

LOUISIANA SERVE COMMISSION
PROVISIONAL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
LOUISIANA STATE LIBRARY
NORTH FOURTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802

Commissioners Attending:

Voting Members

Monica Bradsher
Julie Cherry
David Conner
Leroy Davis
Vincent Ilustre (arrived 10:18 am)
Jenny Korner
Mike Manning
Camm Morton
Fabian Tucker

Ex-officio members

Pam Olson

Commissioners Absent:

Erin Bendily
Ann Duplessis
Chris Gorman
Lydia Jackson
Teresa Micheels
Dena Morrison
Shayla Price

Staff:

Janet Pace
Nicholas Auck
Jawonna Mason
Stephanie Trahan
Jason Miller, Summer intern
Tom Pfeifer, VISTA member
Jason Schaefer, VISTA member

Visitors:

Toryah Cameron, Teach for America
Naressa Cofield, LA Department of
Education
Betsy Irvine, Louisiana Delta Service Corps
Sarah Mecholsky, Teach for America
Peggy Mendoza, City Year New Orleans
Vickie Schenk, State CNCS Office staff
Cindy Seghers, LSU Honors College
Lucas Spielfogel, Teach for America
Alisa Stevens, Impact Lake Charles
Michael Tipton, Teach for America

CALL TO ORDER:

In Chair Chris Gorman's absence, Vice Chair Julie Cherry called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Monica Bradsher called roll. Upon arrival at 10:18 am of Vincent Ilustre, the minutes were presented by Monica and approved unanimously on a motion Camm Morton and a second by Leroy Davis.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Vice Chair Julie Cherry gave the Chair's Report. She reported on the Legislative Session which ended June 4, noting that effective August 1, 2012 the Louisiana Serve Commission will be officially renamed the Volunteer Louisiana Commission (Act 553). She directed Commissioners to the packet for a summary of the legislation.

She outlined the process for the upcoming funding recommendations from the AmeriCorps Program Committee. AmeriCorps Program Committee Chair David Conner will present the AmeriCorps funding application process. The public will then be invited to comment. Each speaker will have five minutes to speak. Each person may only speak once. Commissioners may

ask clarifying questions about what has been presented. Once all public comment has been received, David will present the recommendations of the AmeriCorps Program Committee and Commissioners will begin their deliberations. No additional public comment may be given.

Julie also noted that in May, Denise Dowell left LA Serve to take a position with DHH. Because of the current funding situation at the federal level, her position will not be replaced.

She noted staff would give an update about the upcoming State Service Plan Listening Tour. She urged Commissioners to take part in the meetings when possible and to help promote it in their region. Because this only occurs every three years, public input is critical. Staff will draft a copy that will be reviewed through the Volunteerism/Disaster Services Committee and then to the full Commission for consideration by the end of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Leroy Davis presented the Treasurer's Report. The Admin budget for 2012 is \$200,000 and operates on a January to December cycle. As of April 30, 2012, \$61,994.49 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$140,597.00. This budget was significantly reduced for 2012 (down \$50,000) leaving no room for any additional expenses. Therefore, the remaining balance will be utilized to cover the salary and fringe benefit expense for staff during the remainder of the grant cycle. Staff has been allowed to ask for supplemental funds for this grant, and has requested \$50,000 which was the amount cut from the budget. CNCS will notify applicants late June.

Like the Admin budget, the PDAT budget also operates on a January to December cycle. For 2012, \$73,425 was awarded to the Commission. As of April 30, 2012, \$4,881.43 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$68,543.57. These funds are mainly being used for programmatic purposes. All staff salary and fringe has been removed and the funds will be used to support Training and Technical Assistance activities for sub-grantees.

The Disability budget also operates on a January to December cycle. For 2012, \$108,428 was awarded to the Commission. It is anticipated that this is the last year that this fund will be available. As of April 30, 2012, \$23,805.21 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$84,622.79. The majority of these funds are used for sub-grants for community service projects around Make A Difference Day, which is October 27, 2012.

The Volunteer Louisiana/State General Funds budget for 2011-2012 is \$281,643 and operates on a July to June cycle. As of April 30, 2012, \$143,597.54 has been expended and encumbered with an estimated remaining balance of \$135,068.97. Although the vast majority of funds within this budget are utilized for Professional Services and other programmatic support for our Volunteer Outreach efforts, additional salary and fringe are now being charged to this budget. If the Supplemental Admin is approved, some of these salary/fringe costs will be charged back to the Admin grant.

The Learn & Serve has a budget of \$378,282 and operates on a September to August cycle. As of April 30, 2012, \$265,790.57 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$112,491.43. This program was eliminated from the CNCS federal budget and is scheduled to end August 14, 2012. However, with the departure of Denise Dowell who oversaw this grant,

staff is in discussion with CNCS to terminate this grant early, as there is no capacity to continue the goals of the extended period.

The Volunteer Generation budget is a competitive grant from which the Commission successfully wrote in 2010 and was continued in 2011. The budget for these two years is \$200,000 and operates on an October to September cycle. As of April 30, 2012, \$44,308.41 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$155,691.59. This grant will continue to operate through Sept. 30, 2013 in which LA Serve may provide funding upon request if available to sub-grantees for service projects throughout the state. We anticipate that all monies will be expended by the end of the grant cycle. Staff has written for a third year of the grant, which is estimated to bring another \$100,000 in project monies.

Another grant that is new to the Commission packet is an operational VISTA grant. Though the commission has been a project of the CNCS Louisiana office for many years, in May 2011, it was awarded an operational grant. This means that much of the fiscal oversight is done within the Commission. The VISTA budget for 2011-2012 is \$592,927.00 and operates on a May to April cycle. As of April 30, 2012, \$264,808.76 has been expended with an estimated remaining balance of \$328,118.24. These funds are being used for the placement of VISTA members with nonprofit organizations as an effort to strengthen volunteer outreach initiatives and other capacity building functions.

Commissioners also reviewed the budgets are the Competitive and Formula funded programs for FY11-12. These programs were awarded a total of \$4,119,898 (\$1,876,259 for competitive and \$2,243,639 for Formula) and operate on a September to August cycle. Reimbursement requests for 2011-2012 expenditures that have been received as of June 10, 2012 total approximately \$2,800,313.33 (\$1,456,164.74 for Competitive and \$1,344,148.59 for Formula) with an estimated balance of \$1,319,584.67 (\$420,094.26 for Competitive and \$899,490.41 for Formula). It is anticipated that the funds will be expended by year end and those not will be requested as carryover for next year.

David Conner made a motion and Jenny Korner seconded the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passes unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Janet Pace introduced the Summer Intern, Jason Miller. Jason is an MPA student at LSU. He is overseeing the LA Serve portion of the BESE/LA Serve study on a possible community service diploma endorsement program for high schools.

She told Commissioners that the House had once again zeroed out the Corporation for National and Community Service in the federal 2013 budget. The Senate also marked up their budget showing an increase for CNCS. It will now be up to legislators to work out the two funding recommendations.

She asked Jason Schaefer, VISTA member, to update the Commission on the Statewide Listening Tour that will begin in late July. Once meetings are held, Commissioners will be asked to approve the three-year State Service Plan and forward to the Lt. Governor for his approval.

She showed Commissioners the new Louisiana Volunteer Service Award. Nick Auck reported that they are currently being ordered. Volunteers who complete 150 hours of service in a calendar year will receive this award.

Commissioners asked about the status of the Commissioner nominees and reappointments. Janet said that there are still names pending and that a few additional names are being submitted by the Lt. Governor. Several have withdrawn their names. The hope is that with Chris Gorman's help, these names will be successfully appointed.

Vincent Ilustre asked about the Volunteerism Study. He wanted to explore how the Commission could do a better job tracking university students who don't have Louisiana phone lines.

ACTION ITEM

AmeriCorps Program Committee Chair David Conner presented the AmeriCorps funding application process. Applicant organizations in the audience gave overviews of their programs, including total agency budget, percent of budget that this application request represents and other funding sources such as AmeriCorps National Direct resources.

MOTION: That the following applicants and the funding levels presented be approved by Commissioners:

Boys and Girls Club	\$ 177,378
Impact Lake Charles	\$ 122,986
LA Delta Service Corps	\$ 597,919
SEE West Monroe	\$ 274,320
ShrevCorps	\$ 81,130
Teach for America	\$ 483,500
UL Lafayette	\$ 158,145
Total Funding	\$1,718,000

The motion from the AmeriCorps Program Committee was seconded by Jenny Korner and Dr. Davis and unanimously approved on a vote by Commissioners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Secretary Monica Bradsher outlined key dates for Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Camm Morton and seconded by David Conner that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed. The meeting ended at 11:48 am.