



INDIANA COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM
Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2007
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Indiana Government Center
302 W. Washington Street
Conference Room 28
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Commission Chair David Reingold called the meeting of the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism to order at 10:02 AM, followed by the roll call. Those commissioners in attendance were:

Rick Bentley	Amy Mendoza
Eric Butler	Marty Moore
Mark Dobson	David Reingold
Aleeah Livengood	Adam Shoemaker
Leo McCarthy	Wesley Simms
Jackie McCracken	

The following OFBCI staff members were also in attendance:

Carey Craig	Janet Simpson
Paula Parker-Sawyers	Erin Wright

Commission Chair Reingold entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 29, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner McCracken. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Chair Reingold then introduced Ellen Whitt from Governor Daniels' Office. He stated he just recently had the opportunity to personally meet her and thought it would be a good idea for her to come and meet the Commissioners and to provide an update from the Governor's Office. He further indicated Ms. Whitt is the ICCSV and OFBCI's liaison to Governor Daniels. Ms. Whitt began by saying she appreciated the opportunity to come and speak with the ICCSV. She indicated she and Ms. Parker-Sawyers had the opportunity to work together in the past and has been pleased with the growth of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives since Paula's tenure. She also stated that Governor Daniels is appreciative of the work the Commission has been doing with

regards to guiding, providing ideas and giving feedback. She further shared the key component of the OFBCI is connecting people to resources and a great source of providing valuable information is through the Friday Night Facts. She also stated the AmeriCorps program has provided unique ways to connect various organizations over the years. INShape Indiana is pleased that some of the AmeriCorps members have been tasked to work with this program. Another program she mentioned was Rx for Indiana and said that almost 200,000 people have been served through this program. Ms. Whitt said the OFBCI has really become a state model for the nation. She further believes the fact that the White House chose Indiana as a site to hold their conference is a testament to the good work they are doing. Once again, she indicated she was appreciative of the opportunity to attend the meeting and wanted to convey once again the Governor's regard and his appreciation for the work of the Commission.

Commission Chair Reingold asked if there were any questions for Ms. Whitt. Commissioner Moore asked how the toll-way program was coming along. Ms. Whitt replied it was moving ahead and with the lease of the toll road up north, the Governor's office is excited about those opportunities. She further indicated this subject was a little out of her realm. However, she has been involved with the statewide trails plan, which will connect existing trails around the state into possibly 2000 miles of trails. Commissioner Bentley asked her to share a little bit about her background. Ms. Whitt shared that most of her professional life has been in politics, starting out in Senator Luger's mailroom. She has also worked at Butler University with students involved in volunteerism. She has served on a number of various boards and has a real appreciation for what the ICCSV does. Commissioner McCarthy asked what her title and duties were. Ms. Whitt indicated her title is Senior Advisor for Health Promotion and Special Projects. She further shared she was hired to work on INShape Indiana and the previously mentioned statewide trails plan and has been serving as liaison with the Department of Health and the OFBCI since May, 2006. Commission Chair Reingold relayed to her that the ICCSV is about to enter into a new AmeriCorps grant cycle and are responsible for the decision as to allocation of the \$1.2 million for programs. He further stated that one of the things he struggles with, as well as other Commissioners, is trying to figure out how to best align the programs to be funded along with the direction and priorities of the state and Governor Daniels' office. He continued by stating that clearly health is a priority, but it might be beneficial to get a sense of any other upcoming priority items which the Commission should be mindful of when selecting potential grantees. Commission Chair Reingold then asked Ms. Whitt if there was possibly any additional information that might be beneficial. Ms. Whitt's response was health would be a primary focus citing that INShape Indiana has really been the Governor's vehicle for getting the word out, as well as education. She then mentioned Governor Daniels' involvement with Mitch's Kids. She continued by saying Indiana has some very alarming statistics as a state. Unfortunately, Indiana is at the top of every negative research finding. Therefore, the two obvious priorities would be health and education. Commissioner McCarthy asked if she would provide the Commission with her contact information. Ms. Whitt provided them with her direct phone number, 317-232-1200, as well as her email address ewhitt@gov.in.gov and further encouraged those in attendance to contact her either by calling or by email. Commissioner McCracken asked Ms. Whitt if

she could give them an idea of what the special projects are. Ms. Whitt stated a lot of these special projects are very similar to the scope of the Commission, such as INShape Indiana, Rx for Indiana, and the statewide trails plan. Regarding the statewide trails plan, she has been working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Transportation (INDOT) and has been the connection point for that project. She concluded by stating she assists with any project, that is the Governor's priority, when needed.

Commission Chair Reingold thanked Ms. Whitt and indicated her visit was very helpful to the Commission. He further stated the current commissioners are good stewards. He shared with Ms. Whitt some information about the various AmeriCorps programs and indicated that some other state legislators have put extra money into these programs, however Indiana has not. Commission Chair Reingold stated that small amounts of money can have an impact and this commission would certainly be enthusiastic about those kinds of opportunities. Commissioner Moore asked when Governor Daniels changed the office name to the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives if she had any idea what faith-based ideas he thinks the commission should pursue. Ms. Whitt stated she believes he liked the idea of mirroring the office at the White House that covered both faith-based and not-for-profits that didn't have a faith alliance and to give an opportunity for connecting resources and collaboration with government to better serve. Executive Director Parker-Sawyers indicated that many of the programs the Commission is currently pursuing are what she believes the Governor is interested in. Ms. Parker-Sawyers also stated that the longer everyone is in place and really entrenched in all of the programs the administration has, the more the OFBCI is being asked by sister agencies to collaborate with them in order to connect with the volunteer sector and the faith-based communities. She further stated that pastors have been very receptive to these initiatives. Commissioner Moore stated there is no money given from the government for faith-based programs and some people are a little unclear as to how this works. Commission Chair Reingold indicated he has always seen this partnership as having a degree of flexibility and a means of working on important social problems that are often being tackled and addressed by secular and religious organizations. He further stated he believes there is a real benefit and flexibility that comes with AmeriCorps funding and putting aside the challenges and making a gateway to getting those two worlds linked together. Commission Chair Reingold thanked Ms. Whitt again for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Parker-Sawyers then directed those in attendance to her PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Parker-Sawyers then discussed the upcoming White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives which will be held on November 5th and 6th, 2007 in Indianapolis. She stated there have been two other regional conferences this year, one in Minnesota and the other one in Arizona. As of October 9th, 700 people have registered to attend and the confirmed special guests are Coach Dungy and Donna Richardson Joyner. The executive director from North Dakota's OFBCI will be attending the conference as is open to individuals all over the country. The Department of Labor is hosting a workshop and will be here an additional three days. Commissioner Simms inquired as to the objective of the conference. Ms. Parker-Sawyers indicated that the White House Office

of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives' Director is Jay Hein, formerly the president of the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research. She believes we are coming to a critical point to make sure faith-based organizations have an equal playing field and resources. Ms. Parker-Sawyers continued by saying that Director Hein has seen the value of local faith-based initiatives. Out of the 33 states that currently have an Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 1/3 has had a change in government leadership. However, when the leadership changed, the faith-based office remained.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers' next topic was the volunteerism reports from CNS which shows that 61.2 million volunteers dedicated 8.1 billion hours of volunteer service; U.S. volunteer rate increased by 3.1% between 1974 and 2006; 6.3% between 1989 and 2006; religious institutions are the most popular organizations choice among volunteers; 66% of volunteers who served in 2005 continued to serve in 2006; 31.2% of people in the nation engaged in civic life by volunteering, working with the neighbors or attending public meetings. Commission Chair Reingold stated that between 2005 and 2006, Indiana had the highest percentage of increase, which was 3%, while other states showed a decline. The report also indicated Indiana's volunteer rate for adult population was 29.6% compared to the U.S. rate of 26.7%; Indiana volunteers donate 44.2 hours per year and the average for volunteers from other states is 36.5 hours per year. With regard to volunteer retention rates, Ms. Parker-Sawyers shared that Indiana retains 73% of their volunteers each year, with the U.S. average being 68.1% retention. Indiana's older adult volunteer rate (ages 65 and over) is 26.3%, with the U.S. rate being 24.4%; Indiana's baby boomer rate (1946-1964) is 33.8%, with the U.S. rate being 32.2%; and finally, Indiana's young adult volunteer rates (ages 16-24) is 25.6% compared to the U.S. rate of 23.4%; and Indiana's college student volunteer rate is 35.1% compared to the U.S. rate of 29.6%. Ms. Parker-Sawyers stated these statistics speak well about how Indiana manages their volunteers, there are many outstanding organizations in the state, including religious organizations, who are good about retaining their volunteers. Commissioner McCarthy asked if this was an unbiased survey. Commission Chair Reingold stated this information was collected in September, 2007, by the U.S. Census Bureau, during their current population survey. The U.S. Census Bureau has been conducting this survey every year since 2002, where as it had previously only been conducted in 1974 and 1989. Commissioner McCracken shared there are 33 states who have a Campus Compact program and that Indiana is among the oldest and most established.

Regarding the disaster preparation/volunteer centers, Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised the volunteer start up kit and website have been completed and as part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant, there will be a dedicated staff member, for the next three years, who will be responsible for the implementation of AidMatrix. Currently, the Richmond area and Tipton County are moving ahead with the formation of their volunteer centers; also, Porter County United Way will be expanding their service area to include Lake County. Ms. Parker-Sawyers encouraged Commission members to visit www.volunteer.in.gov to learn more about the volunteer centers and organizations that are providing disaster relief in all 92 Indiana counties. Ms. Parker-Sawyers reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony, which will be held on October 23rd in the Indiana Government Center South building. Members from the

American Red Cross will be in attendance to train over 100 AmeriCorps members in first aid and CPR. Upon completion of the training, they will receive their certification.

Next Ms. Parker-Sawyers discussed the Access To Recovery (ATR) Grant, which is a \$4.8 million a year three-year grant awarded to Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction. This grant expands the treatment and recovery system for those addicted to drugs and allows clients in Vanderburgh, Marion, Allen, Elkhart, St. Joseph, Lake and Vigo counties to use vouchers to choose service providers. Formed by the Bush Administration approximately five years ago, it allows faith-based providers and community based providers to participate in treatment/recovery services. The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is an active partner with FSSA. This grant will allow the OFBCI to hire two or three additional staff members who will be responsible for establishing provider criteria, recruiting and training providers in the seven counties, certifying eligibility, tracking and reporting performance and documenting progress. Commissioner McCracken asked if services are offered by faith-based institutions if that wouldn't be considered proselytizing. Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised that her understanding was that this is a voucher system and therefore the client chooses whether they would like to use a faith-based or a non faith-based program for recovery.

Information about the US Dream Academy was presented by Ms. Parker-Sawyers. This is a major mentoring project which serves children of prisoners and academically challenged students and includes faith-based involvement. John Marshall Middle School will be the site of Indiana's pilot US Dream Academy program. According to the information presented by Ms. Parker-Sawyers, Principal White has estimated that 90% of the 7th graders fit the criteria for this type of program. Ms. Parker-Sawyers shared she has been in contact with approximately 8 local Indianapolis churches to solicit mentoring support and character involvement. Those local churches have expressed an interest in supporting the US Dream Academy. The volunteers would be asked to be available for on site mentoring for one hour per week for a year. She advised the ultimate goal for the US Dream Academy is to replicate this program in Gary, Fort Wayne and Evansville.

The next agenda item was the AmeriCorps Alum Partnership and Commission Chair Reingold led this discussion. The AmeriCorps Alum Partnership is designed to keep the 1500-2000 alum members engaged and supports volunteerism goals. He stated there was an association in Indianapolis and one is trying to form in Bloomington. He also suggested this might be a good source to recruit potential ICCSV members and asked for suggestions as to how to possibly formalize a relationship with them. It was suggested that possibly an AmeriCorps Alum of the Year Award could be created. Commissioner McCracken asked if there was a list of those alums anywhere. Carey Craig advised that records as far back as 1999 could be accessed in WBRS but that program would no longer be in existence after April, 2008; however CNCS claims the information will be available to Commissioners. Commissioner McCracken then suggested possibly inviting them to the conference every year. Commission Chair Reingold suggested coming up with some type of mechanism to stay in contact with them. Possibly doing an outreach to

AmeriCorps Alums to see how we can be a part of their experience or maybe invite active AmeriCorps Alums leadership to a future ICCSV meeting.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers advised the Commissioners in attendance that the Sustainability Policy, which was voted on via email, passed and has been implemented.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers then presented her Executive Director's report. She stated since May's ICCSV meeting, the OFBCI has hired a contract compliance officer, Jim Rosentreter; hired and released the marketing outreach manager. She also advised that VISTA Denny Benson has made 15 to 20 presentations to organizations across the state and the response has been very good. The AmeriCorps 101 and 201 online presentation has been posted on the OFBCI website, designed specifically for organizations who think they might want to apply for an AmeriCorps grant. The OFBCI webpage has also been redesigned and can be viewed at www.in.gov/ofbci. The OFBCI has also completed all contracts for new grantees; conducted executive director's training for new grantees; conducted orientation/training for new grantees; secured the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone at the Crossing as the site for the 2008 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism, which will be held March 25-26, 2008. She further stated that Indiana Campus Compact is a partner with this year's conference and will subsequently hold their conference within our conference and will partner in programs where appropriate. Commissioner McCracken advised that Indiana Campus Compact will be celebrating their 15 year anniversary at a reception on the evening of March 25th and for the commissioners to expect an invitation to the event. She also stated their awards would be handed out during the conference luncheon.

Ms. Parker-Sawyers continued stating the OFBCI has finally moved all old the files to archives; are currently in the process of closing out last year's grantees; the OFBCI received nine new and two re-compete applications and has recruited reviewers for next year's grants. She indicated that process will begin in the next couple of weeks. Ms. Parker-Sawyers also personally chaired the Indiana Advisory Committee, US Civil Rights Commission as well as met with visitors from Yemen. Ms. Parker-Sawyers has been contacted by the International Center of Indianapolis on various occasions and asked to meet with international visitors. She let the commission know that she will send out a FYI email to them about future meetings with international visitors. Ms. Parker-Sawyers continued by stating she has attended three of four professional development Executive Journey Fellowship retreats. These retreats have provided her with an opportunity for reflection and study on serving as a leader. She concluded by sharing that her recent trip to Nairobi and Eldoret, Kenya, the first two weeks of July was an eye opening experience and that she will be visiting there again the end of December.

Before concluding the meeting, Mrs. Parker-Sawyers reminded the Commissioners of the importance of attending the November 28th meeting to decide the 2008-2009 grantees. This meeting will be from 10 AM to 3 PM in conference room 2. As a result of the November meeting, the December 13th meeting is cancelled. Commission Chair Reingold thanked Ms. Parker-Sawyers and the OFBCI staff for their good work.

Commissioner McCracken handed out a booklet titled “*Crossroads and Common Ground*” which is a compilation report of three Indiana Campus Compact studies, funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc., that they have been involved with over the last eight years. These three studies represent three different focuses: student retention, public perceptions of higher education, and the impact of service on local communities and gives a generic overview of Indiana Campus Compact.

Commissioner Simms made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner McCarthy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Simpson
Administrative Assistant