

Volunteer Tennessee
Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes

Tennessee Tower, 3rd floor, Conference Room D – 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville 37243
MS Teams (for virtual participants)
August 13, 2021

Members in Attendance in-person: Chairing: Donovan Robertson* (proxy for Reeves, Van de Vate), Sonda Finley*, Anne Havard (TDHS), Jessica Ivey (TDMHSAS), Buddy Lea (TDF&A), Terry Silver*, Amy Walter*, Eileen Wollam*

Members in Attendance virtually: Tobi Amosun (TDoH), George Bove*, Stephanie Davis*, Andrea Hill*, Holly Jones*, Rick Kriesky*, Heidi Leming (TBR), Greg Lyles*, Lee Moten*, Nancy Schelin (TDEC), Jason Scott*, Leon Shields*, Patti Smith (AmeriCorps), Betty White*

Members not in Attendance: Brittany Debitz-Barker* (TDOE), Bobby Graves* (TDM), Marjahna Hart (TDCS), Michael Hogan (TDS&HS), Wanda Perry*, Kane Reeves* (proxy), Tracy Van de Vate* (proxy), VACANT (TDLWD, UT)

Guests (in-person): Commissioner Clarence Carter, Tennessee Department of Human Services

Staff (in-person): Shannon Duke, Neelam Gupta, Monica Hodges, Jim Snell, Daniel Sparkman, Candace Taylor

Quorum Count: 17 (with proxies) of 20 appointed (11 is quorum). (*) indicates voting member.

Donovan Robertson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and noted that Commissioner Clarence Carter would be joining us. He then asked for a quick round of introductions. Donovan suggested that Commissioner Clarence Carter be allowed to share his information before the meeting officially began.

Commissioner Carter shared his PowerPoint detailing the need for shared vision, a redefining of how we measure the impact of success and the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). He discussed the TANF Opportunity Act pilot initiative which will shift the focus from the quantity of benefits, goods and services provided to the quality of life for those served. Several board members thanked him for his service and time at our meeting.

Donovan asked everyone to review the minutes from the May 21, 2021 meeting. Donovan called for a motion to approve the May 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Amy Walter made a motion, and Eileen Wollam seconded. Donovan asked Secretary, Terry Silver, to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Donovan gave a brief Friends of Volunteer Tennessee update and encouraged participation on the Tennessee Serves volunteer portal and said that Friends hopes to do a podcast featuring the First Lady Mary Lee.

Jim gave the Director's report. Volunteer Tennessee staff are continuing to work remotely for the time being and will continue to do so even after COVID restrictions are lifted. Staff concluded the search for the new Training and Special Projects Manager, and Candace Taylor started June 1st. Jim

reported to the board that the AmeriCorps Agency is refusing to make one of our AmeriCorps grants, claiming that we have outstanding closeout requirements for another grant. Documentation was submitted as closeout documents on time on June 30, 2021. Jim urgently requested all board members contact Senator Bill Hagerty to request that he check the status of the AmeriCorps Competitive grant award. He then concluded his director's report.

Jim shared committee break-out details requesting each group work on the 2022-24 State Service Plan sections of Outputs, Results & Impacts.

Committees broke into working groups at 11:45 a.m. Donovan reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and asked for committee report-outs:

Grants Committee

Donovan called on Buddy Lea to present Grants Committee discussions. Buddy discussed the committee's thoughts on looking at programs which are funded and making sure we are funding programs that support our priorities. Buddy discussed the addition of an application priority to include how a program will train volunteers in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The idea of listing job possibilities, resume and cover letter examples for those leaving AmeriCorps was presented to the board. He then shared AmeriCorps Formula revisions on unspent and available monies. Donovan called for a motion to accept Grant's Committee's AmeriCorps Formula revision recommendation. Terry Silver made a motion, Eileen Wollam seconded the motion. Donovan asked Secretary, Terry Silver, to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Buddy presented a recommendation to revise the AmeriCorps funding timeline. Donovan called for a motion to accept Grant's Committee's AmeriCorps funding timeline revision recommendation. Sonda Finley made a motion, Terry Silver seconded the motion. Donovan asked Secretary, Terry Silver, to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Communications Committee

Donovan called on Amy Walter to present the Communications Committee discussions. Amy shared the Committee's output for increasing awareness of funding and the Tennessee Serves volunteer portal. The Committee also wants to profile organizations and share successes representing various parts of state – both urban and rural. Another output discussed was the idea of YouTube trainings on Diversity & Inclusion to support the Foundations of Service Committee.

Jim discussed the proposal to add Miss Tennessee Volunteer as an honorary chair, which would allow her to attend Board meetings, the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards, and lead a workshop at the conference. Some discussion ensued around service focus and the challenges COVID has had on service. It was suggested that the Strategic Partnerships Committee would handle partnership of Miss TN Volunteer and would come up with a framework to push out portal and leverage the partnership between Volunteer Tennessee and Miss Tennessee Volunteer. George Bove made the motion to empower the Executive Board to make the final decision, and Greg Lyles seconded the motion. Donovan asked Secretary, Terry Silver, to do a roll call vote. Terry called the roll, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Development Committee

Donovan called on Jason Scott to present the Board Development Committee report. The committee had discussed how AmeriCorps programs could support Tennessee counties reporting food

insecurity. The committee also discussed AmeriCorps members job readiness resources after AmeriCorps and engaging AmeriCorps alums to know if that they were able to secure job placement/next steps with organizations serving the community. The committee is in the planning process for the October board retreat and will have details soon.

Foundations of Service Committee

Donovan called on Betty White to present the Foundations of Service Committee report. Betty mentioned Committee is working on the School Award of Excellence program. The Committee wants to narrow down specific goals in each area of the draft State Service Plan that directly corresponded with children and schools.

Strategic Partnerships Committee

Donovan gave the Strategic Partnerships Committee report. The Committee to add “10% target (volunteers, organizations, partners) increase for initial year up to 70% by the end of the strategic plan timeframe” to the State Service Plan and delete “All Tennesseans have access to affordable housing” from the Outcome column of Affordable Housing. The Committee also proposed to add “Increase the # of programs providing access to information related to affordable housing. Increase the # of providers/partners that provide access to affordable housing resources” to the Output column of Affordable Housing.

Donovan asked if there were any final questions. He gave a reminder about the next board meeting and annual retreat on October 14 and 15 and asked everyone to complete the online meeting evaluation. Donovan then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Buddy Lea motioned, and Terry Silver seconded. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Secretary

Meeting minutes prepared by Terry Silver, Secretary.