



**Wisconsin National & Community Service Board Meeting
June 2, 2021, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

<i>Board Members Present:</i>	Christine Beatty (chair), Laura Doolin, Anthony Hallman, Latoya Holiday, Paula Horning, Benjamin Lehner, Leah Lechleiter-Luke, Leah Moore, Adam Riley, Yolanda Shelton-Morris, Jana Steinmetz, Patricia Takamine, Yekaterina (Katia) Tovmenko,
<i>Board Members Not Present:</i>	Angela Ahlgrim (vice-chair), Theresa Clark, Kate Jaeger, Ibrahim Jalloh, Amy McDowell, Margaret (Jane) Moore, Donald Placidi, Susan Schwartz
<i>Staff Present:</i>	Jeanne Duffy, Ruhamah Bauman, Tracey Brent, Kyle Clower, Robin Lee, Alexis Matthews, Steven Yule, Margie Kriel, Anna Dannecker
<i>Program Staff and Guests Present:</i>	Brian Blahnik – MCHS AmeriCorps, Elysse Chay – Public Allies, Bonnie Erickson – PASS, Amy Fink – UW Eau Claire ECLIPSE, Emily Greene – Schools of Hope, Kirstie Yu – Wisconsin HealthCorps

Call to Order

Christine Beatty called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introductions

Christine Beatty had board members introduce themselves

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

No public comment

Review Minutes from the March 4, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting

Christine Beatty gave an overview of the March 4 meeting of the executive committee

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

Christine Beatty provided a brief overview of the March 4 Executive Committee meeting, which was held in lieu of the scheduled WNCBSB meeting due to a lack of quorum.



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Public Policy & Outreach Committee

Kyle Clower provided an overview of the committee's March 26, 2021 meeting, which focused on creating an outreach plan to state legislators on the education award tax exemption proposal, providing feedback on the Serve Wisconsin logo rebranding, and discussing updated committee goals for 2021.

Program Evaluation & Development Committee

Tony Hallman gave an overview of the committee's May 24, 2021 meeting, which focused on reviewing applications for 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Formula funding and presentations from applying organizations.

2021-2022 Formula Funding

Alexis Matthews provided an overview of the Formula funding and the results of the competitive application process. Sixteen of twenty-one competitive applicants received funding. WisCorps, Wisconsin HealthCorps, ECLIPSE, Blugold Beginnings, and Be Well Fox Valley were not funded competitively. Marshfield Clinic's new program, Community Corps was competitively funded at \$1.3 million, making it our largest program.

Alexis described that the current formula funding applicants include one new program, Public Allies Racine/Kenosha, and planning grants for the City of Green Bay to design a conservation-based program and a second planning grant year for Milwaukee Public Library. She explained that the Formula allocation for Wisconsin was \$2.8 million, but the formula request is just over \$3.1 million. Formula applicants include new applicants, continuation applications, and those that were not approved for competitive funding. Alexis described how staff created funding recommendations to address this rough deficit of \$315,000 by consulting external sources and looking at several factors, including unexpended funds, enrollment dates, enrollment percentages, and retention for the last two years. She continued that those recommendations were presented to the Program Evaluation & Development Committee and approved, with two small changes to today's recommendations. These include WAHRS revising their budget to \$2 less than what was approved by the committee and a request to have Serve Wisconsin staff reallocate the remaining \$3,000 as best see fit as some programs make final budget adjustments.

Continuation Applications – Formula Cost-Reimbursement

- 1 – Wisconsin Association for Runaway Services
- 2 – YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee
- 3 – Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
- 4 – Racine Zoological Society
- 5 – Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation – Recovery Corps
- 6 – Marquette University

New/Recompete Applications – Formula Cost-Reimbursement

- 7 – Public Allies – Racine/Kenosha
- 8 – United Way Fox Cities
- 9 – UW Eau Claire – Blugold Beginnings
- 10 – UW Eau Claire – ECLIPSE
- 11 – WisCorps, Inc.

New/Recompete Applications – Formula Fixed

- 12 – Teach For America
- 13 – Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association

Planning Grant Applications

- 14 – City of Green Bay
- 13 – Milwaukee Public Library (second year)

ACTION ITEM – Anthony Hallman made a motion to approve the Formula Applications for Cost-Reimbursement Programs, Fixed Programs, and Planning Grants to be submitted to CNCS for formula funding consideration for the 2021-2022 program year.

Second by Pat Takamine. The motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM – Anthony Hallman made a motion to give staff the ability to reallocate the minor funds remaining after the funding of the Formula applications.

Second by Adam Riley. The motion was unanimously approved.

WNCSB Board Officer Elections

Jeanne Duffy explained that since the March 4 WNCS meeting was an Executive Committee meeting, not a Board meeting due to lack of quorum, the chair and vice-chair elections would have to be re-held at this meeting.

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.

2022-2024 State Service Plan Planning Committee

Jeanne Duffy gave an overview of the historical background and the federal requirements for creating a three-year state service plan. She explained that the current plan ran from 2019-2021 and will expire in December 2021. Jeanne requested a board committee be established to draft the 2022-2024 state service plan. This committee will begin in July after Serve Wisconsin will hopefully receive a notice regarding its American Rescue Plan funds, as the roughly \$300,000 for the commission and several million in formula funding for AmeriCorps programs will likely impact potential goals. Jeanne then reviewed the names of board members that had previously expressed interest in participating and checked for further interest, with Christine Beatty, Anthony Hallman, Paula Horning, Leah Lechleiter-Luke, Yolanda Shelton-Morris, and Patricia Takamine participating.

New Serve Wisconsin Logo

Kyle Clower provided an overview of the process used by Serve Wisconsin to create a new logo following the national AmeriCorps rebranding. The logo was created by Causality after Serve Wisconsin received a matching grant from them. After multiple feedback sessions with AmeriCorps members, program directors, and board members, a final design for a logo for Serve Wisconsin was created for submission to the board for approval.

ACTION ITEM – Paula Horning made a motion to approve the submitted logo design as the new logo for Serve Wisconsin. Second by Tony Hallman.

Exempting Segal Education Award from State Income Tax

Kyle Clower provided an update on the effort to have the state legislature exempt the Segal Education award from Wisconsin state income tax as part of the biennial budget. He gave an overview of the outreach efforts since March, including scheduling meetings with the Joint Committee on Finance members, testifying at the budget hearings, and submitting budget comments. He continued that the proposal was not removed in the first round of items cut from the budget. Senator Kooyenga, the Senate lead for the Department of Revenue section, supports including it in the Senate omnibus version of the budget. He concluded that the final budget legislation should be passed by the end of June.

CORPS Act Update

Kyle Clower provided an update on the federal CORPS Act, which was reintroduced in April by Sen. Coons and Sen. Wicker. He gave an overview of the structure of the bill and the difference from the version introduced in 2020. He also reminded board members about the opportunity to be included in the commission sign-on letter from ASC that will be sent to appropriations committees during the federal budget process.

Governor's Service Awards

Kyle Clower provided an update on the 2021 Governor's Service Awards, to be held on August 4 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The nomination process for this year started in April, with nominations needing to be submitted by June 14. Kyle then provided an overview of three changes to the awards this year

- Combining all of the types of AmeriCorps alumni from different streams of service into one alumni award category
- Creating an AmeriCorps Seniors Lifetime Impact Volunteer category for outstanding service over the course of a minimum of 15 years
- Creating a recognition for AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers that have served for 20 years or more

Volunteer Generation Funds & VISTA Update

Ruhamah Bauman gave an update on Serve Wisconsin's AmeriCorps VISTA project, which started last fall, with three members currently serving. Serve Wisconsin is hoping to have 25 service sites by August, with 17 sites currently listed to have an AmeriCorps VISTA member with Serve Wisconsin

Ruhamah then an update on the Volunteer Generation Fund project, informing the board that Serve Wisconsin has finally awarded funding to organizations in all six Wisconsin Emergency Management regions to support the development of local VOADs/COADs. Ruhamah gave an overview of the trainings that have been done so far on mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.

Ruhamah updated the board on the AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team, including the training presentations that members have done, including those with Team Rubicon, the Red Cross, and the Wisconsin Air Coordination Group.

Updates

AmeriCorps (federal)

Katia Tovmenko introduced herself as the new Senior Portfolio Manager for Wisconsin from the regional AmeriCorps office in Kansas City, replacing Ben Olsen after he transitioned to a new position. She described that she served in AmeriCorps State and National in South Florida about 10 years ago and has been working for AmeriCorps for the last two and a half years, coming to the agency after working in the nonprofit sector.

Katia then provided several updates on policy changes and initiatives by AmeriCorps, including increasing the living allowance (\$16,000 ASN and \$15,000 VISTA) and the launching of the new Public Health AmeriCorps partnership between the CDC and AmeriCorps. She announced that AmeriCorps had awarded two new Foster Grandparent Programs in Wisconsin to RSVP of Rock County and Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services. Katia provided an overview of the FY 2022 budget request for \$1.2 billion for AmeriCorps and potential policy changes within the budget around the areas of making service more accessible for low-income individuals and those with DACA status.

AmeriCorps Senior Program Association

No report – Barb Evans was unable to join for this part of the meeting to deliver a report.

Program Director Association

Kirstie Yu from Wisconsin HealthCorps thanked the board for their ongoing support of AmeriCorps programs and gave an overview of a few challenges that programs are facing that were discussed at their recent monthly program directors' call.

- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and lack of transition yet back to the "new normal"
- Issues around planning for the upcoming program year around the ability to get clear and timely guidance and information on national policy changes shortly before the start of the new program year
- Living allowance and its impact on more equitable recruiting from the communities that programs serve

Brian Blahnik from Marshfield Clinic Health Systems discussed recruiting challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly related to the limits of the living allowance. He indicated it would be helpful to know if there would be a cash match waiver the next year and what can be done to increase applications to programs. He discussed the need to also promote the intangible benefits of AmeriCorps service in addition to the increased living allowance to help draw people to serving.

Commission Member Reports

Tony Hallman thanked Alexis Matthews for all of her work assisting the Program Evaluation and Development Committee and the time and effort addressing funding scenarios and making sure that the board is not sending funding back at the end of a cycle.

Latoya Holiday informed the board regarding issues with the proposed funding for education in the budget and a letter the US Department of Education sent about the legislature potentially jeopardizing billions of dollars in federal funds. She continued about the connection this may have to multiple AmeriCorps programs that are often trying to fill the gaps within the educational system.

Serve WI Staff Reports

Steven Yule provided an update on his work with the ASC membership committee and the criminal history workgroup. He also described work on a project as the board's overseer of records, involving board records that go back to the beginning of the board and getting these on their path to the State Historical Society.

Robin Lee described that he and Margie Kriel were almost caught up on the backlog of financial desk reviews, as there is one remaining before moving to the current plan.

Tracey Brent described that major efforts over the next few months will include updating SharePoint and DocuSign and evaluating potential changes that staff might want to make to monitoring for next year.

Kyle Clower introduced Anna Dannecker, who will be serving as an intern over the summer and will be primarily assisting him on multiple projects, including the Governor's Service Awards and rebranding efforts. Anna described having served two terms with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

Ruhamah Bauman informed the board about applying and being accepted to serve last fall on the state incident management team and training as a liaison officer. Ruhamah described being reallocated to support the volunteer vaccinators coordination effort for the state mobile vaccination team, with that reassignment concluded this past month.

Future Meeting Dates and Adjournment

Christine Beatty gave an update for board meetings and events for the remainder of 2021.

- Governor's Service Awards – August 4
- WNCSB meeting – October 7
- Program Evaluation and Development Committee meeting – December 7
- WNCSB meeting – December 16

Anthony Hallman made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Second by Benjamin Lehner. The motion was unanimously approved.