

Montana Commission on Community Service Meeting  
October 4, 2010

## Commissioner's Strategic Planning Update

*The February 12, 2010 Montana Commission on Community Service meeting focused on strategic planning. Facilitator, Ned Cooney, led the meeting with assistance from Bill Basl, Executive Director of the Washington State Commission on Community Service. Excerpted from the meeting summary, the following table provides an update on the Commissioner's articulated key tasks and improvements. In addition, many recommendations from the four (4) breakout group discussions were integrated into the State Service Plan's work plan to expand and promote national service and volunteer opportunities in Montana.*

Tasks and Potential Improvements to Consider (Planning Meeting February 2010)	Status	Completed
1. Explore connection with Pioneer Baseball Leagues to promote service and volunteerism (following the Seattle Mariners model), Sheila Rice will connect with the Great Falls team. Bill Basl will connect staff with the League Commissioner	Baseball: Partnered with Pioneer League in Helena, Missoula and Billings  Football: Partnered with UM and MSU for season	
2. Consider a legislative or policy change to allow volunteerism in lieu of job seeking for people receiving Unemployment Benefit Insurance	Department of Labor made internal policy change and is introducing legislation which includes change in AmeriCorps UI	
3. Explore options for conferencing and virtual meeting technology: Web-Ex, an online meeting software Adobe Connect	Commissioners invited to participate in web-based meetings hosted by the Corporation for National and Community Service; Montana commission has not hosted web-based meetings	
4. Convene Commissioners on a regional basis for conference calls - to maintain face-to-face aspect of meetings	June 2010 Commission Meeting held via video-conference; plan to hold 4 meetings per year with 2 in video format going forward	

5. Provide Federal Grants Management training for Commissioners would help in understanding requirements that grantees must follow, and improve the grant review process.	Training to be held following Commission meeting on October 5, 2010 and following the February meeting	✓
6. Offer training on Robert's Rules of Order for Commissioners	Office Manager to attend training in November which will serve as the basis for future training	+
7. Develop a grievance policy and process for applicants to know how to appeal funding decisions	Completed and part of the Commission's grant making process	✓
8. Provide training to Commissioners on social networking and online learning options to these workgroups.	Training opportunities by the Montana Nonprofit Association will be made available to Commissioners in the future	✓
9. Working through a "Nuts and Bolts" task force, define and form ad-hoc workgroups to focus on specific goals and projects – rather than relying on standing committees. Resource and regulatory constraints need to be identified, including how the Commission provides oversight and direction to these workgroups.	Ad Hoc workgroups were formed at the February Meeting with reports on accomplishments at the October meeting. A draft of amended Bylaws, that integrate the work groups, was presented to Commission at October meeting for review and adoption at December 2010 meeting.	+