

**The North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service
Commissioners Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2009**

10 a.m. – Chairwoman Beth Norris called the meeting to order and welcomed Commissioners and staff. She introduced Wayne Campbell, a new Commissioner, who spoke about his background. Beth announced that Mike Patterson also has been appointed as a new Commissioner. Commissioner Darlene Jacobs was absent due to caring for her sick mother, and Commissioners Sue Massey and Jane Carver were absent because of an illness. Chairwoman Norris announced and introduced Kaye Gattis as the Commission’s new executive director.

Roll Call of Members

Commissioners Present

Sam Buie, Wayne Campbell, Lynn Doll, Helen Featherson, Megan Grimsley, Zach Jakob, Alice Keene, Lisa Keyne, Beth Norris, Linda Povlich, Darlene Smith, Sandra Wyrick, Thelma Zaytoun, Carolyn Foxx, Axel Lluch and Betty Platt

Commissioners Absent

Jane Carver, Jeff Clark, Michelle Collins, Ed Drescher, Darlene Jacobs, Sue Massey, Mike Patterson, Lee Riddick and Ray Riffe

Staff Present

Kaye Gattis, Tim Kelly, Alicia Hartsfield, Faye Stone, Linda Harrill and Erica Rafferty

Guest

Tom Branen, executive director, America’s Service Commission

Adoption of 1/29/09 Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Beth Norris made a motion to approve the minutes with edits to pages one and two. Commissioner Linda Povlich made a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion carried.

Executive Committee Report on Recovery Act Funds

Chairwoman Beth Norris gave an overview of the Recovery Funds: North Carolina received \$891,000 that only could be distributed to existing state formula programs. CNCS awards directly to state competitives.

- 3/12 – CNCS announces the availability of funds
- 3/13 – Guidelines sent out
- 3/17 – Program deadline for intent to apply
- 3/20 – Applications due
- 4/3 – Package due to Corporation

Commission received ten applications: Black Child Development Institute, Carolina Small Business Professional Association, Child Care Services Association, Children’s Village Academy, IDA Asset Building Collaboration of NC, NC A&T State University, Public Allies, Robeson County Partnership for Children, Stokes County Partnership for Children, Transition Ministries. Chairwoman Norris also noted that the funds will be carefully tracked at www.ncrecovery.gov.

Commissioner Povlich congratulated staff and thanked Commissioner Doll for the turnaround time. Commissioner Doll also noted that the programs approved addressed the “national foci.”

Program Management Report

Commissioner Doll asked to switch the agenda order and to first discuss commissioner site visits.

Commissioner Site Visit Reports

- Commissioner Keene visited Habitat for Humanity in Cary and was impressed. Commissioner Drescher joined Alice, and they spoke with more than 10 members. Commissioner Keene also toured the resale store in north Raleigh.
- Commissioner Povlich stated that she is impressed because Kathy Vohs (Partnership to End Homelessness) stays in constant contact with her and Commissioner Smith.
- Commissioner Zaytoun visited a site in her own neighborhood that turned out to be a Habitat site.
- Commissioner Wyrick visited a sheep farm in Onslow County. It is a Learn and Serve K-12 school-based program. She too was impressed by the program. Commissioner Foxx then provided an overview of Learn and Serve programs.
- Commissioner Doll visited Project Conserve. She met with members who stated how much they are involved in training and planning. She also visited a river conservation program and thought it was a very positive experience.

Recommendation for 2009-10 AmeriCorps State Formula Funding

Commissioner Doll introduced the AmeriCorps state formula funding package:

1. Continuation programs – No issues and recommends continued funding
2. New funding – UNCG Center for New North Carolinians, Capital Area Workforce Development Board, Stokes Partnership for Children, N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education (SCALE), The Servant Center, Inc., Children’s Village Academy, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, East Carolina University College of Education, Children First of Buncombe County, Child Care Services Association, Black Child Development Institute of Greensboro, Inc.
3. see packet for recommendations

Commissioner Doll noted the staff scores, peer reviewer scores and committee recommendations and stated there seemed to be some confusion/problems with applicants having a “for-profit” aspect in their program designs. She formally presented the package for Commission funding consideration and approval. Chairwoman Norris asked if there are any new programs. Commissioner Doll indicated that technically Public Allies is, but they had been funded in previous years. She also noted that Habitat did not reapply and explained the funding “streams” to Commissioner Campbell.

Commissioner Doll made a motion for funding recommendation and passed by majority with no dissent.

Commissioner Keene thanked the staff and Program Management Committee.

It was noted that an earlier part of the agenda had been skipped and turned the floor over to Kaye Gattis for comments.

Remarks

Executive Director Kaye Gattis extended her thanks and excitement on the work ahead. She mentioned that the Governor also is excited and has big plans for the Commission. Kaye stated that volunteerism and service will help fill the void and address the needs that communities are facing currently. She stated that the Commission will have the support it needs. She noted her goals:

1. to establish Volunteer Centers in each county
2. to build a stronger Page program and increase Page participation
3. to revisit and strengthen the NC Volunteer Award Program that includes a county volunteer awards coordinator in every county
4. and more volunteer opportunities will be presented and brought to the Commission in the near future.

Kaye also thanked Will Lindsay for his past leadership. She said she would like to make North Carolina the national benchmark for, and the state of, volunteerism. Finally, Kaye said that her door is always open and welcomes feedback and ideas.

Commissioner Featherson asked about the Open Meetings Law. Kaye responded that we are in compliance. We posted notification on our Web site, a public news outlet – The Insider, and in public buildings.

Kaye mentioned ethics training and reporting, which Kendra Hill in the Governor's policy office, is coordinating and tracking.

Commissioner Foxx asked about our involvement with faith-based initiatives. Kaye discussed meeting with the Governor and Chief of Staff Zach Ambrose about it.

Introduction of Tom Branen, executive director, America's Service Commission

Report on Serve America Act

Tom discussed re-authorization and ASC's role:

1. Making AmeriCorps more accessible
2. Fixed-amount grants
3. Expansion of AmeriCorps
4. Changing the percentages of allocation of funds

Tom also discussed the different initiatives:

1. Volunteer generation funds
2. Summer of Service
3. Campuses of Service
4. Non-profit capacity grants

Other changes ASC promoted:

1. Changing of term limits to two full-time terms

2. Education awards will increase and mirror Pell grants
3. Changing of T/TA funding
4. More funding for Commissions

Tom talked about the new corps initiatives such as Education Corps, Healthy Futures Corps, Clean Energy Corps, Veterans Corps and Opportunity Corps. He also talked about how ASC needs Commissions to continue to talk with their congressional representatives during this appropriation process.

Update on Homeland Security/Citizen Corps/Emergency Management

Faye Stone gave a presentation on Citizen Corps, Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Report on the N.C. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service

Tim gave an update on the Volunteer Awards. The Resource Guide for 2009 was sent to county coordinators on April 9. Currently, the Commission has received local coordinator's updated contact information forms from some of the county coordinators. The deadline to receive nominations is August 28.

The Commission is re-evaluating the awards program and researching other models from across the country and will meet with the Governor to forward staff recommendations, including a proposal to change the names of the awards to The Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

Commissioners expressed their support, and Commissioner Povlich asked about convening a group of Commissioners to gather their input. Chairwoman Norris recommended that this happen quickly. Tim said the following Commissioners had indicated at the annual Retreat that they would like to assist in some capacity with the Volunteer Awards: Sandra Wyrick, Helen Feathersen, Jeff Clark, Michelle Collins, Alice Keene, Thelma Zaytoun

Commissioner Reports

East Team – Commissioner Jeff Clark was absent; no report provided.

Central Team – *Commissioner Lisa Keyne* – Commissioner Ray Riffe is working on his visit to SCALE.

Commissioner Feathersen is contacting the director of the Volunteer Center in Durham.

Commissioner Smith continues to work on building the MLK Day of Service in the Triad region
Commissioner Collins touched base with the ED of the Communities in Schools in Chapel Hill

Commissioner Keyne attended the Volunteer Center Awards ceremony in Greensboro and the Medallion Awards were presented. She also attended the Community Council in Alamance County during its awards selection process – had some suggestions for the awards process which she will share with Tim (age differences, groups vs. individuals, categories). Commissioner Keyne also attended the 2009 Public Service Awards ceremony and reception at UNC-Chapel Hill, and distributed three reports from NC Campus Compact to build awareness with state representatives

Wake Team – *Commissioners Axel Lluch and Carolyn Foxx* – Commissioner Betty Platt attended a Washington D.C. meeting of national grantees to discuss 2009 MLK Events results and start plans for 2010 events. She also is working on support for a conference call in July to offer technical assistance for MLK Events 2010 and shared list of 25 colleges that received mini-grants for MLK events. Commissioner Carolyn Foxx said the Learn & Serve America grants 2009-10 focused on health and safety and provided list of suggested activities for under-served populations. Commissioner Beth Norris is working on an initiative for under-served populations. She compiled a list of contacts and materials for Sampson County and is ready to coordinate appointments soon. Commissioner Thelma Zaytoun is working to develop cards to encourage people to volunteer more. Commissioner Ed Drescher is working on contacting key people in Harnett County for initiatives for under-served populations. Commissioner Axel Lluch participated in 2-3 conference calls and meetings with AmeriCorps management committee. He also delivered a presentation at the Campus Compact Conference at Elon University and had an initial meeting with Page Program Coordinator Tina Smalley, Public Relations Manager Erica Rafferty and Cari De la Osa, administrative assistant for Hispanic/Latino affairs, to discuss promotion of Page Program among Latino students.

West Team – *Commissioner Zach Jakob* – Commissioner Jakob reported that Commissioner Patterson has not been able to schedule his site visit to the ACCESS program, but is hoping to visit the first week of May. He has shared the Commission's 2008 Annual Report with key Salvation Army locations across the state to promote awareness of the programs that are active in their communities.

Commissioner Carver has attempted to contact counties in the western part of the state with volunteer recognition program coordinators to offer her assistance in promoting those programs. She also has been working with Tim Kelly to identify people who would be willing to fill the position of program coordinator in the counties that currently are lacking programs.

Commissioner Doll's first goal was to expand the pool of AmeriCorps applicants by providing information to potential applicants. She went with Will Lindsay to Western Piedmont Community College to discuss AmeriCorps with the college president (Dr. Burnett) and other members of the Service Learning team. Commissioner Doll's second goal is to promote participation in the volunteer awards program, and she has touched base with Tim Kelly, but program details are not yet available. Most of her commission time has been spent as chair of the Program Management Committee. She has trained Commissioners Lluch and Jakob, reviewed numerous grant applications and held two conference call meetings where the Program Committee agreed on recommendations for both recovery fund dollars and traditional state formula dollars. The executive committee acted on the recommendations of the Program Management Committee and those grants have already been awarded to the following:

1. Black Child Development Institute - \$74,085
2. Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy - \$183,300
3. East Carolina University - \$410,816
4. UNC at Greensboro - \$223,186

The grants totaled \$891,387.

Commissioner Jakob's first goal was to work on improving the Volunteer Awards in his area. He identified contacts at different levels to approach for these awards. Commissioner Jakob's second goal is to work on finding volunteer opportunities and how to identify them in his area, so he researched volunteer centers and gathered information on what services the centers provide. Commissioner Jakob spent the majority of his commission time working with the Program Management Committee, reviewing applications and having conference calls to discuss the applications.

Report on N.C. Mentoring Partnership – Linda Harrill, Director

The N.C. Mentoring Partnership continues to train local communities on how to set up and sustain countywide mentoring partnerships. Currently, Person, Scotland, Halifax, Johnston and Martin counties are establishing new partnerships – some of which are faith-based, and some are school-based. The Partnership is working with some counties in western North Carolina to establish new or re-energize partnerships. The Partnership has submitted a \$500,000 federal grant for the N.C. Mentoring Partnership MENTOR training center, which would provide some direct grants to new partnerships and some funds to expand others. It also would provide funding for training. Linda Harrill is planning an America's Promise Summit on High School Graduation. Commission staff members and other Governor's office staff members are involved with planning the summit, which is co-sponsored by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. The summit will be at the McKimmon Center, Oct. 22. Following the summit will be regional summits focusing on mentoring as a strategy. The Partnership also partnered with the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to submit a federal grant to support the Governor's One-on-One programs.

Report from Volunteer NC, Inc. – Commissioner Doll

Commissioner Doll indicated that the board has met twice since the last committee meeting. Volunteer NC, Inc. adopted the following mission statement:

It is the mission of Volunteer NC, Inc. to advocate and support service initiatives.

The organization will do so by:

- Instilling a sense of personal responsibility to serve
- Recognizing and celebrating the value of volunteerism
- Soliciting, receiving and holding resources
- Funding projects that have the potential to positively impact communities throughout North Carolina
- Initiating and/or promoting public policy issues that advance volunteerism and community service

Commissioner Betty Platt and Kaye Gattis are now ex-officio members.

MLK Day activities were funded.

Chairwoman Norris issued a challenge to the group to donate to Volunteer NC.

Report from State Corporation Office – Commissioner Betty Platt

Commissioner Platt noted that the stimulus was passed and recovery dollars are now available. She indicated that NC received about \$1.5 million for VISTA. Four existing projects have been expanded and three new VISTA programs have been opened in Forsyth County, and Raleigh.

CNCS will hold town hall meetings for input on the new legislation.

There is a new National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) program in Mississippi. There was some discussion about what NCCC is, and how they could assist in North Carolina. The Web site for NCCC is www.americorps.gov/nccc.

Commissioner Platt mentioned the upcoming NCAVA Conference, which many of their Senior Corps members are attending, as well as the National Conference in San Francisco.

MLK Day 2010- Triad is still a national focus area for MLK Day. T/TA calls will begin in July in preparation for 2010.

Commissioner Platt also mentioned a study that measured the impact of Teach for America. She indicated that North Carolina school data was used, and the results strongly indicated the positive impact of TFA in classrooms.

CNCS state office has hired a new staff member.

RSVP will begin a competitive process for funds in 2013.

Report from Learn and Serve, School-based – Commissioner Carolyn Foxx

Commissioner Foxx gave a report on DPI/Learn and Serve K-12 programs:

1. Reiterated the success of TFA
2. Currently ending their three-year cycle, and they are approved for 2009-2012
3. There will be a new focus on health and safety
4. All programs are now required to participate in MLK Day.

Next Meeting

Chairwoman Norris stated that the next meeting will be July 21 via conference call, time to be determined.

Kaye Gattis indicated that she would like to request a letter of appreciation from the Commission thanking Will Lindsay for his years of service.

There being no other business, there was a motion for the meeting to be adjourned, and it was passed by voice vote.