

Michigan Community Service Commission

April 24, 2013

MCSC Board Meeting

Armory – Community Room, Lansing

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carolyn Bloodworth, Chair
Breannah Alexander
Diana Algra
David Andrews
Tony Campbell
Rob Collier
Michael Hill
Bob Kolt
Michael Lavoie
Jerry Swartz
John Truscott
Judy Watson-Olson
Miles Wilson
Paula Kaiser VanDam, Ex Officio
Cathy Sharp, Ex Officio, CNCS

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julie Calley
Lloyd Jackson
Lori Jewell
Megan Russell Johnson
Janet Lawson
Fred Mester
Donna Niester
David Price
Larry Romanelli
Marsha Smith
Ella Kate Wagner
Larry Williamson

OTHERS: Rachel Bruns, VolunteerWisconsin
Jen Estill, Redhead Design Studio
Garry Gross, Michigan Community Service Commission
Ben Gulker, Michigan Community Service Commission
Janice Harvey, Michigan Community Service Commission
Racha Kardahji, Redhead Design Studio
Donna Murray-Brown, Michigan Nonprofit Association
Kari Pardoe, The LEAGUE Michigan
Megan Sargent, Michigan Community Service Commission
Amber Troupe, Michigan Community Service Commission
Jamie Wilson, Michigan Community Service Commission
Jeanine Yard, Michigan Community Service Commission

Renee Zientek. Michigan Campus Compact
Ilir Zherka, National Conference on Citizenship

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Bloodworth welcomed Commissioners at 1:30 pm. She updated Commissioners on the Executive Director search. A candidate has been selected and we hope to have them in place by June. She also thanked the Commissioners Lawson, Russell Johnson, Smith, and Watson-Olson who have agreed to serve on the MCSC Board Retreat Planning Committee.
- II. Consent Agenda – Chair Bloodworth asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from the January 17, 2013 MCSC board meeting. **Commissioner Algra motioned to approve the consent agenda and minutes; Commissioner Watson-Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- III. Executive Director Report – Paula Kaiser VanDam
 - A. State Service Plan – Ms. VanDam explained that the MCSC is required by federal statute to develop a State Service Plan every three years that talks about the overall goals around service. The MCSC has enlisted Rachel Bruns, from Volunteer Wisconsin and also an ASC board member, to help us facilitate the development of the State Service Plan. She has helped Iowa and Wisconsin draft their plans. The plan will be a representative plan for Michigan that includes not only the MCSC but also all the partners. Ms. Bruns presented the plan to Commissioners. Strategic priority areas include developing new service opportunities, improving existing services and programs, expanding Michigan’s volunteer base, and building a culture and climate for service. Commissioners will give final approval of the plan at the August MCSC board meeting.
 - B. Michigan Civic Health Index –Ilir Zherka, National Conference on Citizenship, shared information studies on civic engagement and economic vitality. When they looked at civic engagement nationwide, two factors they focused on were nonprofit density and social cohesion. Jamie Wilson shared key findings from the Michigan Civic Health Index which was released today at the Giving & Volunteering Celebration.
 - C. Statewide Volunteerism Campaign – The MCSC and Volunteer Centers of Michigan have contracted with Redhead Design Studio to develop a statewide volunteerism campaign. Jen Estill and Racha Kardahji, of Redhead Design Studio, shared the objectives of the campaign which include promote volunteerism in Michigan, increase the number of volunteer activities, and increase the awareness of volunteerism.
 - D. Russ Mawby Signature Service Project – Ms. VanDam shared information on the 2013 Russ Mawby Signature Service Project which will take place May 16-17 in Lansing. More than 350 AmeriCorps members from across the state will participate. Ms. VanDam thanked Commissioner Swartz for his efforts in helping to plan the community projects. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
 - E. Reimagining Service – Diana Algra updated Commissioners on the Reimagining Service initiative. The Points of Light is the lead organization for the initiative. They have released a request for proposal that the partners are going to respond to and hope to be one of the eight pilot sites selected.

- IV. AmeriCorps Funding – Paula Kaiser VanDam presented the staff recommendations for School Turnaround AmeriCorps Funding. (*see April 24, 2013 memo from Paula Kaiser VanDam*). In late February, the CNCS, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, announced the Department of Education had allocated \$5 million to fund AmeriCorps programs that focused on school turnaround. The MCSC staff created a request for proposal and received two applications, The Detroit Parent Network and the Education Achievement Authority (EAA). After discussions with EAA, they decided to move forward with the Michigan Reading Corps AmeriCorps program instead of this opportunity. The MCSC staff is recommending the Detroit Parent Network for School Turnaround AmeriCorps funding at \$318,784 for 24 members. If this program doesn't get funded through this special opportunity, it will not be funded through the formula funding process due to the timing of the notification.

Chair Bloodworth asked for a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the AmeriCorps School Turnaround funding. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the staff recommendations; Commissioner Algra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Alexander abstaining.

- V. Michigan Reading Corps – Commissioner Tony Campbell updated Commissioners on Michigan Reading Corps. The data for the two pilot sites for this year is showing that 80% of the students being tutored are now reading at grade level. The districts have become a huge supporter of the program and are sharing their feedback with other districts. School recruitment is moving forward with packets being distributed to school districts and superintendents and webinars being held. There were visits to Flint, Kalkaska, Lansing and Muskegon. We currently have 11 applications from schools. We need help with getting schools in Flint, Jackson, Pontiac and Saginaw which are key communities. Member recruitment is currently taking place and to date we have 145 candidates that are interested in serving as a member. Financial resources include projected resources of DHS through Pathways (\$300,000), W.K. Kellogg Foundation (\$200,000), Steelcase Foundation (\$100,000), Lansing United Way (\$30,000), and Muskegon United Way (\$30,000).
- VI. Governor's Service Awards – Janice Harvey updated Commissioners on the 2013 event. The nomination process began in January and we received 144 nominations. The peer review has taken place and the 40 finalists have been selected. Fundraising proposals and letters have been sent. A list of potential sponsors was shared and Commissioners are encouraged to contact them to ask them to sponsor. Our fundraising goal is \$125,000.
- VII. CNCS Funding Update – Ms. VanDam shared the President released his FY14 budget and the CNCS has a \$5 million increase overall. The Volunteer Generation Fund is in the budget at \$10 million (which was zeroed out in FY13 budget). State commission's administrative grants increased over \$1 million but we are still down from where we were in FY11. When you combine it with the cuts that states received from training dollars and the elimination of the disability and inclusion funding, state commission funding will be down in overall operations funding.

VIII. CNCS Update – Cathy Sharp shared the Senior Corps week is May 6-10. Senior Corps organizations are planning events that week and have a proclamation from the Governor. CNCS is conducting a national volunteer survey of Senior Corps members to measure the benefits of volunteering and how volunteering has helped their health. AmeriCorps VISTA is receiving concept papers for summer associates and Michigan will have 63 summer associate serving at the United Way of Southeast Michigan and other locations throughout the state. The first Mayors Day of Recognition of National Service took place on April 9th. We had 13 mayors in Michigan participate either through proclamations or attending events. Cathy thanked the MCSC staff for their help with the Lansing and Grand Rapids events. There were also events in Kalamazoo, Flint and Detroit.

IV. Other Business

A. Mission Statement – Chair Bloodworth explained that the MCSC would like to update the mission statement. Commissioners would like to use “service as a strategy” in the mission statement. Two draft MCSC Mission Statements were shared and Commissioners were asked for their feedback. Commissioners liked the following statement but would like some additional changes to strengthen it: The Michigan Community Service Commission promotes and encourages volunteer service as a means to strengthen communities and address the state’s most pressing issues. **Commissioner Swartz made a motion to support the statement with changes and to have staff rework the statement and share with Commissioners; Commissioner Algra supported the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Staff will make changes to the statement and share at the next meeting.

X. Public Comment – None

Adjourn: 4:11 pm