

Volunteer Tennessee
Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams
May 20, 2022

Members in Attendance: Chairing: Donovan Robertson* (proxy – Hill, Moten), George Bove*, Suzanne Carr (TDHS), Stephanie Davis*, Sonda Finley*, Terry Frank*, Amy Gilliland*, Katie Goforth*, Michael Hogan (TDS&HS), Rick Kriesky*, Heidi Leming (TBR), Patrick Maloney*, Nancy Schelin (TDEC), Jason Scott*, Terry Silver*, Amy Walter*, Betty White*, Eileen Wollam*, Jessica Youngblom (TDMHSAS)

Members not in Attendance: Tobi Amosun (TDoH), Bobby Graves (TDM), Marjahna Hart (TDCS), Andrea Hill* (proxy), Holly Jones*, Buddy Lea (TDF&A), Caroline Ledlie (AmeriCorps), Greg Lyles*, Lee Moten* (proxy), Kane Reeves*, Cameron Sanford*, Leon Shields*, Tracy Van de Vate*, VACANT (TDOE, TDLWD, UT-C)

Staff: Shannon Duke, Manny Ehiemua, Neelam Gupta, Maura Kelly, Jim Snell, Candace Taylor

Quorum Count: 16 (with proxies) of 22 appointed (12 is quorum). (*) indicates voting member.

Donovan Robertson called the virtual meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and gave opening remarks. He then asked for a quick round of introductions. Donovan asked everyone to review the minutes from the January 28, 2022 meeting. Donovan called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Betty White noted a grammatical error which was corrected. Betty White made a motion to accept with corrections, and Sonda Finley seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan gave a report out on Friends of Volunteer Tennessee, which included his need to spend time on other initiatives. Chairperson Robertson shared that he would be stepping down as Chair of Friends. Volunteer Tennessee will be looking for a new chair.

Jim gave the Director's report. Daniel Sparkman's last day with Volunteer Tennessee was April 13, staff are conducting a search for the new AmeriCorps Program Manager. Jim showed America's Service Commissions' FY2023 AmeriCorps Agency federal funding request, which includes increases for AmeriCorps State and National, State Service Commissions, and the Volunteer Generation Fund. He called on Candace Taylor and Shannon Duke to review outcomes from the 2022 Tennessee Conference on Volunteerism and Service-Learning and the 2021 Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards. He noted that May is the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Tennessee Serves Network volunteer portal, and he called on Shannon to review a Tennessee Serves report. He then concluded his director's report.

Donovan called on Michael Hogan to present on the funding decisions. Michael began by asking if everyone had completed conflict of interest forms. Katie Goforth, Patrick Maloney, Nancy Schelin, and Jason Scott identified conflicts related to the AmeriCorps funding.

Michael first reviewed the AmeriCorps Competitive results. Three of the eight new and re-competing applicants received Competitive funding. Those were Public Education Foundation, Relay Graduate School of Education, and Teach for America – Memphis. However, Relay Graduate School of

Education and Teach for America - Memphis were offered \$0 and have declined the Competitive funding. The two that declined funding and the unfunded Competitive applicants will be considered in the Formula process. Bridges USA, City Year, and Hands on Nashville received continuation funding in the Competitive process.

Michael then moved to the AmeriCorps Formula funding discussion. Because of their conflicts, Katie Goforth, Patrick Maloney, Nancy Schelin, and Jason Scott did not participate in the discussion and did not vote. Michael gave an overview of the Formula funding. Michael reviewed the new applicants including University of the South, Literacy Mid-South, and Tennessee Charitable Care Network. The Grants Committee met and discussed recommendations from the staff as presented in the “2022 AmeriCorps Formula Funding Decision Chart – Grants Committee Recommendation” document. All continuation programs would be funded, and all New/Re-competing programs were funded except for Tennessee Charitable Care Network. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2022 AmeriCorps Formula Funding recommendation as presented by the Grants Committee. George Bove made a motion, and Terry Frank seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michael then moved to the Service-Learning and Instructional Methods Course Revision Grant funding discussion. Michael gave called on staff to give an overview of the funding recommendation. The Grants Committee recommended funding Dyersburg State Community College and Cleveland State Community College. Donovan called for a motion to approve the Service-Learning and Instructional Methods Course Revision Grant Funding recommendation as presented by the Grants Committee. George Bove made a motion, and Terry Silver seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan called on Michael to present the 2022 Commission Support Grant budget revision. The Executive Committee previously approved the revisions, but as customary, it has been brought to the full commission for approval. Michael reviewed the 2022 Commission Support Grant budget, which included increased funding compared to the previously approved version. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2022 Commission Support Grant budget revision as presented by the Grants Committee. George Bove made a motion, and Betty White seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed.

Michael then called on staff to review the 2022 Commission Investment Fund budget revision. Donovan called for a motion to approve the 2022 Commission Investment Fund budget revision as presented by the Grants Committee. Eileen Wollam made a motion, and George Bove seconded. Donovan asked Terry to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Donovan called on Jim to discuss the 2023-25 State Service Plan process. The commission extended the previous plan so that a new State Service Plan draft might be completed by the September 2022 meeting. At the September meeting, the Commission will need to approve the final version of the 2023-25 State Service Plan. Jim reviewed the Board Member Resources website, and the discussion continued on the mission and vision of the Volunteer Tennessee.

At 11:30 a.m., the board took a short lunch break. Donovan reconvened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Donovan called on Jim to frame the breakout work on the 2023-24 State Service Plan. Jim asked each group to discuss the five priority areas and what resources Volunteer Tennessee has that might

address those areas. In addition, what activities could we participate in to address those areas. He provided a sample Logic Model with needs, interventions, and results. The board went into random breakout groups at 12:15 p.m. rather than committee assignments. Groups looked at five priority areas and determine what Volunteer Tennessee would like to accomplish for the 2023-25 State Service Plan.

Donovan reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. and asked for breakout groups report-outs:

Breakout Group 1

Jason gave a summary of the group's discussion.

Education: Continuing to support programs to utilize social media to recruit both partners and volunteers to assist in programs that are under-utilized. Increase number of volunteers to address literacy.

Food and Insecurity: Increase number of beneficiaries

Economic Opportunity: Discussion continued but was not able to finish. Better tracking of employment/academic outcomes of Ameri-Corp members.

DEI: Training 100 percent of grantees on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion incorporation

Breakout Group 2

Eileen gave a summary of the group's discussion.

Food and Insecurity: Idea to educate and spread info on hunger. Program (30 Days of Education about hunger and nutrition) which might be good for AmeriCorps members across the state.

Highlight opportunities of food insecurity on Tennessee Serves Portal

Economic Opportunity: 10% of AmeriCorps members/volunteers/national service members result in employment goal

Highlight opportunities of economic opportunity on Tennessee Serves Portal

Board development – Department of Labor and Workforce Development appointee

Have a focus on the underemployed as well (partner with the United Way) about LIVING wages

For AmeriCorps members for life after AmeriCorps: additional resources, alumni resources website – Ex. Jobs, job fair, college information, additional training opportunities.

DEI: virtual training for subgrantees, board members and staff

Emergency Preparedness: Red Cross has training available

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and local regional emergency management

Breakout Group 3

Nancy gave a summary of the group's discussion.

Came up with strategies: designate an area on the application which applicants can check off regarding the five focus areas. Organizations would know what our emphasis is on the application.

Breakout Group 4

Jessica gave a summary of the group's discussion.

Emergency Preparedness Goal: Toolkit to help prepare; partner with Emergency Preparedness responders and Governor's Faith-based Office

DEI: Partner with Universities and Colleges on training and Governor's Faith-based Office

Economic Opportunities: Service-Learning opportunities

Jim asked for all notes from the breakout groups to put together in one document to review at next meeting. Committees should begin to look at recommendations and determine accountability and responsibility. Jim will send out a poll about an in-person meeting for July 22, 2022.

Donovan asked if there were any final questions. He reminded members to complete the evaluation and give feedback. Donovan then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Walter motioned to adjourn, and Eileen Wollam seconded. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Secretary

Meeting minutes prepared by Terry Silver, Secretary.