



## Commission Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2020

UberConference web and phone

1pm-2:25pm

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chairman Myhre called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members on phone:</u> Heather Margolis, Jim Larson, Donovan Hawk, Rachel Juel, Chairman Myhre, Vice Chair Harbage, Eric Strauss, Karen Moses, Kevin Sylvester, CNCS Rep. Amy Busch, Tara Ferriter-Smith, Karin Olsen-Billings, Pam Carbonari</p> <p><u>Commission Members Excused:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> Allison Paul and Meghan Scott, MSLA JFM OCS—Dan Ritter, Sarah Sadowski, Sheree Isola, Lisa Dorrington, Jaime Gabrielli</p>	
b. Approval of March 4, 2020 Minutes	<p>Commissioner Carbonari moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Hawk seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation.</p>	<p>March 4, 2020 Minutes approved</p>
c. Announcements	<p>Director Dan Ritter reported on the Pandemic Response &amp; Opportunity Act legislation in Congress, would lead to 750,000 members over three-year period. Was introduced May 5, 2020. America’s Service Commission (ASC) working with Dem Senators to increase number of national service members during pandemic. Commissioner Margolis sits on ASC States for Service, added that at 25 billion dollars, the Senate proposal is a “moon shoot” that the House does not support, proposing different, limited scope solution – no Reauthorization Act but includes many changes recommended for Serve America Act Reauthorization, such as increasing the living allowance to 175% poverty level, the Education Award value would increase to the cost of a 2 year college and more. Legislation TBD should be addressed by Memorial Day. Watching Appropriations for FFY2021 budget, mark up has yet to occur.</p>	
d. Commissioner Reports	None	
II. Governor’s Office of Community Service Updates		
a. ServeMontana – Director	<p><u>Office Updates:</u> Two vacancies on Commission; local gov and public representative, no</p>	

Ritter, Jaime Gabrielli	<p>submissions so far. Three Commissioners will expire 6.30.2020. Please reach out to Director Ritter with suggestions for candidates or if you would like to reup.</p> <p><u>ServeMontana Awards 2020</u>: Workgroup in process of reviewing and scoring applications and recommending awardees. June event cancelled due to COVID-19. Recognition of five individuals and two groups may take place online this year.</p> <p><u>Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council</u> – members adjusted plans for Fight Childhood Hunger Week (FCHW) due to COVID restrictions. Wear Orange Wednesday went well. Many found alternate activities and others postponed. Final report due date extended to June 5.</p> <p><u>Youth ServeMontana Scholarships</u>: Awarded 98, now 96 due to school changes. Letters sent to students and school officials informing winners. <a href="http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/youth-serve-montana-scholarships">http://serve.mt.gov/ServeMT/youth-serve-montana-scholarships</a>.</p>	
b. Financial – Sheree Isola	<p>Fund balance report emailed for review (current for all grants and state funding: current and forward funding)</p>	
c. AmeriCorps – Sarah Sadowski	<p>General Updates – ServeMontana Symposium 2020 was a success and OCS has received good feedback from members and presenters. Formula grant review was May 6. Thank you to the Grant Review workgroup. More on the Formula Funding Recommendation later in the meeting.</p> <p>Competitive and Formula Grants - May 1 Competitive Grant approval notification; BSWC funded for next 3 years. MTCC entering new 3 competitive cycle. Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), Montana Fish Wildlife &amp; Parks, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps and the National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Energy Corps were not approved for competitive funding by CNCS. All asked to be considered for Formula, along with Richland County Health Department and 100 Fold Studio. 100 Fold applied for a Planning Grant.</p> <p>Weekly COVID call with Program Directors Thursday mornings. Many AmeriCorps members still able to serve remotely and some performing alternate activities to meet increased community needs. Formula Grant Review Formula Funding Recommendation will be presented to Commission today. Hope to be notified about awards and funding in late July. State Service Commissions facing issues with well-established programs due to CNCS funding 80% continuations, leaving fewer resources for new and recompute applicants. Accommodations Assessment Report – Linked in agenda and posted the Program Directors page. Fewer responses Due to COVID, will leave open to collect more responses.</p>	

<p>II. CNCS Office of Regional Operations Update – Amy Busch, CNCS Senior Portfolio Manager</p>	<p>Amy began by thanking Director Ritter and OCS staff for their hard work in these times. <u>COVID19 and Changes</u> – CNCS has been making changes to their website due to the pandemic. Likely more coming on match waiver, reporting deadline extensions and more. <u>AmeriCorps</u> – Adding changes and additional resources to website, including FAQs and safety tips for COVID19. All encouraged to visit and review. Continuing to evaluate needs and regulations to be good stewards of Federal dollars. Many members now serving to meet critical community needs via alternate service. Contact tracing needs to be on our radar due to rising numbers. Training can be done at home for alternate service. Health Departments encourage to reach out to State Commission for assistance. <u>CNCS Transformation and Sustainability Plan (TSP)</u> - still on track and currently in Phase 2 with Portfolio Managers working remotely. Austin, TX and Los Angeles, CA Regional Offices are standing up. TSP goal around branding architecture is seeing a slight delay, but is still moving forward. With the contractor BrandPie. All in person events cancelled. Input welcome at <a href="mailto:engagement@cns.gov">engagement@cns.gov</a></p> <p><u>The National Commission on Military, National and Public Service</u> – this National Commission was formed by the President and after 2 years of work has released its final report. Read their recommendations for the future of service, <a href="https://inspire2serve.gov/">https://inspire2serve.gov/</a></p> <p><u>Senior Corps</u> – Seeing scams targeted at senior citizens on the rise. New Foster Grandparent Programs awarded in 8 counties serving ID and Cheyenne, WY. Encouraged outreach to organizations might be eligible for current funding available. Many Senior Corps volunteers on emergency leave because of COVID. Considering ways to increase engagement, such as lowering RSVP age to 45. Exciting collaboration between Seniors Corps and AmeriCorps in Richland County; AmeriCorps members serving meals and more to support Senior Corps. <u>AmeriCorps VISTA</u> - members mostly serving remotely. Many supporting state agencies through direct service due to COVID. Large number of returning Peace Corps applying.</p>	
<p>IV. New Business, Chair Myhre, Vice Chair Harbage</p>	<p>Action Item: Vice Chair Harbage presented Formula Funding Recommendation noting that \$1.3 million was requested with \$715,741 in formula funds available. The Workgroup made hard choices and used the approved Competitive Funding Recommendation to consider the applicants not funded for Formula. The recommendation includes \$169,950 supplemental funding requests for 11 MSY. If successful, 2 may go to MLSA and 9 to MSPA to restore the programs to their current size. Supplemental Funding is one year only but will help as both MLSA and MSPA will be encouraged to apply to Competitive again this Fall, for FY2021. Funding recommendation is \$715,741 + \$169,950 supplemental = \$885,691.</p>	<p>Formula Funding Recommendation Approved</p>

	Commissioner Ferriter-Smith made motion that the Commission accept the Funding Recommendation as presented. Commissioner Margolis seconded. Approved by acclamation.	
a. Grant Cycle Discussion	In this current year, CNCS released the Notice Of Funding Opportunity later in August, and it was due a week earlier in January. This resulted in grant and other timelines being condensed. Director Ritter and Grants Manager are discussing doing one grant review for all applicants, both Formula and Competitive, in the Fall. More discussion of pros and cons, and impacts on applicants and OCS at the Quarter 3 Commission meeting October 8, 2020. Will call for a Grant Review Workgroup at that meeting, consider participating, its fun!	
V. Public Comment	Mēghan Scott, MLSA JFM - thank you for support of this essential program meeting human needs during pandemic, already serving 30K per year within vulnerable populations.	
VI. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2020	

Governor's Office of Community Service

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

Phone: 406-444-9077

Fax: 406-444-4418

Email: [serve@mt.gov](mailto:serve@mt.gov)

Website: <http://serve.mt.gov>

Commissioner Contact Information posted at [www.serve.mt.gov](http://www.serve.mt.gov)