



Approved (12/5/18)

**SerVermont Commission Meeting
20 September 2018
Waterbury State Office Complex**

Members in Attendance, Christy Gallese, Dan Noyes, Betsy Ward, Guy Isabelle, Nicole Whalen, Susan Cheesman

Members in Attendance via Phone: Jason Gosselin, Bob McCabe, Kate Larose, Megan McKeever, Benji Thurber

Staff in Attendance: Philip Kolling, Sharon Hearne

Welcome and Introductions

Approve Minutes

May 2018 minutes were presented but tabled for lack of quorum. Susan Cheesman requested the minutes be edited to list her as attending the May meeting. The edit will be made to the May minutes.

Public Comment

None were offered.

New Data

Overall Member Service Year (MSY) Utilization for the 2017-2018 AmeriCorps program year: 93% of MSY were utilized. Four programs achieved 100% MSY utilization, and this was the first year four programs have done that. Discussed why some programs struggle to fill slots and possible remedies for achieving 100% utilization across the board.

SerVermont Financials: Current financials for grants were presented. Some values were just finalized.

AmeriCorps Funding: Final funding numbers were presented. SerVermont is taking advantage of formula supplemental funding for the first time.

AmeriStates: Vermont is the #5 AmeriState, producing the 5th highest number of AmeriCorps per capita of all the states.

Partners and Plans

SerVermont VISTA: SerVermont has only filled 14 of 38 slots. 12 are new positions focused on the opioid crisis. VISTA recruitment is down across the country. Possible reasons for low enrollment and potential remedies were discussed.

CNCS Transformation and Sustainability Plan: Phil and Susan discussed the plan. Changes are being made. For AmeriCorps, changes include lowering the retention expectation to 85%, requiring pre-enrollment of AmeriCorps members, requiring that all AmeriCorps service opportunities be posted on the national website, and running background checks through a vendor.

CNCS Audit: Audit report has been released. SerVermont has two findings and will be working with CNCS Audit Resolution and subgrantees to address them.

AmeriCorps Start of Service Conference: Looking at December 5-7, and storytelling will be back by popular demand.

State Service Plan: Strengths and potential improvements of old plan were discussed. New plan should highlight the value of AmeriCorps on workforce development, and positive contributions to population, including 60-70% of AmeriCorps members in VT being “new” to Vermont. Improve communications about what we do, featuring alumni who came to VT to serve and stayed. Potential partners for various aspects of the new plan were discussed.

Adjourn

3:40 PM, motioned by Guy, 2nd Betsy, all in favor