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**Kansas Volunteer Commission Meeting  
Virtual Meeting**

**June 6th, 2023**

**Members in Attendance:** Amy Pinger, Ginger Williams, David Battey, Linn Hogg, Ben Jones, Cindy Miles, Emily Riner, Mark Stump, Daniel Cruz, Carolyn Campbell, Selena Eckstrom, Melanie Haas

**Members Not in Attendance**: Barbara Hickert, Stephanie Kupper

**Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:**

**Ex-Officio Members Not in Attendance:**

**Staff in Attendance**: Jessica Dorsey, Kay Emerson, Amanda Noll, Elaine Rodriguez, Tierney Kirtdoll, Haley Matherly, Sarah Palubinski

**WELCOME AND COMMISSIONER PLEDGE**

Chairwoman Amy Pinger called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. The Commissioners recited the Commissioner pledge.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

Elaine Rodriguez led the roll call.

**COMMISSION STAFF REORGANIZATION**

Kay Emerson has resigned from Kansas Volunteer Commission and moved to the Colorado Commission. This provided an opportunity for the Commission to reorganize our structure and share the work. There are giant silos of information that go away currently when someone leaves a position. The AmeriCorps position relies on relationship building, skilled grant reviewer, monitoring, charismatic, etc. and it is difficult to find all these skills in one person.

Restructure the work around tasks and strengths instead of the silo of work. Leading from strengths is the best way we can function as a team together.

Proposed:

Training and Engagement Coordinator: Sarah

Program Development Coordinator: Haley

Monitoring and Accountability Coordinator: Tierney

Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator: Elaine

Fiscal Specialist: Amanda

Administrative Specialist: (Vacant)

Commissioners share that this was a great time to move in this direction. Eager for collaboration. Jessica shared that no transitions or changes will happen until at least the new fiscal year in July.

**NEW COMMISSIONER RECRUITMENT**

Staff reminded that we function out of federal law. We are required to have 15 to 25 members appointed by the Governor, have a State Service Plan and oversee AmeriCorps programming in the State of Kansas.

We have always interpreted that one person must represent each individual area, but in fact they may represent more than one area. Which means that some of these vacancies could be filled by people already on the Commission.

As a rule, we would all appreciate having a larger commission. Broader exchange of ideas and perspectives. If we have people miss a commission meeting, we aren’t as worried if we will make quorum.

Number of men serving has dwindled significantly and we have no one past the Great Bend area. There were Commissioners from the Southwest and Southeast corners at one point and it would be great to have them back as well. Broader diversity. Greater presence. Resources to tribal communities. Representation in that area would be great as well.

Generating a list of potential Commissioners is what the staff could use assistance with. The Governor’s Office is open to our suggestions. But it needs to be bipartisan. We have not exceeded the 50% plus one requirement that we have for individual political parties.

Our specific vacancies include:

* A representative of a community-based agency or organization in the state
* A representative of local government in the state
* An individual between the ages of 16 and 25, inclusive, who is a participant or supervisor of a service program for school-age youth, or of a campus-based or national service program

Q. Where would we find a description for the Commissioners?

A. We don’t have a position description for the Commissioners as of yet, but we will soon. It’s something we should have.

Brainstorming potential Commissioners:

* Michael Odupitan at Omni Circle
* Community Service Board Wichita State University – Volunteer Engagement Scholar
* Ann Mah may be good person to reach out to for suggestions
* Christina Haswood possible tribal member
* Sharice Davids (may be too busy, but the by-laws do state “their designee” and they could put forward someone. She did mention wanting to be more involved on our last visit)
* Marcus Miller, First Tee
* Christopher Bush as youth commissioner
* Kansas Leadership Center
* Haskell University about recommendations for Tribal Youth Rep

Shared that Joe Marlow has resigned due to continued family health challenges. Jessica will follow up with email with home address to send him a card, thanking him. He was the Chair and Vice-Chair at one point, and he was very engaged. Please reach out to him via email or physical mail. Keep him in your thoughts.

**COMMITTEE CONVERSATION**

We formed a two-committee system about a year or so ago. There was a Strategic Partnerships committee as well as a Marketing, Outreach and Communication committee. Since there was no clarity on what should be talked about, the work fell upon the staff to generate content and direction. They have not really been operating since established.

Jessica and Amy discussed this and wanted to throw out a possible idea. Instead of committees, what if we had specific volunteer positions on the commission with staff persons assigned to manage each position description? We could pilot in the summer and fall and then discuss at the December Commission meeting.

Pilot includes:

**Grant Promoter** – share grant info out across the state. Taken a dip this year, surprisingly so. The numbers have been low. Grant promoter would help award more funds in the state.

**Conference Planner** – Serve to help plan new conference.

**Social Media Ambassador** – Someone who either shares or re-shares content, retweets, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Could add these positions in 2024:

Legislative Liaison

Speaker (speaker bureau formerly – shares what the Commission has to offer)

Trainer (trained on Service Enterprise to help train others on this)

Grant Reviewer (always have a need for grant reviewers)

Advocate (advocacy for volunteerism, mentoring and national service initiatives.)

Commissioner liked this idea. Areas of expertise and coverage. Aligns well with the model with playing towards strengths.

Some discussion about the work that happens at committee level that may not translate to individual volunteer positions. Doesn’t dislike the idea. But is it a bigger job. Group versus individual efforts.

Committee structure is very difficult and takes a lot of work to make committees happen. Some Commissioners weren’t that excited about them. This way we have people focus on what they really enjoy doing.

The job description is important to structure the volunteer positions.

Pre-pandemic we had a checklist of expectations for the commissioners. We had them contribute their strengths. This extends that idea further and brings people’s strengths to the table.

Commissioner noted great to have a chance to use skills towards the needs of the commission. Revisit in October. Four months to bring on additional position descriptions or gaps to rediscuss.

**SERVICE PLAN REVIEW/UPDATE**

See State Service Plan Tracking Spreadsheet

Q. Is there a list of all the organizations that have applied for mini grants?

1. We do have that list for everyone awarded in 2022. We could pull it together for 2023, VGF and AmeriCorps easily.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Commission Conference October 9-11, 2023

Partnering with Kansas Nonprofit Chamber on conference in October put date on the calendar now.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be on August 1, 2023.

Zoom? Or In-Person? Hybrid option? David out of town Aug 1st but would join by Zoom.

1st day back for teachers so Zoom link would work. Plan to develop hybrid meeting for August. Consider modifying that time. Networking before or after. Lunch together?

Wims-Campbell made motion to adjourn. Miles seconded.

Dorsey adjourned the meeting.