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**Kansas Volunteer Commission Meeting  
Virtual Meeting**

**October 3rd, 2023**

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

**Members Not in Attendance**: Selena Eckstrom, Emily Riner, Linn Hogg

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:** Mark Stump

**Ex-Officio Members Not in Attendance:** Daniel Cruz

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

**WELCOME AND COMMISSIONER PLEDGE**

Executive Director Jessica Dorsey called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Commissioner Pinger lead Commissioners in reciting the Commissioner pledge.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

Elaine Rodriguez led the roll call.

**ICEBREAKER** – One thing you are looking forward to for Fall?

**VGF SPOTLIGHT – United Way of Kaw Valley with Jessica Barraclough & Jackie Lightcap**

Focus of United Way of Topeka had previously been on Shawnee County. Now with merger with United Way of Douglas County, they are United Way of Kaw Valley and cover a larger area for training and programming.

Two-fold plan to provide resources & support to all areas covered.

Board leadership training is a part of that, 9-hour course over two days.

Focus is on growing resilient organizations with United Way.

G.R.O.W. plan

Grow plan helps increase volunteer capacity and expand reach of organizations.

Grow 1: Topeka Volunteers dot org website is the main focus in area 1. The website allows organizations to recruit, manage, communicate, and report volunteers.

Grow 2: Board Leadership Training. Developing Volunteer Leaders.

Grow 3: Volunteer Community Navigators. Increase capacity and support direct service.

Staff value trainings on being better members of their non-profits.

Several online volunteer platforms exist for United Way Kaw Valley they are looking to merge into one, to provide better service over their entire service area.

They are very appreciative off the VGF grant dollars to increase capacity of non-profit partners over their service area.

Q. I heard you say you provide scholarships. Is this correct?

A. Yes, for the Board Leadership Training.

Q. How long have you had VGF funding?

A. Since 2021. Then VGF renewal in 2022.

**VGF and the Kansas Volunteer Commission**

One of 23 organizations out of 183 to get VGF funding.

Only 6 commissions funded. 17 non-commissions funded. This is very new to VGF to have less commissions funded than non-commissions.

Our VGF grant has had seven applicants.

Grant review committee includes Commissioners Hogg & Miles.

November 7th from 11am to 12 pm during Coffee with Commissioners, we will have VGF vote.

Need to have quorum of at least seven members present for voting. This is important as many do not usually attend the Coffee with Commissioners consistently. This particular date is important.

Afterwards, it moves to KSDE Board of Education for a vote.

Subgrantees will need training in December.

Then expected to hit ground running in January 2024.

Note from commissioner that Harvey County is in Newton, KS. In reference to Harvey County United Way.

**AmeriCorps Planning Grant**

$200,000 structured literacy only open to institutions of higher education.

Needs new timeline due to heavy workload in 2023.

October 2023 – August 2024 is new timeline.

**2024 Calendar of Events**

2023 recap given.

Give Back Kansas Challenge earned $16,000 in match.

2023 Mini-Grant Series – did well this year as amount for each grant was increased. Keep in mind that at least 10% of award is not drawn down so the actual amount spent will fluctuate.

2024

Grant Writing Workshop

School – Integrated Volunteerism Training

Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring Training

Annual Conference

Survey generation for new State Service Plan

Book Study

Possibility of Civic Engagement Conference through a donor at Emporia State University

Maybe push Annual Conference to the Fall?

**Service Enterprise**

1st organization certified in the state of Kansas (also as a hub)

Shifted from Points of Light to Al!ve organization in 2022.

Commission needs to recertify by January 2024

Diagnostic Assessment (staff & commissioners)

Diagnostic Debrief (December 11th at 11- 2 pm. If you take the assessment you must be available for the diagnostic debrief on December 11th.)

Develop Action Plan & Implement

**2024 Meeting Schedule**

Virtual model with 2 in person meetings adopted for 2024.

***Motion to Adjourn*** made by Commissioner Campbell.

Commissioner Williams seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Pinger adjourned the meeting.

See you on November 7th for Coffee with Commissioners! It is important we have quorum at this time for VGF vote!