

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Karin Olsen Billings called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chair Karin Olsen Billings, Vice Chair Adam Vauthier, Bob Nystuen, Chantel Schieffer, heather Margolis, Jack Chambers, Jackie Girard, James Corson, Kevin Myhre, Nancy Matheson, Wendy Nicolai</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> David Van Son, Dustin Whitford, Erica McKay, Jim Larson,</p> <p><u>Commission Member Resigned:</u> Scott Smith, has submitted his resignation to the Governor’s Office</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS- Dan Ritter, Jim Auer, Katie Gallagher, Marissa Perry, Sunni Hitchcock CNCS - Amy Busch, <i>RSVP</i>– Butch Baldwin, Colleen Baldwin, <i>FoodCorps Montana</i> - Nancy Moore, Kirsten Gerbatsch, <i>MTCC VISTA</i> – Lori Clark</p>	
b. December 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes	Commissioner Nystuen moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Nicolai seconded, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.	<i>December 16, 2013 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Chair Olsen Billings made the following announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced the resignation of Commissioner Smith and read his resignation letter. • Welcomed the new OCS Finance Manager, Sunni Hitchcock • Invited Commissioners to participate in the Symposium service projects and the governor’s address in the Capitol Rotunda that afternoon. She also invited Commissioners to attend the other keynotes and speakers of the Symposium. She thanked Commissioner Margolis and Commission Nystuen for providing presentations at the Symposium. • Thanked the Commissioners who served on the 	

	<p>sponsorship workgroup and raised \$12,000 to help fund the ServeMontana Awards and Symposium.</p>	
<p>II. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates</p>		
<p>a. Federal Update</p>	<p>Dan Ritter provided an update on the AmeriCorps budget proposed at the federal level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President’s Budget requests \$1.05 billion for CNCS and its programs, which is slightly above the FY 2014 enacted level. • The Budget funds a record 114,000 AmeriCorps members and includes an estimated 75,000 AmeriCorps State and National members (an increase of 4,000 over this year), 7,800 AmeriCorps VISTA members, 1,200 AmeriCorps NCCC members, and 30,000 members who would transition from the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs. • The Budget includes a proposal to reorganize Senior Corps programs, by transitioning the existing Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Program models into AmeriCorps; Foster Grandparents will become AmeriCorps Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions will become AmeriCorps Senior Companions. • Under this proposal, participants would be eligible to receive, for the first time, a new type of Segal AmeriCorps education award. AmeriCorps Foster Grandparents and AmeriCorps Senior Companions could use the award themselves, or give it to their children, grandchildren, or (for Foster Grandparents) the children they have mentored through their service. This award is also more flexible, and could be used to pay for educational and enrichment programming, like afterschool programs or summer camps for family 	

	members. The Budget also proposes to integrate the most competitive RSVP projects into the Volunteer Generation Fund.	
b. Communications Update	<p>Marissa Perry provided an update on communication and outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marissa asked Commissioners to share information on the Youth Serve Montana Scholarships of \$1,000 for high school seniors who volunteer 100 hours or more. The deadline for the application in April 15th and OCS is hoping to receive over 100 scholarships. • OCS provided mini-grants to 15 organizations around the state to help fund youth-led projects on or around Global Youth Service Day from April 11-13. Marissa invited Commissioners to find a project in their area and help with the activity. 	
c. Financial Update	<p>Sunni Hitchcock provided an update on OCS financials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received an expansion in Administrative grant of \$50,000 bringing total award to \$250,000; which will increase match requirement by \$50,000 - seeking scholarships and in-kind match donations to help with meeting requirement. Currently working on the budget amendment for additional funding. • Received EMPG grant award from the Dept of Military Affairs –in the process of getting spending authority from the Governor’s Office. Contrary to what our office was originally told, there will be a match requirement of 1:1 for those funds. The award amount \$132,989 with the match requirement being same dollar amount • Formula grants maintained an award of \$600,000 	
d. AmeriCorps Update	<p>Jim Auer provided the following AmeriCorps updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last grant year was the first in recent history that AmeriCorps programs enrolled 100% of awarded slots. This shows a good investment made by the commission in these programs. • The 2012 grant year was the first without the Montana 	

	<p>Campus Corps program. As a result there were significantly fewer applications and positions for AmeriCorps members to serve in the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs retained over 90% of their members last year which indicates that they are drawing quality applicants and doing well managing members. • Programs engaged 3,000 fewer volunteers than the previous year, again a result of the Campus Corps program ending. • Commission members were referred to a handout listing national AmeriCorps programs applying to serve in the state. Programs applying are Student Conservation Association, Compact Service Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Catholic Volunteer Network and FoodCorps. All have served in the state previously. • Competitive Grant applications are currently under review at CNCS. Clarification was requested for MCC. • The Formula Grant RFP will be posted in early April. We are running this RFP through the Department of Administration as a means of reducing liability on our part. • We will call for grant reviewers at the end of the meeting. 	
<p>e. Ready Montana Update</p>	<p>Katie Gallagher provided an update on ReadyMontana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to share information about volunteers and shelter operations as well as the hazard, mainly on social media with the current flooding situation in Montana. Working with the Red Cross, State DES, NWS, and others. • Preparedness by PowerPoint is not working as a strategy to engage others in emergency preparedness. As an attempt to work outside the box, the Symposium will host the Whole Community Disaster Simulation, a hands-on experience to highlight the importance of preparing ahead of time and provide information on the roles that community members, agencies, and 	

	<p>organization assume following a major disaster.</p> <p>WinterReady Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two WinterReady projects completed for the second year in a row with Senior Corps Senior Companions Program. This year we worked again with Action for Eastern Montana and Missoula Aging Services. Together, they provided approximately 300 emergency supply kits to homebound, disabled seniors.• This year, Action for Eastern Montana partnered with the Ft. Peck tribe elder services. By working with the elder services agencies, they were able to provide the bags to the most isolated, needy elders on the Ft. Peck reservation. Action for Eastern Montana made sure that the nice NOAA weather radios were distributed to elders that live outside of reach of telephone service and ambulance services.• Missoula Aging Services this year engaged their Veteran's Task force to compile the kits, and distributed the kits to partners associated with Missoula Aging Services Respite Care, Veteran-Directed home and Community Based Services Program, Partners in Home Care, Summit Independent Living Center.• Huge thanks to Culligan Water, FEMA, Missoula Ace Hardware, Johnsons Hardware in Sidney, Lowes of Helena, and the Helena Home Depot for their contributions and discounts!• OCS is making progress on our new partnership with Dept. of Public Health and Human Services and our involvement in Emergency Support Function (ESF #6) as a partnership to help the state coordinate volunteers and donations during times of disaster. We are also putting together plans to develop a website based off of successful websites in Colorado and other states to encourage volunteerism in disaster services organizations and inform the public about responsible volunteerism and donating.• Beginning stages of planning for the 2014 Wildfire	
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	<p>Awareness Week that will be held June 2-8, 2014 in Montana. Tentatively scheduled to have a press conference and kickoff event at the capitol following the Governor's first fire briefing. Last year, this was a successful way to garner statewide media. The goal is to bring awareness to the importance of wildfire prevention, family preparation, and home and property mitigation. Key partners include Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation Fire and Aviation, FireSafe Montana, a statewide nonprofit, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, American Red Cross of Montana, and more.</p>	
<p>III. Senior Corps Update</p>	<p>Colleen Baldwin Montana Association of Senior Corps Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the history and present state of Senior Corps programs in the State • Senior Corps PowerPoint Presentation • Senior Corps Snapshot • With members of the commission discussed the implications of the Presidents proposed budget on Senior Corps programs. • Introduced Senior Corps volunteers who discussed their service through the program. 	
<p>V. CNCS State Office Update</p>	<p>Commissioner Girard provided the following updates for the Montana CNCS office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 1, 2014 Mayors will highlight the impact of National Service in their cities and thank the individuals who serve during the first Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. 21 Montana Mayors have joined this initiative so far and Montana CNCS has sent a reminder to those who have not yet joined. Commissioner Girard requested the assistance of fellow commission members to recruit the mayors of their home communities. She also thanked Commissioner Myhre for his support in Lewistown. The day of recognition is for all streams of national service. • Senior Corps Directors also held a meeting in Helena 	

	<p>that included the new Senior Corps program with the Richland County Public Health Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 new VISTA summer associates will begin their term of service on June 2nd to provide direct service to existing programs with special focus on expanding summer food service programs and accounting for the summer loss in education. • The VISTA pre-service orientation will take place on July 15th with a swearing-in ceremony on July 17th. Commissioners are invited to attend the swearing-in. 	
VI. Commissioner Reports and Updates		
a. Commissioners' recent volunteer engagements	<i>Commissioners were asked to skip any non-pressing reports and updates due to meeting time constraints.</i>	
VII. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th. The meeting will likely be held in Helena with an option for Commissioners unable to attend to dial in on the conference call number. • Commissioner Olsen Billings called for volunteers by hand for the Formula Grant Review Workgroup: Commissioner Margolis, Commissioner Schieffer, Commissioner Nicolai, Commissioner Chambers, Commissioner Myhre (alt.) • Commission Matheson motioned to put together a workgroup to discuss and make a proposal on the Senior Corps funding changes outlined in the President's budget. Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion. • Commissioner Myhre amended Commissioner Matheson's motion to oppose cuts to Senior Corps outlined in the President's budget and work to actively put together a proposal to send to CNCS. Commissioner Chambers seconded the motion, the motion carried and the workgroup was approved. • Commissioner Margolis made a point of clarification that there are 4 issues at the table of rebranding, actual cuts, President's proposal to move Senior Corps to AmeriCorps, and that the workgroup should not confuse or blend the issues, and keep the proposal focused on the actual cuts. 	<i>Workgroup created to oppose Senior Corps cuts outlined in President's budget and send proposal to CNCS outlining opposition.</i>
VIII. Public Comment	<p>Nancy Moore from Montana FoodCorps AmeriCorps provided a short handout and update on member locations in 10 areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 2012-2013 program year, Montana 	

	FoodCorps' 10 members worked with 47 schools that served 19,217 students across the state.	
IX. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm	

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