



Wisconsin National & Community Board Meeting
May 11, 2023, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Board Members Present:	Yolanda Shelton-Morris (chair), Christine Beatty, Theresa Clark, Anthony Hallman, Paula Horning, David Moldavsky, Margaret (Jane) Moore, Karen Pritchard, Adam Riley, Jana Steinmetz, Yekaterina (Katia) Tovmenko
Board Members Not Present:	Leah Moore, Tamara Mouw, Jen Rombalski, Susan Schwartz, Patricia Takamine (vice-chair)
Staff Present:	Jeanne Duffy, Kyle Clower, Élysse Chay, Amy Fink, Steven Yule
Program Staff and Guests Present:	Mary Ferwerda, Steve Frodl, Joli Guenther, Mark Guzman, Anna Korb, Lori Murphy

Call to Order

Yolanda Shelton-Morris called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

Approve Minutes from the March 15, 2023 Board Meeting

ACTION ITEM – Christine Beatty moved to approve minutes from the March 15, 2023 WNCSB meeting. Second by Jane Moore. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

No report

Nominating Committee

No report

Public Policy & Outreach Committee

Kyle Clower thanked everyone who attended AmeriCorps Day at the Capitol on March 15 and helped with its preparation.

Program Evaluation & Development (PE&D) Committee

Tony Hallman stated that the committee met on April 25 to review the programs submitted for Formula Funding today.

Formula Funding Recommendations

Élysse Chay had board members complete a conflict of interest form regarding the programs under consideration for funding if they had not previously completed one. Élysse then gave an overview of Formula funding for the current grant cycle. She explained that at the beginning of the process, we received five applications for new programs, all from current planning grantees and five continuation applications from current formula program grantees. She continued that Serve Wisconsin would have enough formula funds to cover all of the current applicants. To help ensure that formula funds are all being spent, she continued that three programs, previously awarded competitive funding, are requesting to move to formula funding.

Jeanne Duffy described that while there were initially five new applicants, only three are currently requesting funding. She explained that UW Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Corps decided to withdraw their application for multiple reasons and that College Possible is merging their proposed new program that would expand into Racine and Kenosha with their main program application.

New Applications - Formula

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County
- Milwaukee Justice Center - Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation
- Wisconsin 4-H Expanding Access - University of Wisconsin Extension

Continuation Applications

- ECLIPSE - University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Farm to School Program - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Green Bay Conservation Corps - City of Green Bay
- North Central Community Action Program
- WisCorps

ACTION ITEM – Tony Hallman moved to approve the recommended 2023-2024 AmeriCorps Formula Cost Reimbursement Applications to submit for Formula Cost-Reimbursement Grant Applications to AmeriCorps and give Serve Wisconsin staff authority to approve minor changes to approved funding amounts to ensure funding is maximized. Second by Jane Moore. The motion passed unanimously, with Adam Riley abstaining from voting on approval of Wisconsin 4-H Expanding Access – University of Wisconsin Extension.

Third-Year Competitive Programs Moving to Formula

- *College Possible Milwaukee*
- *Milwaukee Christian Center*
- *Dane County Human Services - Partners for After School Success*

Élysse Chay explained to the Board that Serve Wisconsin received more regular formula funding than we had in applications for sub-granting those formula funds. She elaborated that because it is important for us to make sure that we are allocating all the funding we are allocated for formula programs, Serve Wisconsin recommends having three third-year competitive programs move to formula funding. She continued that to move these programs to formula, it would require a vote by the Board.

ACTION ITEM – Tony Hallman moved to have the board grant Serve Wisconsin staff the authority to move Board-approved competitive funded programs to formula for the 2023-2024 program year (August 15, 2023 – August 31, 2024) to be funded with both regular and ARPA formula funds. Second by Karen Pritchard. Motion passed unanimously.

Increasing Program Funding for Existing Programs

Jeanne Duffy explained that due to a minimum of \$1,055,024.59 in formula funding expiring August 31, 2023, another option to help maximize the expenditure of formula funds would be authorizing an increase in program funding for current programs.

Steve Frodl described an example of this with NCCAP, where they wanted to increase their MSY beyond what they were originally awarded to bring on additional members. He also expanded on the progress they have had in recruiting new positions through shorter service terms than what they typically do.

ACTION ITEM – Tony Hallman moved that due to a minimum of \$1,055,024.59 in formula funding expiring August 31, 2023, the Board will grants Serve Wisconsin staff the authority to increase program funding of existing programs for the 2023-2024 program year (August 15, 2023 – August 31, 2024) to fund the increases with both regular and ARPA formula funds. Second by Adam Riley. The motion passed unanimously.

Potential Funding for New Programs using Unexpended Formula Funds during the Program Year

Board members discussed a potential motion to give Serve Wisconsin staff the authority to fund new programs and/or planning grants for the 2023-2024 where organizational interest in starting a program or program grant is discovered before the expiration of \$1,055,024.59 in formula funding on September 14, 2024. The motion was not offered, with discussion centered around either having an Executive Committee meeting or a full board meeting if that situation would arise in the coming months.

2022-2024 State Service Plan

Using the tracking dashboard, Jeanne Duffy provided board members with an update on progress towards goals within the 2022-2024 State Service Plan. She explained that we will fall just short of the goal of four new AmeriCorps programs starting in 2023-2024 after UW Athletic Training decided not to move forward. She explained that the goals around the Serve Wisconsin VISTA initiative to serve at BIPOC organizations is unable to be met due to AmeriCorps changing the ability to use Commission Support Grant funding to support the VISTA program, with the last members ending their terms in December. She highlighted the progress made on alumni engagement efforts led by Olivia Rasmussen and the exploration of the Sliver Nest housing platform as a resource for AmeriCorps members. She also discussed the next steps toward efforts to advocate for the education award to be matched in some way by public and private colleges in the state. She described the support provided through the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) grant previously for disaster response and preparedness efforts. Then she explained that since that is not a priority for the newest VGF NOFO, we are looking at applying for funding to support United Way agencies that are training people with lived experience and poverty to serve on nonprofit boards. She also highlighted the addition of three new staff members at Serve Wisconsin to support the ability to carry out these goals, including a new Volunteer Generation Fund officer and two new fiscal officers.

Discussion—Committee Chairs

Tony Hallman asked whether the board chair can also serve as a committee chair, with Yolanda Shelton-Morris serving as both WNCSB Chair and chair of the Public Policy and Outreach (PPO) Committee. As part of the discussion, Yolanda indicated that if another member of the PPO Committee would be willing to serve as PPO chair, she would prefer to have someone else lead the committee, although she could remain as needed. Paula Horning volunteered to chair the PPO Committee and Yolanda stepped down as PPO chair and remained a committee member.

Board Vacancies

Jeanne Duffy informed the Board that she is considering switching the board slot of Yolanda Shelton-Morris to the currently open #7 Representative of Local Government, reflecting her new job working for the City of Madison. She continued by indicating that following the resignation of Sue Schwartz from the Board, there are four positions currently open: #8 Representative of Local Labor, #9 Representative of Business, #14 Representative of a Community-based Agency, and #15 Representative from a national service program and volunteer sector. She also informed the Board that there would be an upcoming vacancy for slot #11 An individual between the ages of 16 and 25, who is a participant or supervisor of a service program for school-aged youth or a campus-based or national service program. She explained that this is because Adam Riley will graduate shortly and begin service with the Peace Corps in Peru. She thanked him for his service on the Board and wished him good luck. Jeanne then asked the Board to let her know if they have any suggestions for potential board members to fill these slots.

Governor's Service Awards

Kyle Clower provided an update on the 2023 Governor's Service Awards, which will be held on June 7 at Olbrich Gardens at 2pm. He described that over 30 nominations were received this year for the various categories and thanked board members that served as application reviewers for different award categories.

Program Directors Update

Steve Frodl provided a report on behalf of the program directors. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the programs for the feedback they have been receiving on their grant applications, particularly with the specific language the AmeriCorps uses. He mentioned that there had been some successes in increasing the living allowance and cost per MSY over the last few years, with a reduction in match being another potential area that would be helpful, allowing programs to lower host site cash match to make being a host site more attractive. He also discussed how, with programs looking at smaller service slots to potentially increase the number of people willing to serve, removing or modifying the cap of four service terms could be helpful. He indicated that this and increased flexibility in transferring the education award would be helpful going forward, but they would likely require action by Congress.

Board Member Updates

Christine Beatty brought up that States for Service is circulating a letter for commissions to sign on that will be sent to Congress members requesting \$30 million in funding for the Volunteer Generation Fund. Serve Wisconsin's development of six regional Community Organizations Active in Disasters with VGF funding is mentioned in the letter. She wanted to recommend that the Board sign onto this letter and would make a motion for that if desired, for approval. She also shared information with the Board about individually joining States for Service to receive advocacy updates and support their advocacy efforts. Jeanne Duffy explained that Christine represents Wisconsin on these calls and sends these requests to board members because Serve Wisconsin staff cannot do so due to lobbying restrictions.

ACTION ITEM – Christine Beatty moved to have the Board sign onto the VGF funding letter being organized by States for Service to be given to members of Congress. Second by Tony Hallman. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Updates

Steven Yule provided an update on program and fiscal reporting for Achievement Connections following a discussion at the December 2022 board meeting. He explained that Program Evaluation and Development Committee members have been sent the Achievement Connections first and second quarter progress reports, periodic expense reports, and quarterly match reports to stay informed about progress towards alleviating previous issues. Steven informed the Board that their new program director has taken steps to improve previous practices and is working with the Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative on improving performance measures and how they are measured. He continued that their enrollment rate has not increased significantly yet, but that will be monitored into the new program year to see if there is improvement.

Steven also provided updates on Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA) related concerns. He explained that AmeriCorps will expand PIAA analysis into reviewing education award payments. He also indicated that we have not heard anything back on the previous three programs being examined for improper payment assessments.

Kyle Clower provided an update about AmeriCorps Day at the Capitol, which took place on the day of the previous WNCBS meeting on March 15. He described that over 100 people participated from more than 20 programs across AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps Seniors. During the day, participants visited the offices of nearly all state representatives and senators, meeting with them or their staff. He explained that there was a celebration ceremony at noon in the rotunda, which featured Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez, Director of AmeriCorps State and National Sonali Nijhawan, State Representative Darrin Madison, and multiple current AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors program directors. Additionally, as part of the event, participants collected donations of business attire clothing for a larger AmeriCorps Week clothing drive to assist individuals in need.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Yolanda Shelton-Morris provided a reminder that the next board meeting would be Thursday, October 12. Following that, there will be a Program and Evaluation Committee meeting on December 5, with a board meeting the following week on December 14. Additionally, she reminded the Board that they are invited to attend the Governor's Service Awards on June 7.

Adjournment

ACTION ITEM – Christine Beatty moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Tony Hallman. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.