

**Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
Alabama State Service Commission
GoToMeeting, 401 Adams Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104
Meeting Minutes (*approval pending*)**

Chair Rod Steakley convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Alabama State Service Commission at 11:00 am August 18, 2021. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State (SoS).

Confirmation of Meeting Notice Submission

Meeting Date & Time: 08/18/2021 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: GoToMeeting, Montgomery, AL 36104

Meeting Type: regular

Submission Date & Time: 12/17/2020 3:34:03 PM

Chair Steakley welcomed everyone and shared that he would have to leave for a portion of time during the meeting and return and during his absence Vice Chair Ruth would preside. Chair Steakley then asked for a roll call. Secretary Johnson, called roll.

In attendance (virtual – GoToMeeting):

Rod Steakley, Chair
Betty Ruth, Vice-Chair
Sue Johnson, Secretary
Jill Chenoweth
Shereda Finch
Jonathan Gaddy
Holly Shepherd Lollar
Kimberly Parker
Danny Patterson
Jonathan Thompson
Tawanna Wright

Ex-Officio

Sally Longshore (AL Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, *The Children's Trust Fund*)
Kathy House (AL Department of Mental Health)

Staff Present:

Melinda Stallworth

Four proxies received from Becky Booker, George Casey and Al Dixon, designating Danny Patterson as proxy and from Paul Kennedy, designating Rod Steakley as proxy (attached to attendance roster). Commissioner Johnson confirmed there was a quorum present to conduct business.

Chair Steakley presented the April 2021 meeting minutes for approval. There were no questions. There was a motion from Commissioner Danny Patterson, and Vice-Chair Ruth seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The minutes were approved.

Chair Steakley then expressed appreciation to Coordinator Stallworth and Commission staff for their hard work and compassion in continuing to support Alabamians in cooperation with nonprofits, and faith-based and community-based partners throughout the state every day and especially as we adapt and continue the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Chair Steakley asked Coordinator Stallworth to share these words of appreciation on behalf of the Commission to the staff.

Chair Steakley asked Commissioner Patterson, Program Committee Chair, to present the Committee's recommendation for additions to the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps State Formula and Formula Fixed portfolio. Committee Chair Patterson also acknowledged the work of Commission staff and thanked them for their work with AmeriCorps Programs and support provided to other groups in the state and he also thanked Committee members for their time serving on the Committee. Commissioner Patterson presented the committee's report and recommendation.

Continuation Application. The Committee recommended funding the continuation grant for one existing program: Tuscaloosa One Place with no grant conditions.

Chair Steakley asked if there were any additional questions or discussions. There were none. Vice Chair Ruth made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation and Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. None abstained. This addition to the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps State Formula and Formula Fixed portfolio will be forwarded to CNCS.

Vice-Chair Ruth began to preside and asked Melinda Stallworth, Coordinator, to give an agency update.

Coordinator's Agency Report

Staffing Update – Interviewed and submitted names for appointment consideration for the AmeriCorps Outreach, Engagement and Training Coordinator and Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator.

Budget Update

- State
 - Education Trust Fund - \$362,589 (current); FY22 \$367,456 (allocated)
 - State General Fund - \$115,000 (current); FY22 \$115,000 (allocated)
- Federal – CNCS
 - Commission Support Grant – \$294,041 (current); FY22 funding pending
 - Commission Investment Fund – \$300,927 (current); FY22 funding pending
- Other - AL Department of Public Health – Volunteer Management Grant – FY20 \$45,000; FY21 \$50,000
- Total Current Revenue \$957,557 (Current; Excludes Formula allocation)

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- AmeriCorps State and National ARP Formula Allocation
 - Alabama Allocation is \$3,521,543 (three-year grant)
 - Criteria: (1) increase living allowance (2) provide cash match replacement funds and (3) expand national service to new communities.

Alabama Suicide Prevention Coalition - Alabama Department of Mental Health requested the Commission to serve on the state coalition for the 9-8-8 State Planning Grant. New, national three-digit number (9-8-8) for mental health crisis and suicide response. The Commission is requested to assist with grant implementation and

provide expertise on collaboration with faith-based and community-based non-profit groups. The Commission serves on the Promotion, Awareness and Accessibility Workgroup.

Virtual Mental Health Trainings – Continuing partnership with Council on Substance Abuse to offer trainings to: (1) AmeriCorps and (2) Volunteers, Nonprofits, Community & Faith-based Organizations & Partners.

- Mental Health First Aid (Adult) (certified)
- Mental Health First Aid (Youth) (certified)
- Stress Feeling STRESSED? Ask yourself, are you COPING PRACTICALLY or PRACTICALLY COPING?
- Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper QPR Training - Question, Persuade, and Refer

AmeriCorps Update

- 2020-2021 AmeriCorps Program Compliance Monitoring – National Service Criminal History Checks (NSCHC) documentation, member file reviews, policy reviews, staffing succession and replacement plans and performance data pull and reviews.
- 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Applicants – All current FY20 subgrantees applied for FY21-22 funding. Commission has been awarded funding for five programs and one is pending Commission vote before final submission to AmeriCorps federal agency.
 - Awarded: Butler County Board of Education, Impact America, Mobile Baykeeper, City of Selma, Teach for America
 - Pending: Tuscaloosa One Place
- National Days of Service
 - September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance – 20th Anniversary
- Virtual Annual AL State AmeriCorps Grantee Training – Held on July 19, 21, 23. Training Topics:
 - GOVS Policy and Programmatic Updates
 - Recruitment & Retention Strategies, Leaders Who Motivate, Storytelling Strategies
 - Federal Grants Financial Management Training

Disaster Services

- Continuing to support response/recovery efforts of severe weather events
- Responding to AEMA and local EMA requests for support and assisting local VOADS and partners to assist citizens in need.
- Coordinating resources and information, recruiting volunteers, logistics, supplies and continuing to respond to requests for assistance. Identifying partners and assisting with coordination for housing, volunteers, feeding missions, debris cleanup and tree removal, water, laundry and shower units.
- Contacting partners to obtain in kind & financial support for recovery efforts.
- 2020 Hurricanes
 - Hurricane Sally – Supporting Baldwin County Long Term Recovery Committee
 - Hurricane Zeta – Supporting Southwest Alabama Long Term Recovery Committee (Sally and Zeta)
- January 25, 2021 Fultondale Tornado - Supporting Long Term Recovery Unmet Needs Committee (Jefferson-Shelby County)
- March 25-26 Severe Storm/Straight-Line Winds/Tornado (FEMA-4596-DR-AL) - Federal declaration for 8 counties: Bibb, Calhoun, Clay, Hale, Jefferson, Perry, Randolph, and Shelby
 - Assisted AEMA with outreach efforts for FEMA Registration for Individual Assistance: sending digital and 7,000 hard copy outreach materials to VOAD, non-profit and faith-based partner organizations in affected counties via email, phone, and in-person on the ground distribution.
 - Supporting Long-Term Recovery Committee in Calhoun and Shelby counties.
- June 19 Tropical Storm Claudette – Escambia and Tuscaloosa

- Provided volunteer and donations management support and assisting with locating resources
- Donation Management
 - Assisting with distribution of hand sanitizer donation from Dalraida Church of Christ (Montgomery). Distributed more than 242,576 bottles statewide to more than 60 organizations in 42 counties (local governments, schools, non-profits and faith-based organizations). (August 5 – present)
 - FEMA Donations on behalf of ALVOAD to statewide partners:
 - Managed distribution of 45,000 cloth masks across the state to 70+ organizations.
- Coordinated Long Term Recovery Webinar Training attended by 22 representatives from Perry, Bibb and Calhoun counties.
- Outreach - Distributed 500 Disaster Preparedness Student Activity Books (English/ Spanish)
- Attended G191 Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface Course, hosted by Montgomery EMA

Upcoming Trainings and Meeting

- Virtual ASC Program Officer Convening, August 30-31
- Virtual Mental Health Trainings, Offered through partnership with COSA, April – September 2021
- E0289: State Volunteer and Donations Management, September 13-16, Maryland
- E0489: Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disaster, September 17, Maryland
- Virtual 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Symposium, September 20 -24
- G288 Local Volunteer and Donations Management Training, October
- Volunteer Reception Center Training, October
- ASC 2022 National Service Training Conference- Milwaukee, WI: April 26-28; Burlington, VT: May 17-19; Albuquerque, NM: June 1-3

Coordinator Stallworth had nothing else to report. Vice-Chair Ruth asked if there were any questions. Vice Chair Ruth then inquired about the American Rescue Plan funding and if planning grant funding would be available with these funds. Coordinator Stallworth stated that planning grant funding would be available. Commissioners were encouraged to consider organizations to recommend for this funding when available. There were no additional questions or comments.

Vice-Chair Ruth asked for CNCS to report. No report at this time.

Next Vice-Chair Ruth called for Commissioner Updates. No updates.

Vice-Chair Ruth then moved to Old Business. There was none.

Vice-Chair Ruth then called for any New Business. Coordinator Stallworth shared additional information about the American Rescue Plan and that she would continue to send updates to Commissioners as it became available. There was no additional new business.

Vice-Chair Ruth then asked if there was any other business. Commissioner Gaddy expressed appreciation to Commission staff for the ability to rapidly coordinate and distribute a very large donation of hand sanitizer to be used in the COVID-19 response around the state. Vice-Chair Ruth thanked Commissioner Gaddy for sharing this and encouraged fellow Commissioners to also consider sending letters to ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell to acknowledge the work of Commission staff.

There was no additional business.

Vice-Chair Ruth called for a motion to adjourn., Commissioner Patterson made a motion and Commissioner House seconded the motion. All were in favor/none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Chair Rod Steakley

Vice-Chair Betty Ruth

Commissioner Sue Johnson, Secretary