

PLENARY AND AFFINITY GROUP SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2008 Service Commission Executive Directors Conference - Washington, DC

DAY 2 – Thursday, December 6th, 2007

8:00am – 11:15am: Plenary Session

Session: Disaster Services
Presenter(s): Merlene Mazyck, Director of AmeriCorps NCCC, CNCS
Collen Clay, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Management, CNCS
Cee Cee Molineaux, Emergency Management Specialist, CNCS
Location: Sphinx Grand Ballroom (at Almas Temple)

This session is a continuation of the groundwork established at the disaster services conference in Dallas, TX. Attendees will become familiar with the Office of Emergency Management and be able to engage a guest panel of federal, state, and local emergency management agencies as well as participate in affinity group discussions. Attendees will include state commission EDs, AmeriCorps National program directors, AmeriCorps NCCC regional directors, and area managers from the Office of Field Liaison.

Participants will acquire a better understanding of CNCS' vision for its fifth strategic initiative, as well as how national deployment and reimbursement processes work, and also how to create partnerships to advance their involvement in local and statewide disaster services activities in all four phases of disaster: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

DAY 3 – Friday, December 7th, 2007

8:00am – 9:00am: Concurrent Affinity Group Discussions

1. Session: Building a Mentoring Community for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
Presenter: Theresa Clower, Special Assistant to CEO, CNCS
Location: Sphinx Grand Ballroom (at Almas Temple)

This session will introduce participants to the Foster Youth Mentoring Campaign, a cross-agency initiative of the Federal Mentoring Council, to engage mentors for the some 20,000 youth who age-out of the foster care system annually. Participants will learn the plight of youth aging-out of foster care, hear about best practices and model programs that serve this population, and explore ways they can get involved in this campaign in their state as it rolls out in 2008.

2. Session: Emerging State Policies and Practices for Civic Engagement of

Older Adults

Presenter(s): Jan Newsome, Special Assistant to the CEO, CNCS
Tiffany Boiman, National Governor's Association
Location: MR4 (at Almas Temple)

The Corporation is working with the Center for Best Practices of the National Governors Association (NGA) to help increase civic engagement participation among older adults by capitalizing on the leadership of state governors. During this session you will learn the various components of this initiative, how some states are creating new work and volunteer outcomes and how your state can become involved in expanding programs in your areas. Guest speaker: Tiffany Boiman, National Governor's Association.

Participants will receive an overview of the various components of this initiative; learn about the evolving role of policy as it relates to older adults in work and in volunteering; learn how some states are using executive orders and other activities to rethink retirement, address state needs and implement new state plans, and finally participants will have a Q&A about specific ways that interested State Commissions can be involved in the initiative.

3. Session: The Pro Bono Summit: Leveraging Pro Bono Service to Strengthen Nonprofit Capacity in Your State
Presenter(s): Shannon Maynard, Special Assistant to CEO, CNCS
Aaron Hurst, President and CEO, Taproot Foundation
Wendy Spencer, Executive Director, Volunteer Florida
Location: Franklin Park A (at Hotel)

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation is leading an effort to expand the pro bono ethic to the following industries: Marketing and Communications, Finance, Business Planning & Development and Human Resources/recruiting. These areas of professional skill represent critical gap areas within the nonprofit sector and are often the skills that can influence scale, sustainability and impact. Attend this session to learn more about the Pro Bono Summit, February 12-13, and how your state can get involved. Guest speaker: Aaron Hurst, president and CEO of the Taproot Foundation.

Participants will be informed about the Pro Bono Summit and receive a primer on pro bono partnerships (what works and what doesn't); be asked for input on leveraging the summit to create a movement of pro bono service; help identify roles state service commissions might play in building this movement; and determine interest in continued involvement in planning and preparing for the Pro Bono Summit.

4. Session: In the Middle: Ideas and Resources You Can Use to Engage Students, Particularly Middle-Schoolers, in Service
Presenter(s): Amiko Matsumoto, Special Assistant to CEO, CNCS

Steve Culbertson, President and CEO, Youth Service America
Elaine Leibsohn, VP, National Action Strategies, America's Promise
Location: Franklin Park B (at Hotel)

Engaging students in service is important at each educational stage, and emphasis on engaging middle school youth is gaining particular momentum. Participants will learn about resources available to them through national initiatives and identify collaboration opportunities to help increase student service in their state. In particular, this session will highlight the America's Promise "Ready for the Real World" national action strategy; and Youth Service America's Semester of Service (MLK Day to Global Youth Service Day) as well as current research and additional resources pertaining to students and service. Guest speakers include Steve Culbertson, President and CEO, Youth Service America; and Elaine Leibsohn, VP, National Action Strategies, America's Promise.

This session will have a particular focus on efforts to engage middle school aged youth in service. Participants will learn about three organizations/programs that can serve as resources for them, be familiar with current research related to the students' initiative, identify strategies for engaging students, and have an opportunity to share best practices.

9:15am – 10:15am: Concurrent Affinity Group Discussions

1. Session: Demonstration of Tech Tools
Presenter(s): Rhonda Taylor, Deputy Director for Corporate Relations, CNCS
Dave Premo, Corporate Relations Associate, CNCS
Location: Sphinx Grand Ballroom (at Almas Temple)

This session will be an interactive demonstration of the MLK Day and AmeriCorps Week Tech Tool. The tool is a resource that goes beyond just listing project details online. Users can also use it to recruit and select volunteers, customize a webpage to promote projects, communicate with volunteers, and coordinate supplies. This is just a fraction of what is available to commissions. Even if you have used it in the past, come see what more this Tech Tool has to offer. Also, wireless access is available in this session so participants are welcome to bring their own laptops to follow along!

2. Session: Rural Programming
Presenter: Kira Weiss, Team Leader/Program Officer, AmeriCorps*S/N, CNCS
Location: MR4 (at Almas Temple)

Rural America faces unique national service challenges. Join other interested EDs to continue and formalize an ongoing discussion that began at the National Conference in 2006. We will be establishing a permanent structure for the group, defining its objectives, and identifying next steps. If you have an opinion on how

the discussion about Rural America should move forward, join us! This affinity meeting is open to all EDs; it is not necessary to have participated in any of the previous meetings.

3. Session: Research and Policy Development
Presenter(s): Bob Grimm, Director of Research, Policy and Development, CNCS
LaMonica Shelton, Assoc. Dir. for Policy & Communications, CNCS
Location: Franklin Park A (at Hotel)

This session is a working meeting for members of the AmeriCorps Research Work Group. Members will be updated about the Corporation's research activities and have the opportunity to provide feedback.

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