**DC Commission on National and Community Service**

Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 10th, 2017; 6:30 pm

Serve DC Office, Reeves Center, Suite 101

**Welcome**

Delano Hunter, Director of Serve DC, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**Roll Call**

Brandon Andrews Lars Etzkorn

Mathew McCollough Rochelle Howard

Barbara Cline Charice Roper-Williams

Najmah Ahmad Louis Henderson

Joshua Johnson Antoinette Mitchell

Sharon Riegsecker Nathaniel Thomas

Peter Sacco Carolina Celnik

Marcus Owens Johnnie Rice

Lauren Waldron

**Reading of Past Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Etzkorn moved to approve the January 2017 meeting minutes, subject to review by Pamela Weinberg, the AmeriCorps Program Director for Serve DC. Commissioner McCollough seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 14-0-0).

**Briefing on Proposed Funding Cuts to CNCS and Potential Impact on the Commission**

Mr. Hunter said that the President’s proposed FY 2018 federal budget includes the complete elimination of all funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). He said that this will mean that Serve DC will be unable to administer any federal AmeriCorps grants.

Commissioner Sacco, who also serves as a Board Member for the American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC), said that the President has also included large cuts to all CNCS programs as part of his proposed FY 2017 federal budget. He gave an overview of how each CNCS program would be affected by these cuts.

Commissioner Sacco said that ASC is partnering with other national service advocacy organizations to advocate against the proposed funding cuts to CNCS. He said that advocates’ initial advocacy meetings with staff and representatives on Capitol Hill indicate that a large portion of Congress has serious concerns with the proposed funding cuts to CNCS. He added that there will be opportunities for commissioners to advocate on Capitol Hill and to participate in advocacy letters as signatories.

**CNCS / AmeriCorps**

Formula Applications

Khadija Ismail, the Executive Assistant for Serve DC, said that 27 organizations have inquired about AmeriCorps formula grant funding and that 24 of the organizations inquired about Serve DC’s training and technical assistance workshops. She said that 9 organizations have submitted logic models and that 6 of those organizations have been invited to proceed to the next application level. She gave an overview of the organizations that have been invited to proceed to the next application level.

Ms. Ismail gave an overview of the formula funding process. She said that organizations that can be considered for the process have to apply for fewer than 20 AmeriCorps members and that the grant limit is $650,000.

Ms. Ismail said that Ms. Weinberg is asking that two commissioners serve as facilitators for the upcoming formula grant peer review process. She gave an overview of the responsibilities for the facilitators. She said that Ms. Weinberg will be providing training to the facilitators who volunteer for the role.

Mr. Hunter gave an overview of how helpful commissioners who have served as facilitators have been for the peer review process.

Commissioner Owens asked if organizations that do not pass the peer review process are able to re-apply for grant funding. Sareeta Spriggs, the Deputy Director of Serve DC, said that the organizations are able to re-apply. She added that Serve DC offers training workshops to help organizations strengthen their applications.

Monitoring Visit Update

Ms. Ismail gave an overview of the upcoming schedule for monitoring site visits.

TA1- Commission Investment Funds

Mr. Hunter said that Serve DC has hired a consultant to carry out training and technical assistance programming with grantees through CNCS’ Commission Investment Funds.

Mr. Hunter gave an overview of the recent retreat that Serve DC held for all DC AmeriCorps members. He said that there were more than 300 members in attendance. He gave an overview of the different workshops that were offered as part of the retreat.

Commissioner Rice said that she was present at the retreat. She said that the AmeriCorps members were very interested in and energetic about the trainings. Commissioner Owens, who is an AmeriCorps member, added that he enjoyed the retreat. He said that it was great to meet other AmeriCorps members from across the city.

Mr. Hunter said that the goal of Serve DC’s TA1 funding is to grow some of Serve DC’s formula grant applicants so that they can move up to the competitive grant level, as well as to grow some of Serve DC’s competitive grant applicants so that they can compete for more funding.

Commissioner Andrews said that the TA1 funding will help ensure that Serve DC has quality, more diverse applications.

TA2- Planning Grant

Mr. Hunter said that Serve DC has hired two consultants for the office’s TA2 planning grant. He said that the consultants will work to connect Serve DC with organizations that have never heard of or considered AmeriCorps funding before. He said that the consultants can also help diversify Serve DC’s funding portfolios by reaching out to organizations that work on issue areas that no Serve DC grantees are currently working on.

Mr. Hunter encouraged commissioners to refer organizations that they think would be a good option for AmeriCorps funding to Serve DC.

**Events**

Recent Events

Ms. Ismail gave an overview of the two recent service events that Serve DC organized for all DC AmeriCorps members.

Upcoming Events

Ms. Ismail gave an overview of Serve DC’s upcoming events, including CPR and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings.

Commissioner Waldron asked if Serve DC had considered hosting any virtual events. Mr. Hunter said that there was a possibility of hosting future events virtually based on what the scope of an individual event was. Commissioner Waldron offered to help with organizing the virtual events.

**Committee Updates**

Commissioner Andrews read through the descriptions of the commission’s three committees: Volunteer Recognition, Programming and Evaluation, and Community Development. He said that he will work with Ms. Ismail to send out emails to the commissioners regarding their committee placement preferences.

Mr. Hunter said that, as part of the Volunteer Recognition Committee, the Mayor’s Office and Serve DC have decided to separate out the Mayor’s Community Service Awards and the Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service programs for 2017 in order to focus the Mayor’s Day of Recognition for National Service program on the proposed federal funding cuts to CNCS.

**New Business / Announcements**

Commission Retreat

Mr. Hunter said that 17 commissioners have registered for the retreat thus far. He said that the retreat will be held at City Year DC’s headquarters at 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 414. He said that Serve DC is planning on scheduling several CNCS officials to give presentations at the retreat.

Mr. Hunter gave an overview of the different trainings that Serve DC regularly offers to the community, including CERT and CPR trainings. He gave an overview of the statistics for the number of people who have gone through the trainings thus far.

Elections

Mr. Hunter said that he will be sending out more information via email about the upcoming commission elections.

dcbc.dc.gov Email Accounts

Mr. Hunter reminded all of the commissioners to use their dcbc.dc.gov email accounts for commission business.

Active Shooter Response Training

Mr. Hunter said that, for community members who are unable to make the full CERT training commitment, Serve DC will be offering an active shooter response-only training for groups or organizations.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Hunter adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.