



# Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

## Members:

NATHAN RIX, Chair  
DANIEL ALTAMIRANO  
HERNANDEZ  
SIERRA BARNES  
SHENIKA CUMBERBATCH  
JAYESH PALSHIKAR

## Public Policy Advisory Workgroup Meeting

### MINUTES

November 9, 2021

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Click [here](#) to enter meeting

Call in: 1-929-229-5751, Passcode: 616 385 726#

*Persons wishing to testify during the public comment should email [Brittany.E.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:Brittany.E.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov) 12 hours prior to the meeting. Times are approximate. Order of the agenda may vary. Each Individual/Group will have a time limit of three minutes.*

## Commission Staff:

CARIE BAUER  
Director, Oregon  
Volunteers

BRITTANY MELZER  
Commission  
Administrator

### Standing Business

**1.0 Chair Nathan Rix called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.**

- 1.1 Opening: Introductions and Chair Opening Remarks
- 1.2 Public Comment – none.
- 1.3 Agenda Review

### Standing Reports

#### 2.0

#### Reports & Updates

- 2.1
  - Legislative Report: State and Federal Updates
  - The Public Health AmeriCorps grant deadline has closed. Applications from at least three National Direct Programs operating in Oregon have been received. Awards are expected to be announced in January.
  - The Build Back Better Act funding package is still in negotiation; however, reports are that the AmeriCorps Civilian Climate Corps funding remains stable.
  - If the BBB is passed, the match requirement barrier will be removed and the living allowance will increase across all branches of service. The package also increases the education award.
  - This will be a \$15 billion influx to AmeriCorps over a 10-year expenditure period.
  - The rest of the \$15 billion funding will be split between federal land management agencies.
  - This is a landmark investment into AmeriCorps which recognizes the work that these communities are doing.
  - The AmeriCorps ARPA grants for Commissions have been announced. Oregon Volunteers' allocation will be a one-time increase of \$265,000. This money will be spent to increase commission capacity.

#### 2.2

#### OV/OWI Updates

- The Office of Workforce Investments is now under new leadership. Karen Humelbaugh moved to a new position within the State. Julia Steinberger has been appointed by Ben Cannon as Interim Director of OWI.

All meetings of Oregon Volunteers! Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service are open to the public and will conform to Oregon public meetings laws. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for accommodations for people with disabilities should be made to [Brittany.E.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:Brittany.E.Melzer@hecc.oregon.gov). Requests for accommodation should be made at least 72 hours in advance. Staff respectfully requests that you submit 25 collated copies of written materials at the time of your testimony. Persons making presentations including the use of video, DVD, PowerPoint or overhead projection equipment are asked to contact staff 12 hours prior to the meeting.



## Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

- Discussion: Strategies to address funding and staffing needs of the Commission. Director Carie Bauer is submitting a letter to request additional funding from the 2021-23 Emergency Board.
- Director Carie Bauer discussed the four positions she asked to be funded which are the Grants and Compliance Officer, AmeriCorps State and VISTA Program Officer, Volunteer and Community Engagement Coordinator, and the Disaster CORPS Coordinator.
- Discussion: Clarifying language of the state tax exemption bill. OV will create an FAQ document and research options, including Administrative Rule.
- Update: ASC has distributed to each state commission their annual State Policy Directory.
- Chair Nathan Rix led a discussion surrounding the next Public Policy and Education Committee Chair. Sierra Barnes agreed to take on the role of Committee Chair for 2022.

### Closing Business

- 3.1 Upcoming Dates & Meetings.
  - Reminder of the upcoming December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Commission meeting.
- 3.2 Chair Nathan Rix adjourned meeting at 3:01pm.