

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE
Record of Meeting – November 4, 2009
Hartford, CT

Members Present: J. Barber, J. Ciarleglio, W. Dyson, E. Janney, M. Manson, Sr.,
R. McCue, S. Murdoch, A. Ostberg, A. Quiñones

Members Absent: N. Berube, I. Black, P. Cohen-Hecht, V. Conroy, J. Hodgson, N.
Kokoruda, C. Kozak, L. Sandiaes, K. Singh, M. Wilcox, V. Wilkinson,
S. Zotto

Others: T. Berrincha (Professional Assistant), A. Davis (Executive Assistant),
J. Johnson (Executive Director)

Members of the Public: M. Drew (Staff Support for A. Ostberg)

1. Call to Order

W. Dyson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

A. Davis read the roll call. Quorum was declared.

3. Introduction of Anne Ostberg (Director, Corporation for National & Community Service, Hartford Office)

Anne Ostberg was introduced to the group as a new commissioner as well as the Director of the (Hartford) Connecticut Office of the Corporation for National & Community Service (Romero Cherry's replacement). Anne gave a brief introduction of herself to the group which included prior employment with the Corporation Headquarters in DC, Pegasus, as well as a temporary and now permanent position with the Corporation in Hartford. She hopes to increase the collaboration between all services and distributed a copy of Connecticut Senior Corps and AmeriCorps Vista Projects. Anne also introduced Marilyn Drew, her support staff person.

4. Approval of September 9, 2009 Minutes

On a motion made by E. Janney and seconded by A. Quiñones, the minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Election of Officers

J. Johnson gave a brief explanation of the election process. There were no nominations from the floor. J. Ciarleglio made a motion to cast one vote from the floor to accept the ballot as presented, A. Quiñones seconded. On a motion made by W. Dyson and seconded by J. Ciarleglio, it was so moved that the nominations be accepted.

6. State Commission Overview – J. Johnson

There is a state commission in every state with the exception of Minnesota. They are all federally mandated entities. People serve on the commission only if they are approved by the governor of the state. There is a need to grow the number of AmeriCorps programs. We currently have only 5 programs and there were 14 in 1998. That is more than a 50% reduction in programs. How do we grow more programs through all Connecticut districts?

How do we see the potential of all AmeriCorps programs? We have put out an RFP (planning grant/capacity building). Jacqui asked the commissioners to send her a list of contacts who they feel would most benefit from the grant to put together a program proposal which includes all the pieces, i.e. staff, funding, program goals, etc. Then when formula time comes around in the spring of 2010, we would be able to help fund them in implementing their proposal.

A discussion ensued regarding engaging the commission to help with AmeriCorps programs. It was suggested that the commission have a "project a year". We have a database of 1,600 entities. We could sort the database geographically and disseminate contacts to the commission. These would be easy calls to make. Growing AmeriCorps programs this year would be an engagement tool for the commission.

Another discussion ensued regarding our mission ("To support a vibrant culture of volunteerism"). There is no support to agencies regarding recruitment and retention of volunteers. There was a discussion about holding a large volunteer management conference or summit. J. Ciarleglio indicated that there is no funding available to hold a conference. We need to engage people in the RFP and grow our portfolio through formula funds. The formula allocation for Connecticut is based on population. A. Quiñones spoke about the Governor's Drop Out Prevention Summit and a discussion ensued on how the commission could tie into that if planning our own "summit". J. Johnson asked that Agnes email her the 23 school districts. Another target for our summit could be the needs of students on campuses. CT Campus Compact could play a role as well in the 23 school districts. There was a discussion about how to leverage and bring together a summit. There should be AmeriCorps involvement. We need to decide what the focus of the summit would be, i.e. bring together folks that impact education (childhood, adult, college prep., training around service learning, high school projects to get credit, literacy volunteers). Since attendance was low, it was decided that a recap email of today's meeting be sent to all commissioners from the chair, Bill Dyson; a "commissioner to do list" be generated; the database be flushed out and sorted; and that the summit should be planned for the beginning of the school year, i.e. first part of September 2010 or early part of October 2010.

7. Meeting Dates for 2010

Please block out 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon on the third Wednesday of each month for 2010. If there is an active project, then more meetings will have to be scheduled.

8. Announcements

- Monday, January 18, 2010 is MLK, Jr. Day. Through the leadership of the State Office, a collaborative effort will be made to involve AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve and Senior Corps in MLK, Jr. Day activities.
- Carolyn Kozak's baby is due Monday, November 9th.
- Rebecca McCue announced that she is pregnant and due in March 2010.

9. Adjournment

On a motion made by W. Dyson and seconded by S. Murdoch, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Davis
Executive Assistant