

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Olsen Billings called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chair Olsen Billings, Danette Rector, Wendy Nicolai, Chantel Schieffer, Barbara Braided Hair, Holter Bailey, Charles Wetherington, Sandra Boham</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> Vice Chair Myhre, Julie Seedhouse, Doug Mitchell, Jim Larson, Heather Margolis, Sandra Boham, Jackie Girard</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS- Dan Ritter, Sarah Sadowski, Marissa Perry, Sunni Hitchcock, Betsy Miller, <i>Energy Corps</i>- Kaleena Miller, <i>Justice for Montanans</i>- Alison Paul, Casey Valencia, <i>PRC VISTA</i>- Victoria Green, <i>CNCS</i>- Anna Yeagle, <i>No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps</i>- Linda Cleatus</p>	
b. <a href="#">Approval of March 19, 2016 Minutes</a>	Commissioner Olsen Billings moved to approve the minutes, the motion carried by acclamation.	<i>March 9, 2016 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Director Dan Ritter made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Ritter is working with the Governor's Office to fill a number of upcoming commission vacancies, appointments will be made in the coming months.</li> <li>• The AmeriCorps competitive funding announcement is still under embargo. Once the embargo is lifted, OCS will be making a public announcement of funding results.</li> <li>• CNCS is currently undergoing budget discussions and markup on Capitol Hill. In committee, \$65 million was cut in requested funds, mostly impacting the Social Innovation Fund. Funding has remained flat for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, but Director Ritter noted that it is still early in the budget process.</li> </ul>	

<p>II. Commissioner Reports and Updates</p>		
<p>a. Commissioners' recent volunteer engagements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Rector attended the Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps Orientation on June 1 in Missoula and conducted the AmeriCorps Pledge. She noted that she was excited to see a program at Montana college campuses again and that it was an honor to administer the Pledge to the new members.</li> </ul>	
<p>III. Governor's Office of Community Service Updates</p>		
<p>a. ServeMontana</p>	<p>Marissa Perry provided the following updates on ServeMontana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCS, MTCC, and the Student Assistance Foundation recently awarded 100 Youth Serve Montana Scholarships to high school seniors who volunteered 100 hours or more in the past year. These students will receive the \$1,000 scholarship to use at an institution in-state beginning fall 2016.</li> <li>• Fight Childhood Hunger Week and Global Youth Service Day from April 11-17, 2016 was another huge success. The 20-member Governor and First Lady led a total of 30 projects in 16 communities across the state to help mitigate childhood hunger. Additionally, the students raised \$17,879 to benefit local community and hunger relief organizations, educated 3,000 kids about the issue of childhood hunger, started 2 new weekend backpack programs, and engaged 680 youth volunteers in service for over 2,748 hours!</li> </ul>	
<p>b. ReadyMontana</p>	<p>Betsy Miller provided the following updates on ReadyMontana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montana AmeriCorps members participated in the Whole Community Disaster Simulation during the March ServeSymposium. In May Betsy traveled to Nebraska to lead the Whole Community Disaster Simulation with AmeriCorps members in that state, and in the coming months, she has plans to travel to other states in the FEMA region, such as Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado, to train on the Simulation.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildfire Awareness Month wrapped up in May. OCS teamed up with DNRC and DES again this year to issue a multi-state proclamation, as well as to support community events to increase preparedness for wildfires.</li> <li>• ReadyMontana received two grant awards from the Department of Homeland Security. OCS will be working with DES to determine which of the grants to accept in full and the best path forward.</li> </ul>	
<p>c. <a href="#">National Service Accommodations Assessment</a></p>	<p>Betsy Miller presented the National Service Accommodation Assessment which is used to annually assess the disability inclusion efforts of Montana national service programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most recent data is posted on <a href="http://serve.mt.gov">serve.mt.gov</a>.</li> <li>• The survey was updated to an online format this year and the boxes to check that list a selection of disabilities was eliminated, which may have altered the response from previous years. This year, only 5% disclosed a disability, whereas in the past, that number was closer to 25-30%.</li> <li>• Chair Olsen Billings suggested to reincorporate a list of disabilities, noting that for those with disabilities it is easier to identify to something specific.</li> </ul>	
<p>d. AmeriCorps</p>	<p>Sarah Sadowski provided the following updates on AmeriCorps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2016 ServeMontana Symposium was a wild success!</li> <li>• In April Sarah and Sunni attended the <a href="#">CNCS Pacific Cluster Conference</a> in Reno, with staff from other commissions and AmeriCorps programs.</li> <li>• Sarah and Sunni conducted a compliance monitoring visit for Montana No Kid Hungry.</li> <li>• Sarah and Sunni conducted Montana Campus Compact's first time compliance monitoring visit.</li> <li>• OCS submitted an application to CNCS to receive Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) dollars.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OCS is in preparation for an on-site monitoring visit from CNCS which will occur the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>. Four of our eight programs have been selected for file reviews, and two of those will be involved in the onsite portion of the visit.</li> </ul>	
e. Financial	<p>Sunni Hitchcock provided the following financial updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested \$50,000 supplemental funds from CNCS, no response as of today.</li> <li>Submitted application Training &amp; Technical Assistance (TTA) of \$90,090; currently in clarification process.</li> <li>Have not received notification, but received unofficial notice that OCS has been approved for both EMPG &amp; HSPG funds. May need to discuss the use of both, as they are similar in nature for activities, available Oct.</li> <li>AmeriCorps Funding Formula \$654,123 &amp; Competitive \$0.00 (Embargoed)</li> <li>In the early stages of preparing the fiscal budget for FY17-FY18, as well as closing out the FY16 budget</li> </ul>	
III. CNCS State Office Update	<p>Anna Yeagle provided the following CNCS updates on behalf of Jackie Girard, CNCS Montana CEO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently in the process of transitioning VISTA members with a number of close of service events in July, as well as recruiting for 40-50 full time VISTA's to begin service on July 25.</li> <li>Victoria Green, PRC VISTA Leader, offered an open invitation to Commissioners to attend the close of service presentations on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am.</li> <li>Amy Dailey, CNCS Area Manager, will be visiting Montana during the week of Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. This visit coincides with the next Commission meeting where Amy will be in attendance and is interested in learning more about AmeriCorps State programs in Montana, implementing service initiatives and how CNCS can support our mission.</li> <li>Senior Corps directors will convene in Helena for annual training and technical assistance on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (tentative). This is a great opportunity for Commissioners to learn more about Senior Corps in Montana. At the 2015 annual meeting, OCS staff provided brief information to</li> </ul>	

	<p>the directors. Anna expressed that some Senior Corps Directors are willing to present information at a Commission meeting.</p>	
<p>V. FY 2016 AmeriCorps State Formula Funding</p>		
<p>a. Applicant Descriptions</p>	<p>Commissioner Schieffer provided the formula applicant descriptions and funding recommendation:</p> <p><i>Continuation Grants-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Center for Appropriate Technology requests 12 AmeriCorps members to provide weatherization services to low-income Montanans, and to design and conduct educational activities in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices.</li> <li>• Montana Campus Compact requests to place at least 40 AmeriCorps members who will coach low-income and first generation Montanans in financing, applying for, and being successful in college.</li> <li>• Montana No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps requests 6 AmeriCorps members who will connect to kids to healthy food through improving food access, improving nutrition education and food skills, and raising awareness through youth engagement.</li> </ul> <p><i>Planning Grants-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richland County Health Department proposes to plan a program to engage AmeriCorps members to meet health needs in frontier Richland County and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• Rural Dynamics, Inc. proposes to assess the mechanics of using AmeriCorps State members to help expand its Tax Help Montana program across Indian Country and the state.</li> <li>• 100 Fold Studios proposes to evaluate and develop a program to enable nonprofits in Flathead and Lake</li> </ul>	

	Counties to access state-of-the-art architectural services through AmeriCorps members.	
b. 2016 Formula Funding Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Schieffer and Sarah Sadowski provided the funding recommendation for the 2016 formula funding applicants: National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Energy Corps - \$161,664.00 Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps - \$250,000 DPHHS's No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps - \$66,250.00 Richland County Health Department - \$70,625.00 Rural Dynamics, Inc. - \$65,033.00 100 Fold Studios - \$40,551.00</li> </ul>	
c. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Olsen Billings thanked everyone for the work on the Formula Grant Review Workgroup for taking the time to review the applications and determine the best use of funding for the state of Montana.</li> <li>Commissioner Schieffer encouraged more commissioners to engage in the grant review process, noting it as a very important role for Commissioners to play.</li> <li>Director Ritter emphasized that grant review is the most important work that Commissioners can engage in while serving on the Commission, and that it is in our hands to build up programs that can eventually compete on the national level.</li> </ul>	
d. Action Item: Formula Funding Recommendations	<p>Commissioner Schieffer moved to accept Formula grant funding with funding distributed as follows: NCAT's Energy Corps - \$161,664.00 Montana Campus Compact - \$250,000 DPHHS's No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps - \$66,250.00 Richland County Health Department - \$70,625.00 Rural Dynamics, Inc. - \$65,033.00 100 Fold Studios - \$40,551.00</p> <p>Commissioner Wetherington seconded, the motion carried and the Formula Funding Recommendation was approved.</p>	<i>Formula Funding Recommendation Approved</i>

IX. AmeriCorps Program Presentations	<p>Over the coming year, each Commission meeting will host a current AmeriCorps program presentation. This is the first of those presentations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casey Valencia, Program Coordinator for Montana Legal Services Association's (MLSA) Justice for Montanans Project provided a program presentation.</li> <li>• Kaleena Miller, Program Coordinator for National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)'s Montana Energy Corps provided a program presentation.</li> </ul> <p>At the October meeting, Montana Conservation Corps and MCC's Big Sky Watershed Corps are scheduled to present.</p>	Presentations are posted online under Commission materials for this meeting.
X. Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Green, PRC VISTA Leader, announcement that they are currently in the process of recruiting AmeriCorps VISTA members to being serving in July for a year-long term. She encouraged commissioners to share the opportunity with anyone they know who may be interested.</li> </ul>	
XI. Adjourn	<p>The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.</p> <p><i>The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 6, 2016</i></p>	

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