

**AmeriCorps NCCC Public Meeting
February 14, 2012
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525**

Meeting Minutes

The Following Members of the Board Were Present:

NCCC Advisory Board

- Kate Becker, Chair
- Marsha Meeks-Kelly, Vice Chair
- John Phillips
- Tiffany Zapico
- Elizabeth Hartsell
- Dr. Danielle Varda
- Susan Braun
- Marty Rodgers
- Max Finberg, Federal Agency Rep, Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Janet Wall

NCCC Leadership Team

- Kate Raftery, Director for AmeriCorps NCCC
- Charles Davenport, Director for Projects and Partnerships
- Kelly DeGraff, Senior Advisor for Disaster Services
- Nick Zefran, Director of Member Services
- Barbara Lane, Region Director, Denver, CO
- LaQuine Roberson, Region Director, Perry Point, MD
- Gary Turner, Region Director, Vicksburg, MS
- Jose Phillips, Region Director, Sacramento, CA
- Tom Bryant, General Counsel Liaison

CNCS Staff:

- Erin Dahlin, Deputy Chief of Program Operations

NCCC Staff:

- Katrina Mathis, Assistant Director for Recruitment and Partnerships
- Michelle Royall, Assistant Director for Projects and Partnerships
- Erma Hodge, Advisory Board Liaison
- Iris Dooling, Program Associate
- Sarah Reynolds, Program Associate
- Jennifer Veazey, Special Assistant

The Following Members of the Public Were Present:

Mayor Paul Winfield, Vickburg, MS
 Charles Selmon, Warren County Supervisor
 Annette Kirkland, Executive Director of the Southern Culture Center in Vicksburg, MS

* * * * *

Welcome and Acknowledgement of new Board Members (by Kate Becker, Advisory Board Chair)

(2:00 p.m.)

Ms. Becker began by thanking everyone in attendance for their service and commitment to NCCC. She acknowledged new Board members Marsha Meeks-Kelly, Dr. Danielle Varda, and Max Finberg.

Director's Update (by Kate Raftery, Director of NCCC)

Ms. Raftery recognized the current Board members. She went on to highlight new directions in the refocusing of energy on the part of campus and headquarter staff in which ongoing support from the Board is requested.

(1) Commitment to the member experience and the importance of arming members with the kind of skills that will translate into future education and/or employment.

(2) Ongoing commitment to serving communities, especially in times of great need, and continuing to identify ways to expand engagement with FEMA to become a more active and aggressive member of the community.

(3) Public outreach and recognition. NCCC, as a program, will continue to highlight within the press and different streams of media the contribution that the teams are making.

(4) Commending staff on working toward growing the program. Staff has been working diligently to find the support, resources, and opportunities necessary to increase member numbers.

NCCC is looking to relocate the Atlantic campus from Perryville, Maryland, to another location in the state of Maryland that will better aid in hosting and training new members going forward.

Approval of the June 30, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

Projects and Partnerships Committee Update (by Tiffany Zapico, Board Member):

Ms. Zapico spoke about the AmeriCorps NCCC Alumni Leadership Council and its role in increasing alumni engagement as well as connecting alums to more opportunities to

assist with regional and national initiatives. Over 50 alums submitted applications and after reviewing those applications, two applicants were selected to represent their region. The Leadership Council will be co-chaired by Tiffany Zapico and Michelle Royall. The ten leadership council representatives will work in partnership with the advisory board, community relations specialists, and other staff from regions and headquarters throughout the year. The Council held its first official meeting on January 25, 2012 and Leadership Council members are currently in the process of coordinating meetings with other alums in the region who are interested in taking on special projects to support NCCC. Duties of the Leadership Council include: forming of committees, the National Service Awareness Campaign, special events, services days, the 20th Anniversary Planning Committee, and building relationships with project sponsors and connecting alums to currently serving team leaders and Corps members.

Ms. Raftery briefly added that in addition to a more proactive engagement of alumni, staff, both at headquarters and campuses, is becoming more strategic in pursuing institutional partnerships, which has resulted in quality support for the projects. Members are engaged with non-profit/non-governmental partners and federal partners.

Member Development (by Dr. Janet Wall, Board Member):

Dr. Wall began by recognizing Nick Zefran for the work he has done in this area.

Dr. Wall gave a report on the specific accomplishments of the Member Development Team, which met its target of 1200 with an 88 percent retention rate. The firefighter training target of 110 was exceeded and reached 164 trained. With regard to congressional service awards, the target of 45 percent was exceeded and 63 percent was achieved. The satisfaction survey target of 60 percent was also exceeded and 63 percent was achieved. With regard to mentioning that the service experience was “excellent” or “good”, the target of 85 percent was exceeded and 89 percent was achieved.

The service leadership experience is now fully implemented and has four program outcomes, ten competencies, and several training objectives. The four program outcomes include: demonstrating a mastery of change, building and sustaining effective teams, committing to life and career skills development, and demonstrating character and responsible citizenship.

Many of the Corps members are interested in obtaining a certificate in nonprofit management. Thirty-two alums attended the recent American Management Institute Conference hosted by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance in Kansas City as part of their requirement for completing the certificate. Most of the competencies for that certificate are accomplished through services, but there are also online courses for the members to take. The certificate is received through the University of Montana or LSU.

There is a great concern by NCCC to be sure Corps members are in a position to take advantage of their education and experiences in NCCC to position themselves for further education or entering the workforce. In that regard, several initiatives are taking place: validating their experiences through certifications and other programs, and providing a

transcript of what they know and can do to present to educational institutions and hiring officials.

Ms. Raftery commented on NCCC moving towards a diversification of its member community on each of the campuses. Within the Serve America Act, NCCC was challenged to move 50 percent of members representing youth of disadvantaged circumstances, which has resulted in the formation of strategic and important recruiting partners and a diligent effort on the part of staff, particularly Katrina Mathis and Charles Davenport, to look for ways to present the NCCC program in a way that is attractive to a cross section of young people nationwide. The NCCC has moved from 7 percent of membership representing youth of disadvantaged circumstances to close to 40 percent, if not more, by the end of 2012.

2012 Budget Update (by Erin Dahlin, Deputy Chief of Program Operations)

President Obama passed a full year continuing resolution on December 23, which included anomaly language for AmeriCorps NCCC to relocate the Atlantic region campus. The NCCC remains committed this year to enrolling 1200 members. In terms of execution for the FY12 budget, the end result for NCCC is \$31,881,000, the only anomaly out of which is \$3 million that will go toward the relocation.

Ms. Raftery added that within the entire budget for the CNCS not all programs are going forth with the funding that they had requested. The NCCC budget has stayed steady for the last couple of years, which speaks to the quality of the program and the procedures and policies that are in place.

Public Questions and Commentary (by Kate Becker, Advisory Board Chair)

Gary Turner, Regional Director from the Vicksburg campus, acknowledged two visiting members from the Vicksburg community: Annette Kirkland from the Cultural Heritage Center, and Armand Guizerik. He then introduced Mayor Paul Winfield from Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Mayor Winfield discussed talking with congressional members about the importance of the NCCC being fully funded due to its instant impact on communities. He encouraged members to have a spirit of civic responsibility to reinvest in America, and the importance of having opportunities for small-town America to benefit from the gains that the Corps members provide. He talked about the lasting impact that Corps members made in Vicksburg during the floods of 2011. He commended the members who went door-to-door during an awareness campaign with first responders which helped save lives.

Ms. Raftery recognized the arrival of Charles Selmon, the Warren County Supervisor.

Mayor Winfield took part in a Question and Answer session with attendees.

Chairwoman Becker adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:50 p.m.