



Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday April 7, 2026
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Members in Attendance: Ginger Williams, Stephanie Kupper, David Battey, Melanie Haas, Linda Hogg, Cindy Miles, Amy Pinger, Emily Riner, Barbara Hickert

Members Not in Attendance: Ben Jones, Caroline Wims-Campbell

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: Meghan Hines

Ex-Officio Members Not in Attendance:

Staff in Attendance: Amanda Noll, Tierney Kirtdoll, Sarah Nelson, Beth Fultz, Kat Browning

Call to Order and Welcome

Ginger Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed commissioners and attendees. She noted that the commission had a full agenda focused primarily on planning and discussion regarding the 2026–2027 AmeriCorps Kansas programming year.

Legislative Day Reflections

Ginger Williams welcomed attendees and reflected on the success of Legislative Day. She highlighted the strong turnout, active participation, and positive team atmosphere throughout the event. Ginger emphasized the value of bringing commissioners and partners together in person and noted the event was a meaningful experience for all involved.

Commissioner Pledge

Ginger Williams led the commissioners in the AmeriCorps pledge. Commissioners were invited to read the pledge aloud or silently.

Partnership and Community Collaboration Discussion

Harvesters Community Food Network Presentation

Amy Pinger led a discussion regarding volunteer engagement, partnerships, and collaborative service efforts across communities.

Amy shared reflections on her time with Harvesters since joining the organization in 2015. She explained that the organization has experienced significant growth and expansion during that time.

Key highlights included:

- Harvesters now serves 27 counties across the region.
- The organization partners with more than 600 agency partners.
- Collaboration efforts continue to expand across both Kansas and Missouri.

Amy discussed statewide and regional partnership efforts, including work with Feeding Missouri and collaboration among Kansas food banks to better coordinate services and advocacy efforts.

She also spoke about:

- Building mutually beneficial partnerships with retailers and businesses
- Expanding coalition and collaborative service opportunities
- Utilizing community events and sponsorships to increase awareness and support
- Innovative fundraising and outreach opportunities connected to national events and partnerships

Amy shared excitement about attending a recent national conference where she connected with other food bank leaders who had implemented Service Enterprise practices and held Certified in Volunteer Administration (CVA) credentials. She noted that these connections created valuable opportunities to discuss future collaboration and volunteer engagement strategies.

Ginger Williams thanked Amy for sharing her experiences and recognized her leadership, dedication to service, and commitment to strengthening communities.

2026–2027 AmeriCorps Kansas Subgrantee Recommendations

Review Process Acknowledgements

Tierney Kirtdoll presented the AmeriCorps Kansas subgrantee recommendations for the 2026–2027 program year.



Tierney thanked commissioners and reviewers who participated in the application review process, including:

- Amy Pinger
- Stephanie Kupper
- Kelly Byrne
- Jennifer Haley
- Linn Hogg

Tierney expressed appreciation for the reviewers' time, expertise, and support throughout the evaluation process.

Fort Hays State University Withdrawal

Tierney informed the commission that Fort Hays State University withdrew its AmeriCorps application for the upcoming program year.

The university cited insufficient infrastructure and institutional support necessary to effectively administer AmeriCorps programming requirements. Tierney acknowledged the complexity and workload involved in managing AmeriCorps programs and expressed hope that the institution may reconsider participation in the future.

Program Recommendations

Center for Supportive Communities

Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education

USD Derby 260

Boys and Girls Club of Manhattan

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed to commissioners, reviewers, and partners for their continued dedication to volunteerism, AmeriCorps programming, and service initiatives throughout Kansas.