



DRAFT

SerVermont Commission Meeting
October 24, 2019
12:00-4PM
Waterbury State Office Complex
Waterbury, VT
Ash Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Christy Gallese, Jason Gosslen, Kate LaRose, Megan McKeever

Staff in Attendance: Philip Kolling, Sharon Hearne

Attended by Phone: Dan Noyes

12:00 noon Welcome and Introductions

Phil brought the meeting to order at 12:04 PM asking those present and those on the phone to introduce themselves and to say who it is that they represent. He also stated that some folks were participating in a State Emergency Management exercise. Robyn could not be in attendance and Phil, Sharon and Jason had some responsibilities.

Christy announced that that the group had nominated Phil for a leadership award sponsored by the American Service Commissions. She read the nomination and shared everyone's appreciation for his work and leadership of the Commission. Phil thanked the staff and members for their support and shared that he had a great deal of respect for the winner from Utah.

12:20 PM Approve Minutes from May 23, 2019 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2019 was made by Guy Isabelle and seconded by Christy Gallese. The minutes were approved without amendment unanimously.

12:25 PM Public Comment

There was no public comment

12:35 New Data: Updating the Numbers/ Partners and Plans: Activities Update

Phil shared that the MSY enrollment ended at 93.45% and the enrolled slots landed at 87.90%. He explained that more fulltime slots were utilized which helped to stay at the required 90% number. Phil shared that the benchmarks set by the Commission appear to be having positive results. A much larger PSA campaign was put forth and the results look good in spite of the low unemployment rate. He reminded folks that slots had been parked at Lyndon State. Kate asked about the supervisory dollars when benchmarks are not met. Phil explained that admin money has been connected to performance. Those who meet the 90% get all their money those who don't get a percentage reduction. Sharon shared that her required monthly reports and her visits have helped to keep people focused. Guy asked about the coordination of recruitment because he sees many ads from the different partners. Phil outlined the following:

The office does a PSA blast

Phil goes to schools to plant the service seed
Programs are doing job fairs
Host sites help to recruit
The national website receives many hits
Sites cooperate when there are candidates that may be more suited for other opportunities.

Kate asked about accommodation numbers. Phil gave a history of the disability funding for a Coordinator. Sharon stated that the Corporation has set aside money but they are very slow to respond. Phil stated that the Commission Investment Fund can be used to address disabilities and there have been some sites (re: Resource) that have a disability focus.

Phil outlined the current funding:

\$75,000 General Fund
\$265,000 Support Level
\$704,306 AmeriCorps Formula

He then outlined the details of the Commission Investment fund that totals \$473,334. The item breakdown is as follows:

\$149,954 20/20 money
\$193,040 Training and Evaluation
\$13,340 Conferences

Phil provided a description of the funding sources as a follow-up to a question by Kate. He stated that training will be a priority. Kate asked whether some of the money could be used to update the State Service plan. The answer was yes. While this money is a large amount Phil is committed to putting it towards improving the programs. He also spoke about the list of priorities that has been developed by the Association of State Service Commissions.

Phil shared that Vermont is now number 3 in the list of Ameriastates.

Sharon updated folks on how programs have adjusted to her randomized, monitoring system. She explained a new background check system called Tru Screen. It has been extremely frustrating and challenging but it is an area of focus by the Corporation and has resulted in many penalties. She shared that one program had not met their match. While it has not been an area of focus by CNCS it now is. The new language in the grant proposals states that match must be met.

Break 2:30 PM

Partners and Plans: Activities Update Continued

Phil gave the VISTA report for Robyn who was part of the emergency management events. There are currently 29 members in service. This is an all-time high. Phil explained that things have expanded geographically to include sites at Mt Ascutney, Springfield, Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, NEK and Rutland. He stated that Ann Philbert has been a great leader and that this year's team is very much interested in rules, policies and statistics.

Phil explained that are going to be changes in policies and procedures to adjust to the background checks and to align with the national rules.

Transformation and Sustainability Plan Update

Regionalization is complete for this area. The office is located in Concord New Hampshire. The new Director is Maggie Harvey. She has been very available and communicative. There is no word on the new branding of the programs and the development of new technology is years out. Phil feels that the new structure will be good for Vermont and won't affect the day to day operations of the office. There will be a meet and greet in Waterbury from 9:30 to 11:30.

Upcoming trainings:

November 20- meet and greet with regional staff
December 4 and 5- Stoweflake training, Commission meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration
Feb. 10-13,2020 - Acs Commission Convening

May 13 and 14, 2020 - End of Service Celebration

June 2-4, 2020 Regional ACS Conference at the Hilton in Burlington (Christy asked if help was needed. Phil said that they will take care of most of it but may need some help as we get closer)

2020 program Training/TTA

AmeriCorps Fiscal Boot Camp

Regional Conferences

AmeriCorps Startup Boot camp

Beyond AmeriCorps Rules and Regulations Management Training

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Performance Measurement

Risk based Monitoring and Systems

2020 Policy Items

Income Tax on Living Allowance

Ed Award match

Tap into the rewards for Vermont moves

Planning grants

Tax on Ed Awards

Phil spoke about Commissioner recruitment. He outlined the need, who is going off and who has moved out of the area. He stated that he needs more Republican representation, someone from southern Vermont, veterans, new Americans, Work Force Development, and youth under 25. Send any and all suggestions to him.

AmeriCorps Competition

Phil explained that two months have been cut from the process. Notice of funding was released on 9/12/2019. Applications are due November 8. He currently has 10 letters of intent. The awards will be made July 31, 2020. The new programs submitting letters were, The Tutorial Center. Central Vermont Council on Aging, DREAM, green Mountain Club, 211. There was a discussion about whether planning grants should be an option. After some debate there was a consensus that planning grants should be part of the process.

Phil discussed a proposal that would allow grants to be awarded for 3 years for formula grants. The group was open to the concept assuming that the awards would be awarded contingent on funding.

Phil reminded folks of the meeting on December 4 and the conference. He also stated that a January meeting will be needed to review proposals for funding.

The slides that Phil presented are available for the asking.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM

Respectfully Submitted

J. Guy Isabelle

Acting Secretary for the Day