

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**Record of Meeting – November 16, 2010**  
**Hartford, CT**

**Members Present:** N. Berube, D. Briggs, J. Ciarleglio, V. Conroy, W. Dyson, J. Hodgson, C. Kozak, A. Ostberg, A. Quiñones, L. Sandiaes, K.J. Singh, M. Wilcox, J. Zwang

**Members Absent:** J. Barber, I. Black, E. Janney, M. Manson, Jr., S. Murdoch, S. Zotto

**Others:** A. Davis (Executive Assistant), J. Johnson (Executive Director), S. Levy (Inclusion Officer)

**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. Approval of September 21, 2010 Minutes**

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

**4. State Office Report – Anne Ostberg, State Director**

A. Ostberg distributed copies of the September/October AmeriCorps/VISTA reports. Concept papers were accepted – New program in New Haven for Title 1 underperforming schools and homeless vet's issues. There are VISTA slots available 14 are managed by the state office and 5 by the national office. There will be outreach to the newly elected officials. Patrick Corvington, CEO for the Corporation, was scheduled to visit New Haven but his visit is currently on hold. If you are interested in participating in any of the Martin Luther King Day of Service webinars, contact A. Ostberg.

**5. Learn & Serve K-12 Report – Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Program Manager**

The 5 sub-grantees (communities of Norwalk, New London, Stamford, New Haven, and Windham) are all up and running. There are Martin Luther King Day plans. There is plenty of excitement as the number of community partners (service learning) is increasing and they are being kept engaged. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding will be beginning. Service learning needs to be brought to the 23 districts with the highest drop-out rates. W. Dyson stated that it is important that we all have awareness about what is going on in different places regarding MLK Day. As an example, the Peabody Museum in New Haven has a 2 day activity.

**6. State Commission Staff Report – Jacqueline Johnson, Executive Director**

We've been busy flushing out the Commission's staff. The newest staff member, Shaun Levy, was introduced as the new Inclusion Officer. Shaun is busy learning disability awareness so that programs will be made aware how to recruit folks with disabilities. Shaun is learning about AmeriCorps, programs we serve, etc. Shaun will be attending a conference in December to meet colleagues and peers.

Shaun introduced himself to the group, stating he is a 2008 graduate of UConn specializing in Urban Study/Sociology. J. Johnson continued to report that the commission met new staff member Jill Bassett (Training Officer) at the last meeting. Shayla Williams (Program Officer) is also a new staff member who comes to us from the City of Hartford, Mayor's office and is a Williams College grad. We are currently well staffed – no vacancies.

The info session for the 2011-12 RFP process is done, the performance measurement workshop is done, and the performance measurement modules are due today, 11/16. The applications are due on 12/16. Jaimy Blazynski is working on that. We are currently looking for 5 people to be peer reviewers – will review all apps for competitive and formula funding. There will be an orientation conference call on 12/22. The peer review, which is ranking and scoring as a group, will take place at the Department of Higher Education on January 13, 2011. At the Tuesday, January 18, 2011 commission meeting, which will be held via conference call at 10:00, questions can be addressed and the voting will take place. Proposals are due to be submitted on January 25, 2011, but we submit early. In the spring we will handle the formula funding was the competitive round is done. There will be no planning grant money for the coming year.

We are currently in the midst of a federal Office of Inspector General audit. We were “up for review” and it is an intense audit. The office is based in Virginia and some of the audit is done electronically. The auditors will physically come to the Department of Higher Education on November 29<sup>th</sup> for one week. They will be looking at two sub grantees – ASPIRA and AmeriCorps OPP, which are two of our strongest programs. The goal is to wrap-up by the first of the year which will also be in the midst of the Governor transition.

W. Dyson spoke a bit about the Governor transition. Don't make assumptions that the new administration knows who we are and what we do. AmeriCorps may not be on their agenda. A discussion ensued. Historically speaking, Dodd and DeLauro were helpful. We have a role to play – those things that aren't known are the first to die. We must pursue line of relationship not party. D. Briggs stated that R. Blumenthal, as the Attorney General, was well aware of AmeriCorps. J. Ciarleglio stated that we have a long-standing relationship with the incoming administration. A. Ostberg stated that R. Blumenthal also has VISTA awareness. She also stated that the Corporation's Government Relations Department sent out basic information packets as well as transition info prepared for the transition team. J. Johnson will send out talking points to the commission members. KJ Singh stated that his term expires in January 2011, will he be receiving notification? V. Conroy stated she already received hers. Serve until you receive your notice or otherwise.

There will be no funding for the commission under the Social Innovation Fund. Anne Ostberg reported that sub grants are available to allow for new groups to come on board that have no exposure to AmeriCorps/National Service.

## **7. Committee Reports – Communications – Valerie Conroy**

Valerie Conroy presented on behalf of her and Joyce Hodgson. How does one create passion and interest to the Commissioners? Valerie presented Project 2 – create and train folks on our “elevator speech”.

Project 1 – to work more with colleges and universities, to converse more w/Saul Peterson, the President of CT College Compact, to make us more of a vital piece. W. Dyson stated that someone would have to go to campuses to make a pitch for funding for activities that they think we already do. CCSU is currently working on a civic engagement plan. J. Johnson stated that we were a funder of the CT Campus Compact. It was a natural fit – funding compact to increase programs for service. It is currently being run at Fairfield University with Dr. Saul Peterson replacing Ann Watkins. There are membership dues involved – college presidents are the members. We are no longer a funder of campus compact, which we funded for 3 years. Project 1 is an underscore to our prior involvement. How do we put action steps around our intent? The “elevator speech” we can begin and then perhaps talk to Saul about campus compact and how we can be of help as a commission. Valerie suggested that perhaps we bring together Saul Peterson, CAS, libraries; convene to meet to discuss how to promote public service and bring awareness. C. Kozak commented that the “elevator speech” is critical. We’ve been talking about this for a long time. J. Johnson asked how about if we host a luncheon...funding besides Higher Education institutions and AmeriCorps programs – how can we compliment them and vice versa? Let’s try to find new ways to cover resources, having volunteers fill the holes that exist in non-profit organizations. Valerie made a motion to accept the proposal of the “elevator speech”. On a motion made by Joyce and seconded by Virginia Wilkinson, Project 2 (“elevator speech”) was accepted. It was stated that Project 2 be amended to be new Project 1.5. Project 1.5 is the creation and implementation of the “elevator speech” and Project 1 remains Project 1. No more Project 2. Valerie asked for volunteer commission members to be involved in the “elevator speech” project as well as serve on the Communications Committee – those who volunteered in addition to Valerie and Joyce are: Bill Dyson, Virginia Wilkinson, Agnes Quiñones, Carolyn Kozak, Jason Zwang, and Anne Ostberg. Thank you and Valerie will be in touch with all.

### 8. 2011 Meeting Dates (Proposed)

Our challenge being making quorum, we propose that two of our 5 meetings be held via conference call.

January 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Conference Call (vote on proposals)
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Conference Call w/a fuller agenda
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 p.m.	Meeting & Community Service Awards–Location to be determined
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Department of Higher Education
November 15 <sup>th</sup>		AmeriCorps Launch (exposure to programs)

On a motion made by V. Conroy and seconded by J. Hodgson, the proposed meeting dates have been approved and accepted.

The November 2011 AmeriCorps Launch will be a much bigger event than prior years. There will be workshops in the morning, swearing in, lunch, speaker, workshops in the p.m. – closing. Perhaps Senator-elect Blumenthal could be invited to the event, perhaps other senators and congressmen.

### 9. Announcements

Nicole Berube announced that sub grantees from UConn Extension Service will be working with City Seed/Hunger CT. They are a potential national serve direct to possibly be funded by AmeriCorps.

M. Wilcox introduced her guest, Miss Renee Hamill, who is her new .

J. Johnson announced the resignation of Noreen Kokoruda.

**10. Adjournment**

On a motion made by J. Hodgson and seconded by W. Dyson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Annie Davis*  
Executive Assistant

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