



# Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

**Members:**

- NATHAN RIX, *Chair*
- ELIAS VILLEGAS, *Vice-chair*
- DANIEL ALTAMIRANO HERNANDEZ
- SIERRA BARNES
- JORGE CRUZ
- SHENIKA CUMBERBATCH
- HEIDI EDWARDS
- MICHAEL FIELDMAN
- TODD JONES
- ADELE McAFEE
- JAYESH PALSHIKAR
- COURTNEY SNEAD

**Ex-officio:**

MARY GREUSEL

**Commission Staff:**

- CARIE BAUER  
*Director*
- AMY HOLLAND  
*Program Officer*
- STEPHANIE SOLOMON  
*Program Officer*
- BRITTANY MELZER  
*Commission Administrator*

**Technical Advisor:**

KAREN HUMELBAUGH  
*Director, Office of Workforce Investments*

January 15, 2021

9:00AM-12:00PM

Teams Link: [here](#)

*Persons wishing to testify need to send an email twelve hours prior to:*

[Brittany.e.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:Brittany.e.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov)

## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Nathan Rix, Vice-chair Elias Villegas, Heidi Edwards, Shenika Cumberbatch, Sierra Barnes, Mike Fieldman, Mary Greusel, Todd Jones, Adele McAfee, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, Jayesh Palshikar

**Staff Present:** Director Carie Bauer, Director Karen Humelbaugh, Amy Holland, Stephanie Solomon, Brittany Melzer

**Guests Present:** Liz Hammack

### 1.0 Standing Business

1.1 Chair Nathan Rix called the meeting to order at 9:11am. Chair Rix read the land acknowledgement. Mike Fieldman made correction to October meeting minutes attendee list. Director Bauer announced that one Program Spotlight participant had to cancel and suggested the time is instead used to discuss the Vaccine Committee letter submission. No public comment.

### 2.0 Standing Reports

2.1 AmeriCorps West Region Report – Mary Greusel shared that AmeriCorps is revamping their website to make it more user friendly and simple. The Senior Corps was asked to join the April Meeting to give updates specifically surrounding how they have had to adapt and adjust through the impacts of Covid-19 to their service.

2.2 OV Director Report- Director Bauer asked to share feedback on using BaseCamp for resources and information. Commission members like the usability of the site and ability to edit your preferences for notifications. Director Bauer shared that the national association for state commissions, ASC, has also formed an equity workgroup, titled JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) that she is a member of, and will share updates to the board as the work progresses. Director Bauer also shared that the West Region service branches are meeting regularly to discuss response to disaster and COVID. To start, the workgroup is drafting information about national service resources to disaster for Oregon partners. Director Bauer also shared that tribal outreach is being discussed,

as no tribes are accessing national service grants for programming or disaster response. West Region workgroup members are discussing relationship-building with Tribal Representatives and raising awareness of grant opportunities.

- 2.3 OWI Director Report- Director Karen Humelbaugh gave a general legislative and budget update. Director Humelbaugh reported that the HECC Budget did go to the Emergency Board for review but they did not hear the request due to other priorities. It will be heard instead during regular session. The general funds HECC received for OV are part of their federal match requirements and will not likely be affected. Director Humelbaugh also shared updates on workforce-related bills, and acknowledged the bill sponsored by Representative Leif, HB2737. A list of bills that directly effect the commission will be developed and shared so that participation can be discussed and planned.
- 2.4 AmeriCorps Program Officer Report - The program officers were able to move desk monitoring to virtual methods in July and August, and gave the Program Directors their monitoring reports in September and October. The program officers are changing how they collect data for the progress reports to make sure they can collect useful information on a quarterly basis. Invitations for an antiracism training series with Engage to Change will be sent out soon. The training is targeted to program directors, site supervisors, and members, but Commission board members are also invited to attend if interested. Additionally, opportunity is available for Commission board members to participate in the upcoming grant review process. If interested, please contact Amy Holland.
- 2.5 Program Spotlight - Margarita Gutierrez Lemus, Program Director for College Possible, provided the board members an introduction to the program and its mission, which is to create access to college through intensive support from junior year in high school through graduating college with a bachelor's degree. AmeriCorps members provide assistance to students during the Intensive training on standardized testing that begins in junior year, and works with them during senior year to prepare and apply for college. Vaccine administration discussion - Discussion ensued of the letter being submitted as public comment to the Vaccine Administration. Suggested edits were incorporated into the text of the letter. The Commission is in favor of accepting the changes and going forward with the letter submission.
- 2.6 Presentation on Schools of National Service - Director Bauer presented on the AmeriCorps' initiative, which encourages schools to provide benefits to AmeriCorps alumni, in recognition of the value of their service. These benefits encourage AmeriCorps alumni to attend their institution and use their education award there. Currently Oregon is ranked 23 for payments and education award dollars being spent here, so there is room for growth. Director Bauer does not have the numbers for what has been earned in Oregon and is now unspent, or spent elsewhere, as AmeriCorps does not yet provide

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- those statistics. However, it is known that. 64 million dollars in education awards have been earned in Oregon since 1994, and \$33 million have been put back into Oregon education institutions. Discussion ensued of ways to get more visibility for this program.
- 2.7 State Service Plan Updates - OV is currently undergoing planning for 2021-2023 and developed the strategic planning committee. Priorities and themes that have risen to the top so far include: Response and recovery, collaboration and communication, innovating ways to advance national service in all those sectors, and the advancement of equity within the national service network. Data for the plan so far includes interviews, surveys, research collected through the Commission ROI project and surveys conducted by the consultants working with OV on the plan, The Coraggio Group. Additional highlights include: capacity building activities, technical trainings, concerns for OV not being fully staffed, etc. Rural areas in Oregon are looking to OV to elevate their voices and ensure that their voices are heard. Stakeholders mentioned that OV needs to be poised to leverage volunteers to assist with response and recovery to the recent state disasters (wildfires, etc.).
- 2.8 **Advisory Workgroup Reports**  
Equity Workgroup Update– The workgroup is speaking to facilitators to discuss possibly facilitating the workgroup meetings to discuss the equity plan for OV moving forward, and assist in putting together OV’s policies and procedures to develop more in-depth procedures moving forward.  
Policy Workgroup Update – The House Bill for the education award still needs more house representative signatures. Heidi Edwards agreed to circulate it within her network. Discussion of whom to distribute the materials to occurred, as well as conversations about educational visits and allowable activities. The legislative handbook will be shared to the workgroup and set up a training to clarify these guidelines.
- 3.0 Commission Business**
- 3.1 Recognition- Farewell and thank you to Mike Fieldman, who is retiring his board membership.
- 3.2 Upcoming meeting dates and agenda items discussion.
- 3.3 Adjourned at 11:58am.