

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

Vice-Chair Betty Ruth convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Alabama State Service Commission at 11:00 am April 28, 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: 04/28/2021 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: GoToMeeting, Montgomery, AL 36104

Meeting Type: regular

Submission Date & Time: 12/17/2020 3:33:04 PM

Vice-Chair Ruth welcomed everyone and asked for a roll call. She welcomed Commissioner Jonathan Thompson to the Commission. Secretary Johnson, called roll.

In attendance (virtual – GoToMeeting):

Betty Ruth, Vice-Chair

Sue Johnson, Secretary

Becky Booker

George Casey

Al Dixon

Shereda Finch

Paul Kennedy

Kimberly Parker

Danny Patterson

Jonathan Thompson

Ex-Officio

Fannie Ashley (DHR)

Kathy House (Mental Health)

Staff Present:

Melinda Stallworth

One proxy received from Rod Steakley, designating Betty Ruth as proxy (attached to attendance roster). Commissioner Johnson confirmed there was a quorum present to conduct business.

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

Vice-Chair Ruth asked Commissioner Patterson, Program Committee Chair, to present the Committee's recommendations for the 2020-2022 AmeriCorps State Formula and Formula Fixed portfolio. Committee Chair Patterson recognized Committee members, Commissioners Ruth, Booker, Casey, Dixon, and Thompson and thanked them for their time serving on the Committee. Commissioner Patterson presented the committee's report and recommendations.

Continuation Applications. The Committee recommended funding continuation grants of five existing programs: Butler County Board of Education, Impact America, Mobile Baykeeper and Teach for America – Alabama with no grant conditions; City of Selma – recommended funding half requested amount and upon fulfillment of grant conditions releasing remaining funds.

New Applications. The Committee did not recommend funding New Schools for Alabama at this time but encouraged applicant to reapply. Commissioner Dixon made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations and Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

Commissioner Patterson thanked the Commission for their support and encouraged others to join the Committee. Vice-Chair Ruth asked if there were any additional questions or discussions. There was none. Vice-Chair Ruth thanked the Program Committee for their hard work and stressed how their work helps to make a difference and positively impact the lives of many Alabamians. The 2021-2022 AmeriCorps State Formula and Formula Fixed portfolio was approved to be forwarded to CNCS.

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

Coordinator's Agency Report

Staffing Update – Posted positions and receiving resumes for Outreach, Engagement, & Training Coordinator & Disaster Preparedness and Response positions. Positions are open until filled. The previous Disaster Preparedness & Response Coordinator has taken a merit position with the Alabama State Emergency Management Agency.

Budget Update

- State
 - Education Trust Fund - \$361,166 (current); FY22 \$361,166 (requested)
 - State General Fund - \$115,000 (current); FY22 \$115,000 (requested)
- 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 \$956,134 (Current; Excludes Formula allocation)

American Rescue Plan – In March the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was passed and includes a \$1 Billion investment in Pandemic Recovery through National Service. This is an unprecedented effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and respond to the public health, education, and economic crisis caused by the pandemic. The AL Commission is waiting on guidance from AmeriCorps, the agency, on how the \$620 million for AmeriCorps State and National will be deployed. We received confirmation from the agency that these funds would be available for the 2021-2022 program year. We will keep AL AmeriCorps programs updated as we learn more information. The bill includes support to: (1) Increase to the AmeriCorps living allowance to make service more accessible and inclusive; (2) Increase the diversity, cultural experience, and numbers of AmeriCorps

members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serving in communities across the country; (3) Help stabilize existing national service programs and expand into new communities.

COVID-19 Update

- Alabama National Guard Mobile Vaccination Clinics - Commission activated the Selma AmeriCorps Program to support ADPH and AL National Guard with registration and traffic at mobile vaccination clinics in Lowndes and Dallas counties for 1st and 2nd vaccination shots on March 24 and April 20.
- Selma AmeriCorps Program – Commission approved request by Selma Mayor’s office to support two clinics hosted by Dallas County Health Department.

Alabama Department of Mental Health requested the Commission to serve on the state coalition for the 9-8-8 State Planning Grant. This is a 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 how to collaborate with faith-based and community-based non-profit groups about suicide prevention initiatives. A continuum of crisis care services that match people’s clinical needs will be developed that diverts people in distress from the emergency department and jail and law enforcement will be relieved of responding to a crisis.

Virtual Mental Health Trainings – The Commission is partnering with Council on Substance Abuse to offer trainings April – September 2021. The Commission will subsidize trainings for: (1) AmeriCorps and (2) Nonprofits, Community & Faith-based Organizations & Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services Partners.

Four (4) trainings being offered:

- 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

- AmeriCorps Program Compliance Monitoring is continuing. Thank you to Commissioners Ruth, Ashley, Casey, and Johnson who assisted with Member and Site Supervisor Virtual Interviews.
- New National Service Criminal History Check Regulations go into effect on May 1, 2021.
- Educate Alabama AmeriCorps – Tuscaloosa One Place began April 1, 2021 and is currently in start-up mode and are not able to enroll members because of eGrants (federal grants management system) issue. Commission is concerned that if members are not enrolled by May 1, they may not be able to obtain all their service hours. This concern has been shared with AmeriCorps Senior Portfolio Manager at AmeriCorps Regional Office.
- AmeriCorps’ Office of the Chief Risk Officer has begun first round of the FY 2021 payment integrity assessment under the Payment Integrity Information Act, formerly the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act (IPERIA).
- Virtual Annual AL State AmeriCorps Grantee Training - July 19, 21, 23 for new and continuing programs.
- AmeriCorps Week, March 7th – 13th - All AL AmeriCorps Programs and Members participated in activities.
- National Service Recognition Day, April 6, 2021. Governor Kay Ivey signed a proclamation to recognize the day and recorded a video that was shared on Commission social media.

Disaster Services

- Activated for Winter Weather Storm on Monday, February 15
- March Severe Weather/Tornados

- March 17 Severe Weather activation began on March 16 and ended March 18. March 25 Severe Weather activation began on March 25. Both severe weather events are currently in response/recovery.
- Responding to AEMA and local EMA requests for support and assisting local VOADS and partners to assist citizens in need.
- Coordination of resources and information, recruiting volunteers, logistics, supplies. Responded 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.
- January 25, 2021 Fultondale Tornado
 - Supporting Long Term Recovery Unmet Needs Committee (Jefferson-Shelby County).
- 2020 Hurricanes
 - Hurricane Sally – Supporting Baldwin County Long Term Recovery Committee
 - Hurricane Zeta – Supporting Southwest Alabama Long Term Recovery Committee (will combine Sally and Zeta)
- Long Term Recovery Group Collaborations “Walking Through the Maze” Webinar, facilitated by Lutheran Disaster Relief held on April 27 to help with formation and/or reactivation of LTRGs. Attendees from: Calhoun, Dallas, Perry, and Marengo counties.
- Donation Management
 - Amazon donated \$5,000 in-kind gift cards. United Ways of Alabama is providing administrative support for this donation.
 - Managed FEMA Donations on behalf of ALVOAD to statewide partners:
 - Distribution of Hand Sanitizer - 960 gallons to 35 organization (completed)
 - Distribution of 219 cartons of cloth masks (500 per carton) to organizations (ongoing)
- Preparing Annual Contact Survey for VOAD, CERT and Long-Term Recovery Groups/Committees
- Outreach - Distributed 1,000 Disaster Preparedness Student Activity Books (English & Spanish)
- ADPH Volunteer Management Grant - Alabama ReadyOp volunteer registration platform. 833 registrants as of 4/27/2021. Completing license verifications and sending information to ADPH.

Upcoming Trainings and Meeting

- Virtual Mental Health Trainings, April – September 2021
- 2021 National Service Training Virtual Conference - May 4-7, 2021
- 2021 National VOAD Virtual Conference, May 18-20, 2021
- Points of Light Conference – Online Experience, July 14-16, 2021
- Virtual G288 Local Volunteer and Donations Management training, March 17-18, 2021 (*postponed*) and September 15-17, 2021
- Virtual Volunteer Reception Training (VRC) - March 19, 2021 (*postponed*)

Vice-Chair Ruth, and Commissioners Ashley, and Johnson shared insight on their experience assisting with the virtual supervisor and member interviews for the monitoring process and encouraged other Commissioners to participate in that process as well. Coordinator Stallworth had nothing else to report. Vice-Chair Ruth asked if there were any questions, there were none.

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

Next Vice-Chair Ruth called for Commissioner Updates. Commissioner House shared information about available trainings being offered by AL Department of Mental Health and its partners.

Vice-Chair Ruth then moved to Old Business. Coordinator Stallworth gave an update on the State Service Plan process, which has been delayed because of response and relief efforts for COVID-19. Commissioner Booker made a motion for the Commission to continue operating under the current State Service Plan while planning in underway for next plan, Commissioners Johnson and Kennedy seconded the motion. All were in favor/none were opposed.

Vice-Chair Ruth gave background on past Governor Volunteer Award recognition events and encouraged the Governor's Awards Program ad hoc Committee to take its time to plan a successful event.

Vice-Chair Ruth then called for any new business. There was none.

Vice-Chair Ruth then asked if there was any other business. Commissioners requested Coordinator Stallworth to inquire if virtual meetings could be continued. There was no additional business. Vice-Chair Ruth called for a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Booker made a motion and Commissioner Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor/none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Vice-Chair Betty Ruth

Commissioner Sue Johnson, Secretary