

CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE
Commission Meeting – 10 a.m.
2009 Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Awards – 11 a.m.
Legislative Office Building, Hartford
Record of Meeting – April 8, 2009

Members Present: J. Barber, I. Black, J. Ciarleglio, W. Dyson, E. Janney, N. Kokoruda, C. Kozak, J. Kristof, R. McCue, M. Meotti, S. Murdoch, A. Quiñones

Members Absent: N. Berube, K. Buesking, P. Cohen-Hecht, V. Conroy, P. Gu, M. Manson, Sr., L. Sandiaes, K. Singh, M. Wilcox, S. Zotto

Others: T. Berrincha (Professional Assistant), J. Blazynski (Program Officer), A. Davis (Executive Assistant), N. DiPietro (Publications Officer), J. Johnson (Executive Director), T. Darden Smith (Training Officer)

1. Call to Order

After a brief overview of the LOB meeting room, W. Dyson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of February 4, 2009

On a motion made by W. Dyson, seconded by A. Quiñones, the minutes of 2/4/09 were approved unanimously.

4. Action Items since February Meeting

➤ *AmeriCorps Stimulus Package*

The AmeriCorps Stimulus Package totaled nearly \$89 million for all AmeriCorps Programs which was provided to State Commissions for currently funded programs only. Currently funded programs have already been through the RFP and peer review process. Stimulus money is to be used immediately. Currently we have 6 funded programs to whom the stimulus money was offered; two are not prepared to expand their programs; three of the 6 (LEAP New Haven, Green Crew Hartford, Hartford AmeriCorps) are the most competitive and are doing quite well. They are more apt to expand programs and members. W. Dyson asked how much of the stimulus money will Connecticut be receiving. J. Johnson stated that it is not a formula, therefore, Connecticut "will get what it gets". The timeframe involved is one year. This would work well with a partnered pilot program. J. Blazynski and T. Darden Smith work very closely with AmeriCorps programs providing technical support. Jaimy spoke about a new alternative high school in Hartford due to begin in September 2009. This is perfect timing with Hartford AmeriCorps stimulus money.

➤ *Edward Kennedy Service America Act*

J. Johnson reported that congress authorized up to three times more program dollars to support AmeriCorps; now it's up to Appropriations to approve. There should be more federal monies available to operate state commissions and expand programs. Staff should be doing outreach to local non-profits, colleges, etc. E. Janney stated that it shouldn't be up to the staff only, that commissioners should be active in outreach as well.

➤ *Community Service Awards 2009*

Over the years, the Community Service Awards have grown from a gathering in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol for about 100 people to last year's 250+ sit-down dinner. Due to the challenging economic times, this year's ceremony will be very low key, held today at the LOB. Each recipient will receive a certificate, a congratulatory letter, and a \$500 donation to the non-profit of their choice. It was noted that hopefully in the future, a large ceremony similar to last years, could be held – it is a noteworthy lesson for students to see their peers receive such an award and their contributions to community service. N. DiPietro stated that responses she received from community service reps were positive, thanking us for still acknowledging them even with our tightened budget.

5. **New Business**

➤ *2009 National Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service-San Francisco-June*
J. Johnson stated that we need to know by April 30th whether or not you are planning on attending the conference. Your RSVP will be your registration. Please plan on attending the dinner on Tuesday evening – you must register for dinner, the cost is \$55. At this point there is a travel limit for 6 commissioners to attend; however, we do have the funds to pay for more. To date, only four commissioners have responded. Travel monies are fed funds and there is a DAS-approved budget line for this conference/travel.

➤ *AmeriCorps Member Recognition Day*

No firm date yet, however, T. Darden Smith is currently working on this. There will be no formal commission business that day.

➤ *2009-2010 AmeriCorps Peer Reviewer Solicitation*

J. Johnson went over the dates – materials handed out at Commission meeting of 6/10, Orientation/Conference Call on 6/11, in-person peer review session on 6/18, and Conference Call/Vote on 6/30. Please email Jaimy Blazynksi (jblazynski@ctdhe.org) if you are interested in serving on the Peer Reviewer Panel.

6. **Announcements**

- J. Kristof suggested the development of a commission service recognition “template” to be used/sent to local newspapers.
- J. Johnson thanked those who were able to contact their legislator. J. Courtney's office was inundated with phone calls – speaking points are available from commission.
- W. Dyson took a moment to acknowledge the visible absence of R. Cherry – our thoughts and prayers go out to him. J. Johnson has a new address for him and will provide it to commissioners.

7. **Adjournment**

On a motion made by W. Dyson and seconded by J. Kristof, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Davis

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Executive Assistant