

Tony Evers
Governor

Christine Beatty
Board Chair

Jeanne Duffy
Executive Director
608-261-2716



101 East Wilson St., 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53703

ServeWisconsin@wisconsin.gov

www.servewisconsin.wi.gov

SERVE WISCONSIN

Wisconsin National & Community Service Board Meeting May 14, 2020, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

<i>Present:</i>	Christine Beatty (chair), Angela Ahlgrim (vice-chair), Laura Doolin, Anthony Hallman, Michael Hinman, Latoya Holiday, Paula Horning, Ibrahim Jalloh, James Langdon, Leah Lechleiter-Luke, Margaret (Jane) Moore, Ben Olson, Donald Placidi, Yolanda Shelton-Morris, Patricia Takamine
<i>Not Present:</i>	Robert Griffith, Kate Jaeger, Benjamin Lehner, Amy McDowell, Susan Schwartz
<i>Staff Present:</i>	Jeanne Duffy, Ruhamah Bauman, Tracey Brent, Kyle Clower, Margie Kriel, Robin Lee, Alexis Matthews, Steven Yule
<i>Program Staff and Guests Present:</i>	Connie Bettin - PASS, Brian Blahnik – MCHS Americorps, Jessica Brandt – Marian University, Karen Dischler - Schools of Hope, Petra Duecker – Milwaukee Public Library, Cally Ehle – Easterseals Wisconsin, Bonnie Erickson - PASS, Barb Evans – Portage County RSVP, Amy Fink – ECLIPSE, Steve Frodl – NCCAP, Joli Guenther – WAHRS, Shelly Kaiser - MCHS AmeriCorps, Anna Korb - Easter Seals Wisconsin, Christine Laurent – Marian University, Erik Miller – Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Elise Olmstead - Racine Zoological Society, Ben Precourt – Milwaukee Public Library, Amanda Ross – Weight of the Fox Valley, José Salazar – Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Victoria Sanchez – Milwaukee Public Library, Kysa Stocking – Wisconsin HealthCorps, Aszya Summers - Racine Zoological Society, Kelly Walker – 414 Fellows, Todd Wellman – Public Allies Milwaukee, Mercy Yang – Partners for Community Development, Kirstie Yu – Wisconsin HealthCorps

Call to Order

Christine Beatty

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m. by Christine Beatty

Introductions

Christine Beatty asked WNCSSB board members and Serve Wisconsin staff to introduce themselves, with introductions then following.



Public Comment – comment period will not exceed 20 minutes in total

No public comment

Approve Minutes from the December 12, 2019 Board Meeting

Christine Beatty described that there are two minutes documents for board members to consider for the December 12, 2019 WNCSSB meeting. She described that the first document is for minutes for the first half of the meeting when there were enough members present to constitute quorum and that the second document is for the latter half when the meeting had to be switched into an Executive Committee meeting due to lack of quorum.

ACTION ITEM – Jane Moore made a motion to approve December 12, 2019 WNCSSB meeting minutes and the December 12, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Second by Angie Ahlgrim. The motion was unanimously approved

Executive Committee: WNCSSB By-Laws - review updates and approve

Christine Beatty gave an overview of two changes to the by-laws that would need to be changed to come in line with state policy following discussions with DOA, which would involve changing how quorum is calculated for voting and when elections need to be held.

Jeanne Duffy gave a description of past voting procedures and how quorum had been previously determined from the number of voting members that had been appointed. She explained that state regulations require quorum to be calculated from total voting members, regardless of any vacancies on the board.

Jeanne continued that the board had previously conducted elections for chair and vice chair during the June board meeting (usually the first after May), but that state statute requires elections for officers take place at the first meeting of the year.

Paula Horning moved to change the bylaws as noted in the By-laws Update Memo. Second by Angela Ahlgrim. The motion was withdrawn after Anthony Hallman brought up the requirement for 15-day notice to board members for any changes to the By-laws, with notification on these changes going out less than 15 days before the meeting.

Christine Beatty indicated that the board will vote on this change to the By-laws during its next meeting.



Christine continued that questions also have arisen regarding whether a meeting can be called to order without quorum. She described that the WNCSB cannot have a meeting of the full board without a quorum, but that an Executive Committee meeting can be held where all other board members are in attendance. She indicated that board members will see at bottom of all future meeting agendas and notifications will include a section that an executive committee meeting may follow the WNCSB meeting.

Christine continued that it is fine to participate in all meetings via Zoom legally as attendees and that Serve Wisconsin has invested in a microphone system to improve on the remote experience. If board members leave a meeting and there is no longer a quorum, this will necessitate a switch into an executive committee meeting, as happened during the December 2019 meeting. She stressed that board members really need to attend board meetings to avoid moving into this default mode.

Board Chair & Vice Chair Elections Christine Beatty

Christine Beatty described the system that the board has used regarding elections for the board chair and vice chair and their terms. She indicated that for the past several terms, the chair had served a two-year term and the vice chair had been elected and committed to serving the two-year term as vice chair, learning about the chair process and responsibilities and then running for the chair position at the conclusion of their term. She continued that she was first elected as chair and that Angela Ahlgrim was elected as vice-chair last year and that both are willing to serve for the second year.

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

ACTION Tony Hallman nominated Angela Ahlgrim for WNCSB vice chair and Christine Beatty for WNCSB chair. Second by Paula Horning. Following the close of nominations, both nominees were elected unanimously to their positions.

Conflict of Interest Forms Alexis Matthews

Alexis Matthews discussed the electronic and physical submission methods board members can use to submit their conflict of interest forms.

Overview of Formula AmeriCorps Program & Planning Grant Application Process Alexis Matthews

Alexis described that the Formula allocation for AmeriCorps funds from CNCS is \$2,645,840 for the 2020-2021 program year. She continued that the initial formula request from applying programs was \$2,926,022. Following initial concerns about being able to fully fund the applications, staff determined that by using carryover funds from 2018-2019 and unexpended funds from 2019-2020 that it would be possible to fully fund all 16 applications, including expansion requests at 100%. The 16 applications include



10 current AmeriCorps programs, 4 new AmeriCorps programs, and 2 AmeriCorps planning grants.

Alexis concluded by indicating that the total CNCS funding for Serve Wisconsin's AmeriCorps programs for 2020-2021 is just below \$7.4 million, with competitive funding being just over \$4.7 million

2020 - 2021 AmeriCorps Formula Program and Planning Grant Funding Approval

Anthony Hallman gave a brief overview of the information presented and discussed at the May 14, 2020 Program Development and Evaluation Committee earlier that morning regarding the programs applying for AmeriCorps Planning Grants and AmeriCorps Formula Program Grants.

ACTION ITEM – Anthony Hallman made a motion to approve the Formula Applications for Planning Grants to be submitted to CNCS for formula funding consideration for the 2020-2021 program year.

Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved.

❖ *AmeriCorps Planning Grant Applications*

- 1. Milwaukee Public Library – First Year*
- 2. Public Allies Milwaukee – First Year*

ACTION ITEM – Anthony Hallman made a motion to approve the Formula Applications for Cost-Reimbursement Programs to be submitted to CNCS for formula funding consideration for the 2020-2021 program year.

Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved.

❖ *AmeriCorps Program Grant Applications – Cost Reimbursement*

- 3. Dane County Human Services – Partners for After School Success – Re compete*
- 4. Marian University – New Program*
- 5. Marquette University – New Program*
- 6. Marshfield Clinic Recovery Corps – Second Year Formula Continuation*
- 7. Partners for Community Development – New Program*
- 8. Racine Zoological Society – Second Year Formula Continuation*
- 9. Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers – New Program*
- 10. United Way Fox Cities – Third Year Formula Continuation*
- 11. UW - Eau Claire – Blugold Beginnings – Third Year Formula Continuation*
- 12. Wisconsin Association for Runaway Services – Re compete*
- 13. WisCorps, Inc. – Third Year Formula Continuation*
- 14. YMCA Metropolitan Milwaukee – New Program*

ACTION ITEM -- Anthony Hallman made a motion to approve the Formula Applications for Fixed Cost AmeriCorps programs to be submitted to CNCS for formula funding consideration for the 2020-2021 program year.

Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved.



❖ *AmeriCorps Program Grant Applications – Fixed Amount*

15. Teach for America Wisconsin – Fixed Amount – Third Year Formula Continuation

16. Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association – Fixed Amount

Public Policy & Outreach Committees

Christine Beatty described that the Public Policy Committee and the Outreach Committee were formed at the March 2019 board meeting and that due to cross-over regarding both the actions and the members of the two committees, the committee members would like to put forward a proposal to combine the two into one committee. Jeanne then presented the board members with the proposed new mission for the combined committee with 6 goals for the new committee

ACTION ITEM – Anthony Hallman made a motion to combine the Public Policy Committee and the Outreach Committee into the Public Policy and Outreach Committee, with their submitted goals, Second by Leah Luke. The motion was unanimously approved.

States for Service Coalition Update

Christine Beatty and Jeanne Duffy gave a brief overview of how some of the Congressional COVID-19 recovery legislation is impacting AmeriCorps programming and potential COVID-19 recovery federal legislation that is being proposed that would place increased focus on national service and expand AmeriCorps.

Christine gave updates on the States for Service coalition. She indicated that she will continue sending information to board members on the legislative updates from States for Service, including the slides from the most recent meeting that described what proposed legislation might include, with much of the upcoming information the next few months likely on the response to the pandemic and how AmeriCorps can be a resource.

National Service Day at the Capitol

Kyle Clower gave an overview of the National Service Day at the Capitol that was held on February 19. The event had been initially scheduled for April 16, but after staff discovered at the end of January that the legislature would likely not be in session after February, the event was rapidly rescheduled for February 19.

He described how the event had 41 different participants from the different streams of service, including 4 from AmeriCorps State (3 programs), 8 from AmeriCorps National (4 programs), 2 from AmeriCorps VISTA (2 programs), 13 from Senior Corps (5 programs), 2 WNCSSB members, 8 Serve Wisconsin staff, and 4 state legislators. These legislators all spoke during the brief program at noon and included Rep. Jonathan Brostoff and Rep. David Bowen, who are both Public Allies Milwaukee AmeriCorps alumni, and Rep. Tod Ohnstad and Sen. Robert Wirch, who are both KAFASI Senior Corps volunteers.



Kyle described that the programs all set up informational tables in the rotunda in the capitol building and distributed individualized packets on national service in their region of the state to the 33 state senators, 99 state representatives, and the statewide elected officials. Additionally, the event was covered by a story on WKOW with an interview of Jeanne Duffy and Margie Zutter from Dane County RSVP.

Jeanne gave big thanks to Kyle for pulling the event off in short two-week period after the event was moved up by two months in early February.

Commission Sign-on Letters

Jeanne gave a brief overview of the board member generic commission sign-on letters that ASC sends out to Congressional delegations. If board members would like to be blanket signer to these letters and not have to be contacted for each individual letter, they can return the Commissioner Sign-On form in the board meeting email to Jeanne. If members do not want to be a blanket signer, we will still contact you for each individual sign-on letter that ASC is sending out.

Christine Beatty also encouraged board members to still make individual calls to legislators even if sign on to the letters when these different efforts are happening.

State Service Plan Update

Jeanne Duffy provided an update on the state service plan, indicating that there has not been a lot of movement or change to the status of the items since the December meeting. She indicated that one item in which we are excelling is in adding and expanding programs here in Wisconsin. She also stated that some things indicated in red had slowed/halted due to COVID-19, including items around increasing employers of national service, having the education award be exempt from income tax, and working with universities on matching the education award or providing credit for service in some matter.

Volunteer Generation Funds & VISTA Update

Jeanne Duffy indicated that she and Ruhamah Bauman recently submitted an application for Volunteer Generation Funds (VGF) to expand Volunteer Organizations Assisting with Disaster (VOAD) coalitions throughout the state.

The original VGF goal was to work with Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) doing skilled volunteerism with seniors, but due to staff changes at GWAAR and COVID-19 they have decided not to pursue this new initiative at this time.

Jeanne indicated that Serve Wisconsin had intended to apply as a VISTA intermediary by now, but this was pushed back due to COVID response and work on the VGF application, although we still plan to do make this application.



Race in the Heartland - Wisconsin's Extreme Racial Disparity report issued by the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)

Jeanne Duffy reminded the board about the COWS report that Latoya Holiday brought up at the October 2019 WNCSB meeting that discussed racial disparity issues in Wisconsin.

Jeanne is planning to contact nonprofits whose work focuses on racial equity and inclusion to see if they would be interested in potentially getting an AmeriCorps VISTA member to address the issues described in the COWS report, but explained that this effort had been put on hold due to COVID.

Jeanne explained that Serve Wisconsin still wants to move forward with using VISTA members and is looking to put together a survey to nonprofits to see how VISTA members may help them address these needs.

Governor's Service Awards Jeanne Duffy

Jeanne Duffy described how the 2020 Governor's Service Awards were originally scheduled to be on June 25 but have been postponed until some point later this year due to COVID19. She indicated that we are still taking nominations for the awards and she hopes to also include some form of recognition of COVID-19 volunteers as part of the awards this year.

Update from Senior Corps Program Association Barb Evans

Barb Evans, president of Wisconsin Senior Corps Association, gave an update on the Senior Corps programs throughout Wisconsin. She indicated that the Senior Corps programs have all been dramatically impacted by COVID-19, both in terms of their own volunteers and the communities that they serve. Many of them have been effectively shut down over the past few months, with some still having continued service.

Barb outlined the major concerns of the Senior Corps directors throughout the state, with protecting volunteers and the attrition of volunteers being two of the largest. They have been looking at the ability to come back with senior volunteers and coming up with measures that they will need to follow when returning to service. There are many Senior Corps volunteers that are eager to get back and others concerned about coming back to service at this point due to health safety concerns.

Update from Program Director Association

Connie Bettin thanked the board for continued support of PASS and all of the AmeriCorps programs in the state. She also thanked CNCS on the match waiver and similar elements of relief, as these are very important, and their partner agencies are appreciative. She requested that the board realize that a lot of outcome measures for school-based programs will be skewed due to lack of assessments and reduced participation due to COVID-19 when making decisions on programs and their effectiveness when looking at this current program year.



Kirstie Yu then described how the programs have been able to be flexible and adapt, with the program directors having monthly calls that will be continuing into the near future. She also expressed appreciation for the work that Serve Wisconsin has done to provide assistance and information to the programs, including holding weekly update calls. Kirstie then explained that it has been challenging for programs to plan for the upcoming 2020-21 year, as the programs have some concerns due to some uncertainties and not been able to fully plan orientations or give information to host sites. One of these questions is whether the flexibility being currently provided by CNCS will extend into the next year and then figuring out the transition back to traditional service. Another concern is with the lack of specific information on using the waiver guidance when working with their host sites.

Update from CNCS

Ben Olsen provided an update from CNCS, describing how they are adapting policies and practices in the face of the issues caused by COVID-19 and that they have shifted almost completely to telework. Ben indicated that CNCS is offering both regulatory flexibility and financial flexibility, such as match waivers, to national service programs and state commissions. Ben thanked the Serve Wisconsin staff for being very communicative and responsive during the COVID-19 pandemic and helping the state's AmeriCorps programs respond.

2020 Meeting Dates

Jeanne Duffy gave an overview of the following proposed meeting dates for the board for 2020:

Thursday, June 25: Board Meeting
Thursday, October 15: Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 1: PE&D Committee, competitive round
Thursday, December 10: Board Meeting

She indicated that the June 25 meeting was initially scheduled to coincide with the Governor's Service Awards that have now been postponed, and if the board decides to cancel the June meeting, then we will need to reschedule this meeting.

Update from Commission Members Commissioners

Leah Lechleiter-Luke gave thanks for the willingness of Serve Wisconsin to send people to the future teachers Educators Rising conference that had to be canceled, indicating that they are hoping to do it next year and are sorry that AmeriCorps alumnus and national award winner Alexis Dean could not do as well due to the cancellation.

Anthony Hallman thanked the Serve Wisconsin staff, the AmeriCorps program managers, and the AmeriCorps members for everything they have done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Christine Beatty let the board members know if they want to receive any of the advocacy materials she discussed that they can reach out to the Serve Wisconsin staff and that they will put them in contact with her.

Staff Updates Serve WI Staff

Ruhamah Bauman indicated that Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) had been between State Volunteer Agency Liaison when the COVID-19 pandemic began spreading in Wisconsin. She continued that she stepped in and took on that role over the last few months has been working with the Emergency Operations Center.

Robin Lee introduced himself to all of the board members, indicating that he started at Serve Wisconsin as a fiscal officer in February.

Tracey Brent introduced herself to the new board members and those not attending in December after starting at Serve Wisconsin in November. Tracey then gave an overview of the risk assessment tool that she is developing for monitoring programs. She continued that she is hoping to move this process more into the digital world with DocuSign and SharePoint for member files and other monitoring documents and processes.

Steven Yule introduced himself to the new board members and gave a brief description of his role as a program officer.

Margie Kriel introduced herself and gave description of her work as an auditor in a LTE capacity and gave an update on work over the last few months completing desk reviews and other financial reviews for audit reports.

Kyle Clower gave an overview of several response efforts he has been working on since March. He described the launching of the COVID-19 Response Initiative on the Volunteer Wisconsin website, indicating that as of May 14 there had been 247 projects posted on statewide or regional initiatives, 1509 digital responses, +60,000 views of projects, as well as press coverage of the COVID-19 Initiative in Milwaukee, Madison, La Crosse, Kenosha, Oshkosh, Wausau, several smaller newspapers, and WPR. Kyle then described the Volunteer Guidance for Safer at Home that was created and shared statewide.

Jeanne encouraged the new board members and all of the other board members to please reach out if they need anything or have any additional questions.



WNCSB Executive Committee Meeting

Christine Beatty indicated that there was no need to transition into an executive committee meeting during this board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

***ACTION – Anthony Hallman made a motion to adjourn the WNCSB meeting at 1:10 p.m.
Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved.***

