

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
**Record of Meeting – March 17, 2010**  
**Hartford, CT**

**Members Present:** J. Barber, N. Berube, I. Black, J. Ciarleglio, P. Cohen-Hecht, V. Conroy, W. Dyson, J. Hodgson, E. Janney, N. Kokoruda, M. Manson, Sr., A. Ostberg, L. Sandiaes, M. Wilcox

**Members Absent:** C. Kozak, R. McCue, S. Murdoch, A. Quiñones, K.J. Singh, V. Wilkinson, S. Zotto

**Others:** J. Blazynski (Program Officer), 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 10:11 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. Approval of November 4, 2009 Minutes**

On a motion made by E. Janney and seconded by J. Hodgson, the minutes were approved with one abstention from voting for approval.

**4. Executive Committee Report – W. Dyson, Chair**

W. Dyson addressed the issue of the cancellation of the past two commission meetings.

There was a conference call held between the Officers of the Commission. It was decided to alter the current meeting schedule. The officers propose changing the meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every other month. The next meeting would be Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. (same location – DHE – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room). The 2010 schedule would continue with meeting dates as follows: May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and January 18, 2011. On a motion made by W. Dyson and seconded by E. Janney, the new schedule of meetings was accepted; all were in favor. The new meeting schedule is adopted.

**5. State Office Report – A. Ostberg, State Director**

Anne Ostberg reintroduced herself to the group.

In the process of reviewing new VISTA project applications. It is hopeful that the programs chosen as new VISTA projects will be announced at the next commission meeting. Out of 12 applications, 8 have been approved thus far. The goal for the end of the summer is to have 30 VISTA programs. The goal is to expand geographical outreach. At the end of March, the applications will be approved.

**6. Learn & Serve K-12 Report – Dr. A. Quiñones, Program Manager**

A. Quiñones not in attendance – Agenda item tabled until next meeting.

**7. State Commission Staff Update – J. Johnson**

In the future, the Commission agenda will reflect a report from three (3) National Service program offices: AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve and Senior Corps. For information about the definition and structure of national service programs, go to [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov). In addition, in an email sent to the commissioners, there was a link which will provide commissioners with the tools to orient and refresh themselves to better understand national service. Jacqui will resend the link.

*Update since the last meeting in November* – Competitive grant proposals were submitted for review on January 25<sup>th</sup>. By May 28<sup>th</sup>, we will know what programs were selected.

The AmeriCorps formula grant proposals process has just begun. Submissions are due later in the spring. There was a technical assistance workshop held on March 11<sup>th</sup> which was very well received; well attended.

There is \$150,000 in state money available for organizations who are thinking of applying for an AmeriCorps grant in the future. The planning grant would give them 9-10 months to prepare and be ready to submit, next Spring. Many of the organizations that received the information about the planning grant opportunity, were contacts submitted by Commissioners. E. Janney said that a phone call should be placed to these groups from a commissioner acknowledging their interest.

*Open Positions* - J. Johnson announced that we currently have two positions open – Training Officer and Inclusion (Disabilities) Officer. The Training Officer position has been advertised and we have received 62 resumes, 11 candidates have been chosen for interviews. Once the Training Officer position is filled, we will then post the Inclusion Officer position. Please let J. Johnson know if you have any candidates in mind.

**8. Review/Discussion of Commission Priorities for 2010**

~ Grow AmeriCorps program portfolio (discussed above)

~ Convene conversations that address the drop out rate of high school students. E. Janney stated that the commission tackles one project per year, this year being the drop out rate of high school students. We will go by the 23 school districts as deemed priority by the State Department of Education. We could tie in service learning to engage youth. E. Janney reiterated that the commissioners need something to do that is relevant. W. Dyson reported that CCSU got together with 14 other college campuses – there is a reservoir of young people, who, if given direction, have a lot of energy to put towards a project – they need an entity to bring them together.

J. Johnson reiterated to the group that we do have a relationship with CT Campus Compact. P. Cohen-Hecht suggested that we include the volunteer centers in the community that the college is in. We should try to connect all these aspects together. What about a symposium connecting youth to service-learning for a day of collaboration/cooperation between all resources that are volunteer oriented? J. Johnson stated that we must define the who/what/why and that A. Quiñones is key to this. W. Dyson mentioned that CCSU wants to issue a degree (minor) in community service involvement. A discussion ensued regarding the commission being a convener. Commissioners should be liaisons to colleges and high schools in specific regions. In the 23 “priority” school districts, we should match the colleges to volunteer resources to a commissioner.

Should we partner with CCSU in the fall? Should we get on agendas? Who would be interested in serving on a subcommittee to put together information for the next commission meeting in May? W. Dyson offered to take the lead role. J. Johnson will email the commission which will include who signed up for this initiative as well as a list of CT College Compact participants. E. Janney and N. Kokoruda volunteered to develop a letter for CT College Compact, as well as a phone contact list. The letter would go to the college president with a copy to the community service coordinator and Anne Watkins (Executive Director of CT Campus Compact; housed at Fairfield University).

**9. Announcements**

Nothing to report.

**10. Adjournment**

On a motion made by W. Dyson and seconded by N. Kokoruda, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Annie Davis*  
Executive Assistant