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Missouri Community Service Commission

Quarterly Commission Meeting
9am – 12pm, December 11, 2020

MINUTES

Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC)

December 11th, 2020 Quarterly Commission Meeting

9:00 a.m. CST

1. Call to Order
 - a. Albright called the meeting to order at 9:00am
2. Roll Call
 - a. **Commissioners** Chair John Albright, Nina North Murphy, Russ Unger, Cheryl Hibbler, Cindy Heislen, Forrest Miller, Jr.
 - b. **Staff Present** - Scott McFarland, Christine Gardner, Christina Johnson, Kristen Schaben, Lori Williams
 - c. **Public Present** – Michael Lanahan (DED), Jamie Crispin- (CNCS), Megan Hess (PAVE AmeriCorps)
3. Commission Chair Report
 - a. Albright provided the report. Gave special gratitude to staff for leadership and work assignments and COVID challenges and BCS SBG review process and greatly appreciate their service. Thanked Commissioner Cheryl Hibbler, who will be resigning December 31st, 2020, for her service.
 - b. Commission bylaws' state there should be 15 commissioners, but we only have 4 strong as of now. Following up with Governor's office regarding appointments.
 - c. New changes coming from AmeriCorps.
4. Executive Director Report
 - a. McFarland provided the report. Presented his 30-60-90 plan for the Commission. Will be reaching out to other National Service programs to build partnerships.
 - b. MLK Day—asked John to reach out for assistance with space in the STL area for Panera Bread
 - c. Appointments - Scheduled meeting on December 21st with the Governor's Office to request new appointments. The top priority will be inclusion.
 - d. Federal Update - Increases coming to the state and commission based on FY21 federal appropriations. Staff is working on updating the budgets.



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- e. VGF –grant application coming up and Missouri will apply for this fund to expand volunteerism efforts
- f. CORPS Act- \$16 billion dollars bill that would increase AmeriCorps Members from 75,000 to 250,000. It would double the education award and increase the living stipend.
- g. Wizehive Grant System Update – The Commission is in the process of ending development of the grant system. Due to delays in development, the Commission will not be moving forward with utilizing the system.

5. DED Report

- a. Lanahan provided the report. DED is taking a major role in supporting COVID response through economic recovery (CARES ACT). The Act includes \$100 million to new programs, small business, nonprofit, family owned farms, local government, etc. The agency has processed over 1,000 approved applications. He recognized Commission staff for supporting this effort and noted that DED is in full telework status.

6. CNCS Report

- a. Crispin provided the report. The Regional office has 16 staff based in Kansas City that support 8 states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Michigan, Indiana, and Kansas
- b. She anticipates the Volunteer Generation Fund NOFO coming out in December
- c. The office is utilizing VISTA funds to support areas of Missouri with high poverty.
- d. CNCS is rebranding and will be known as AmeriCorps rather than the Corporation. Senior Corps will be known as AmeriCorps Seniors.

7. AmeriCorps Updates

- a. Gardner provided the report and highlighted alternative AmeriCorps service during COVID-19 as well as the continuing 2021-22 application process.

8. Strategic Planning Discussion

- a. McFarland discussed the development of a 2021-2023 State Service Plan with the Commission. He intends to start meeting about this in the spring.

9. Old Business

- a. None

10. New Business

- a. Albright state that the Commission is taking on several legislative initiatives including the removal of the state tax from the AmeriCorps Education Award and living stipend. Also working to provide in-state tuition to those who have served and working to provide college credit for previous service.



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- b. McFarland noted that the Commission will be utilizing Basecamp to communicate with Commissioners moving forward. All the Commissioners have been added to the platform.
- c. Albright discussed how AmeriCorps could engage in supporting climate change response efforts. Potentially working with DNR on a project.
- d. McFarland noted that starting next year the Commission will be starting a Volunteer of the Week program. Asked Commissioners to submit nominees.

11. Election of Chair

- a. Murphy nominated Albright. Unger seconded.
- b. There being no further nominations, Albright was approved via acclamation.

12. Election of Vice Chair

- a. Albright nominated Murphy. Unger seconded.
- b. There being no further nominations, Murphy was approved via acclamation.

13. Public Comment

- a. Hees thanked the Commission for its support of her program.

14. Adjourn

- a. Albright adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.