



Commission Meeting Minutes February 11, 2022

Commissioners Present: Alex Nees, Summer Gathercole, Julie Nash (ex-officio), Ray Rivera, Jean Sykes, D.J. Close, Kristy Judd, Scott Jones, Matt Brady, Mary Spillane, Melanie Zhou, Beth Melton, Gina Nocera

Commissioners Absent: Tony Gheradini, Dedrick Simms, Ashley Farmer-Hanson

Administration and Staff: John Kelly, Paul Brown, Emily Worm, Cheryl Secorski, Danny Fisher, Jackie Rader, Justin Nyetrae, Kyla Mittal

Roll Call [Kyla Mittal]

Minute Approval [Summer Gathercole - Chair]

- Approval of December [Minutes](#)
 - DJ Close moved to approve the minutes, Jean Sykes seconded.
 - Summer Gathercole and Kristy Judd abstained from voting.
 - Minutes approved.

Executive Director Updates and Discussion [John Kelly]

- Patrick Thompson - capstone student assisting with active recruitment at Serve.
- Healthcare Corps - merge between priority needs and workforce development. Would like help from commissioners on recruiting members for this program.
- Workforce development in the tech sector - partnership with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to form registered apprenticeships. Moving towards AmeriCorps becoming a workforce development pipeline.
- Teacher pipeline initiative - getting certified as a teacher through AmeriCorps service.
- Questions and Comments:
 - DJ Close: want to be involved in partnership development for Healthcare Corps.
 - Summer Gathercole: growth of Serve staff coming soon
 - Hoping the new Finance and Compliance Officer will be starting in the next few weeks.
 - Want to continue spreading the word about the Climate and Disaster Program Officer, application date closes on Monday 2.14
 - Operational Grant RFA open, want to share with networks.
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding as a solution to match requirements

Commissioner Updates

- Summer Gathercole: Gov. Polis announced the new commissioner for the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).
- Gina Nocera: Imagination Library updates with expansion efforts. What's the role of Serve in these efforts?
 - John Kelly: will be hearing updates from Jack Tate.

- Scott Jones: finalized recipients of High Impact Tutoring (HIT) program. Additional funding coming in the spring to support education throughout the state. Funding opportunities will be available as well for organizations to apply for to increase student engagement.

Welcome [Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera]

- Welcomed new commissioners, discussed the Economic Mobility initiative, the release of the annual report, Healthcare Corps.

Program Highlight - Colorado Climate Corps [Scott Segerstrom & Brandon Watkins, Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA)]

- Overview of CYCA and Climate Corps program, goals and youth corps within Climate Corps, ties to skill and workforce development.
- Questions and comments from commissioners.

Imagination Library Colorado [Jack Tate, President and CEO]

- Overview of Imagination Library, goals of the program, evidence-based practices and benefits of the program.
- Questions and comments from commissioners.

AmeriCorps & NCCC Updates [Julie Nash, Antonio Mendez, AmeriCorps]

- Mountain region hiring updates
 - Tierney James started on 1/31 as an Associate Portfolio Manager
 - Maryon Bradshaw (Associate Portfolio Manager) and Bryant Abbott (Portfolio Manager) will start on 2/14
 - Other Portfolio Manager and Associate Portfolio Manager positions still in process
 - Regional Administrator position still in process
- AmeriCorps week coming up March 13-19
- Public Health AmeriCorps - still in process, notifications by early March 2022
- Public Comment on the AmeriCorps Diversity Questionnaire Form - due by 3/14/22
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/CNCS-2022-0003-0001>
- Grant Application Review Process for programs, concept papers due March 23, tribal funding opportunity available as well.
- New outreach group
- White House press release with mention of Colorado's Economic Mobility initiative
- Summer of Service opportunities, one month intensive service term related to climate corps and disaster mitigation, receiving applications currently
- VITA tax projects, Habitat for Humanity projects statewide, sustainable agriculture projects and conservation groups, food security projects, historic preservation projects
 - RFAs to be shared and distributed with commissioner and staff support
- IRC (International Rescue Committee) FEMA project - related to Afghan refugee resettlement
- VISTA and ACS office hours restarted in January
- Working on updating our National Service Compass - which is our planning and goals for 2022
- ACS Phase 3 Demonstration Grants - the review process has begun
- Most staff within our region are participating in the GARP process

- Quarter 2 VISTA Concept papers are currently being reviewed. We have two in Colorado. The next concept paper deadline is 3/23/2022.
- A new outreach group has been formed to focus on AmeriCorps State and National Tribal Funding - Applications due 5/3/2022-
<https://www.americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2022-ameri-corps-state-national-tribal-grants#priorities>

Committee Breakout Groups & Report Outs

- Fundraising and Partnerships: will be meeting quarterly or as needed. March is likely the next committee meeting. Topics will include:
 - Youth Service Grant - inspiring youth service and volunteerism in Colorado. Currently targeting tribal and native youth through small subgrants to develop ideas. Want to discuss who we can present the ideas to to connect with long-term support.
 - Partnership development in rural communities that need help with match replacement.
 - Workforce development and partnerships with the private sector.
- Grant Application Review Process (GARP): want additional commissioners to help review applications along with staff. Reviewed upcoming meeting dates and deadlines.
 - Planning grant committee, recently approved 11 grants in January. Reviewed new grantees.
 - Discussed expansion of Serve's program portfolio and increases in funding.
- State Service Plan: David Thurow will be starting to follow up with those who want to participate in the project. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 15. Discussed next steps in terms of review and public comment.

Public Comments

- None.

Meeting Adjourned

- Next meeting in April.