

Oregon Volunteers: *Commission for Voluntary Action and Service*

Members:

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

Non-Voting Members

MARY GREUSEL

Commission Staff:

CARIE BAUER
Director

AMY HOLLAND
Program Officer

STEPHANIE SOLOMON
Program Officer

BRITTANY
MELZER
*Commission
Administrator*

KAREN HUMELBAUGH
*Director
Office of Workforce
Investments*

July 23, 2021

9:00AM-12:00PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE

MEETING MINUTES:

Members Present

Chair Nathan Rix, Vice-chair Elias Villegas, Mary Greusel, Todd Jones, Heidi Edwards, Shenika Cumberbatch, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, Sierra Barnes, Jayesh Palshikar

Guests Present

Rachel de la Haya, Carmen Denison, Rachele Mills, OWI Director Karen Humelbaugh, OV Director Carie Bauer, Brittany Melzer, Stephanie Solomon

Staff Present

Opening Business

- 1.0 Call to Order** – Chair Nathan Rix called meeting to order at 9:05am.
- 1.1 Opening: Land Acknowledgement
Introductions and Chair Opening Remarks
- 1.2 Public Comment – none.
- 1.3 Commission Member Announcements
 - Chair Nathan Rix shared the news of the passing of Representative Leif, and recognized his contributions to National Service efforts, and AmeriCorps.
- 1.4 Agenda Review
 - Director Carie Bauer proposed changing Director Humelbaugh's report to the last standing report slot due to a time conflict. The Commission accepted the proposed change.
- 1.5 Consent Agenda **ACTION ITEM:** Approve Attached Meeting Minutes
OV Program Officer Report
 - Heidi Edwards made motion to accept consent agenda. Todd Jones seconded and the motion passed.

Standing Reports

- 2.0 Reports & Updates**
- 2.1 AmeriCorps West Region Report
- 2.2 OV Director Report
 - Director Carie Bauer shared that SB 77, HB 2737, and HB 2992 passed. These bills will change the name of Oregon Volunteers to OregonServes: AmeriCorps Service Commission, exempt the AmeriCorps Segal Education Award from state tax, and modify the amount of per diem compensation paid to members of state boards and commissions to support increase board participation and representation, respectively.
 - An awareness campaign will begin shortly to spread the word of the passage of HB 2737 to community colleges and universities.
 - Director Carie Bauer reported on two database tools that OV has purchased: Get Connected, for general volunteer recruitment, and ReDI, a disaster response volunteer coordination tool. These tools will improve community volunteer recruitment and disaster response. Lots

of need for local communities to increase disaster resilience and coordination. Any community will have access to the systems. The systems have many helpful components, such as volunteer skill-tracking and running reports.

- Director Carie Bauer is looking at options to develop implementation and rollout through a multi-partner workgroup. The systems were purchased with expiring training and technical assistance funds..
- REDi examples:
- <https://volunteerlouisiana.galaxydigital.com/>
- <https://www.galaxydigital.com/volunteer-management-software/>
- Update on Silvernest Housing Platform: Lack of affordable and safe housing has a negative impact on member safety and ability to stay in service. Silvernest is a platform where home owners and renters can share that they have room openings in their home. It is currently cost prohibitive, but Director Carie Bauer has a meeting next week to discuss using the system through a different agency. This will help incoming service members find safe rooms to rent. There are safety features built in and price and cost transparency.
- Director Carie Bauer shared the appointment packages that were sent in this week for the September nominations. They should be finalized by the October meeting.

2.3 Public Policy Committee Report

- HB 2737, part of omnibus package HB 2433, passed. This bill exempts the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the state tax burden. Oregon is the fifth state to do so. Now other state commissions have been reaching out to Chair Nathan Rix and Director Carie Bauer to ask how they can do this in their states as well.
- The next steps are to make sure that AmeriCorps members understand what this means for them, by working on an FAQ document within the Committee to be shared with AmeriCorps members.
- Chair Nathan Rix and members of the Public Policy Committee were able to join the Virtual Hill Day and share information with federal legislators of the impact bills would have if passed on National Service and our state commission. The members also shared their priority of removing the tax burden at the federal level as well, and discussed the Civilian Climate Corps, and provided information about how AmeriCorps members can be leveraged with the climate package.
- Director Carie Bauer shared the efforts of the data subgroup alumni survey that is being sent out to AmeriCorps alumni.

2.4 OWI Director Report

- The WorkSource offices refresh project is ongoing. They're now aiming to begin reopening to the public for face-to-face services next week statewide.
- Director Karen Humelbaugh shared that the HECC main office is still set to open to the public on September 1st. The new HECC Agency building has many rooms available with varying technology that the Commission can utilize past September 1st.
- Besides the education award tax exemption passing, HB 5528 passed to keep the regular HECC budget at the current service level, or received minor additions. In many ways HECC managed better than

expected this legislative session. SB 623 tasked the Workforce and Talent Development Board to create a Continuous Improvement Committee to ensure customers are being taken care of. HB 2992, the Oregon Youth Employment Program, passed. It is designed to provide youth with job opportunities, career counseling and connectivity with an equity lens. This bill ensures that grantees from communities of color and rural areas are largely represented. SB 762 was the forest omnibus bill that passed. There is a section in that bill that's called the Oregon Conservation Corps. There is some connectivity to AmeriCorps programs. The linkages will be discerned. This bill will grant out about \$10 million for young people to gain job experience from community protection projects located in the wildland-urban interface.

- A legislative summary and budget summary will be sent to the Commission from OWI.
- There is about \$2 billion in ARPA spare funding to be used at the state's discretion. Director Carie Bauer submitted proposals for how to use those funds for AmeriCorps efforts. Some of those proposals made it to the Racial Justice Council in the fall of 2021 for Governor Brown to use as priorities to inform the short legislative session in February 2022. Director Karen Humelbaugh and Director Carie Bauer may be asked to present their priorities to the Racial Justice Council. The Commission will be updated as these efforts unfold.

2.5 Equity Framework Development Team

- The name change of the group is due to the development and trainings that are occurring within the group. The former name of the group made it seem like the meeting activities were subject to public notices. As they are not yet, the name was changed appropriately.
- Juneteenth became an official state holiday. Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's promotion efforts and whether Juneteenth should be included in the Days of Service for AmeriCorps members.

10:15 *Break*

Presentations & Discussions

3.0

3.1 Program Spotlights: UCAN, Campus Compact of Oregon

- Rachele Mills with United Communities AmeriCorps shared the program's goals and triumphs that they've experienced this past program year.
- Recruitment efforts for next program year are very slow, which brings to light the housing market and rental market competition. The low living allowance is not three times rent and that is what is needed for most rentals. This creates a barrier to service.
- Carmen Denison and Rachel de la Haya of Campus Compact of Oregon shared their program year updates. They pointed out that BIPOC-led institutions may need more resources available to them to be able to have an AmeriCorps member serve at their site.
- Recruitment is also a barrier right now. Organizations they typically count on to host members are still recovering from financial losses due to COVID.

3.2 State Service Plan Updates & Work Session

- Discussion ensued regarding the historical context of the state service plan, and how SB 77 interacts with the state service plan and vice versa. The steering team and public policy committee will discuss how to statutorily align the state service plan with the current statutes.
- Director Carie Bauer gave historical context on SB 77. She explained that the work began in 2019 when the requirements for some of the volunteer sector responsibilities were too broad and unmeasurable. The Commission streamlined and removed some items that were not appropriate for the Commission to oversee, about which the Commission had no control, and that the Commission were not able to measure any success against.

3.3 ARPA report will be emailed out due to timing of discussion.

Closing Business

4.0 Upcoming Events

4.1 Parking Lot

4.2 Upcoming Dates & Meetings.

- The next board meeting is scheduled for October 15th. Discussion of the comfort level of returning to an in-person meeting for it, most likely located at the HECC main office in Salem. The virtual component will also remain an option.

4.3 Adjourned at 12:07pm.