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**Kansas Volunteer Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting**

**June 4, 2024**

**Members in Attendance:** Amy Pinger, Ginger Williams, David Battey, Linn Hogg, Ben Jones, Stephanie Kupper, Cindy Miles, Carolyn Campbell, Melanie Haas

**Members Not in Attendance**: Selena Eckstrom, Barbara Hickert, Emily Riner

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:** Daniel Cruz

**Ex-Officio Members Not in Attendance:** Mark Stump

**Staff in Attendance**: Jessica Dorsey, Kat Seeley, Amanda Noll, Elaine Rodriguez, Tierney Kirtdoll, Haley Matherly,

**WELCOME AND COMMISSIONER PLEDGE**

Chairwoman Amy Pinger called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. The Commissioners recited the Commissioner pledge.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

Kat Seeley led the roll call.

**FINAL 2024-2025 AMERICORPS FUNDING ALLOCATION**

FY24 Kansas Funding Allocation = $2,077,636

America Rescue Plan Allocation (FY22-FY24) = $2,042,240

FY21-23 Carryover = $600,000\* only for planning grants

Public Health Funds = $216,000

Total Available = $4,935,876

**CURRENT/UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2024 Civic Engagement Conference** was held in April. We wanted to create a space where students, schools, volunteers, mentors, and nonprofit organizations could come together, and talk about engagement across all levels. We had just over 160 individuals who participated in the conference.

Note from commissioner Carolyn was for next year’s Civic Engagement Conference to focus on getting our young people there.

**VGF Training** – May 23, 2024 in Topeka

**National Service Training**

* Haley and Tierney attended in-person conference.
* Jessica, Elaine, Amanda, and Kat attended virtual conference.

**Service Enterprise 2024 Cohort**

* First Tee - Greater Topeka
* Storytime Village
* Girls on the Run of the Flint Hills

**2024 Give Back Kansas Challenge** has wrapped up with a total of 16 organizations logged an impressive 6,232 employee volunteer hours. The Independent Sector reports that each volunteer hour in Kansas is valued at $29.69, which makes the total contribution of the Give Back Kansas Challenge: $185,028.

**Mentor Kansas Advisory Council** – June 7, 2024 in Lawrence

**Mentor Con** – June 10-12, 2024 in Atlanta

* Sarah, Jessica, and Tierney attending in person conference.

**Visiting Teacher Orientation** – July 15-17, 2024

There will be nine teachers from Spain traveling to Kansas in July to teach in the following counties, Labette, Brown, Wyandotte and Shawnee Counties. These teachers were recruited by Sarah and Jessica during their trip to Spain in April.

Q: What did you notice about schools during your visit to Spain?

A: The school days are shorter so they do not feed children at school they will go home for meals. I also noticed that the actual teacher would move classrooms versus the students, and they have less concern with nudity. The teachers in Spain do not go through an interview process, after they are certified they will be placed in a school.

Q: How do the children get to school and was there security in their schools?

A: Most students walk or have a parent/guardian take them to school. The schools did not have security, this was not a concern in Spain.

**AmeriCorps Grant Kickoff Training** is July 23-24, 2024, hosted by the Kansas Volunteer Commission at Ward-Meade.

**United Way Campaign** planning for the fall led by Sarah Nelson.

We are working to partner with Pine Ridge Preschool. They offer mentor opportunities for the students, they have a health clinic on site, and parent teachers support.

**Commissioner Engagement**

Looking to engage Commissioners possibly with AmeriCorps as ambassadors. Potential ideas for Commissioners partnering with AmeriCorps programs, include: attending events, visiting or talking with AmeriCorps members, promoting AmeriCorps programs on social media, and signing up for program newsletters.

Another idea for Commissioner engagement is Nancy Perry Day of Service on September 19-20, 2024.

Commissioners would like a survey sent out to gauge interest in engagement opportunities.

Q: Is it a conflict of interest for commissioners to be ambassadors for AmeriCorps programs that they were a part of the grant review process for?

A: We will look into this further.

**2025-2027 STATE SERVICE PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Three groups, made up of staff and commissioners, met to determine amendments and updates for the State Service Plan for 2025-2027. 30

Group 1: Ginger, Carolyn, Daniel, Tierney, Elaine.

Group 2: Ben, David, Melanie, Stephanie, Kat, Jessica.

Group 3: Amy, Linn, Cindy, Haley, Amanda.

**ADJOURN**

Amy Pinger motioned to adjourn meeting.