these specific opportunities, people can work from anywhere in the country.

Tony Hallman brought up concerns about awareness regarding AmeriCorps and highlighting national service through news and marketing. Katia expressed that AmeriCorps has been asking programs to really ensure they are communicating with the public to highlight how they are making a difference, but that overall awareness is an issue for AmeriCorps as well.

### **Board Member Updates**

Tony Hallman shared about a card that he found from what he believes was from the Department of Health Services that individuals with mental health concerns can carry. These cards provide to people they have interactions with that do not understand their particular mental health condition with information about what they need from them during their interactions. Tony thought this could be a valuable resource that could be potentially made available to AmeriCorps members

Leah Lechleiter-Luke thanked Serve Wisconsin for having staff attend the Educators Rising Conference at UW Stevens Point, with about 140 students participating.



### **Staff Updates**

Jeanne Duffy recognized Steven Yule for reaching his 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary working for Serve Wisconsin. She also provided information about the upcoming regional national service training hosted by America's Service Commissions in Milwaukee in April if they would like to attend.

Steven Yule gave updates on the AmeriCorps agency's IT modernization. He explained that America's Service Commissions has been trying to get the agency information about developing a system that is responsive to commission needs and that the agency's target for completing this process may be September 2025 to occur for by the end of FFY 2024. Steven informed the Board that Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act reviews have been renamed Payment Integrity Information Act reviews. He continued that a few weeks prior, three organizations were selected for review, and that three weeks ago all of the documentation was submitted and a week ago we received follow-up on things to address.

Kyle Clower informed the Board about upcoming Serve Wisconsin efforts for AmeriCorps Week the following week, including a proclamation from Governor Evers and the release of the national service sites map on social media and the Serve Wisconsin website.

### **Adjournment**

***ACTION ITEM – Tony Hallman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.***

