

Ohio Community Service Council

Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2010

In Attendance: Susan Rogers, Willie Peterson, Margaret Wildi, Bob Garbo, Nina Keller, Jeff King, Chelsea Merriman, Johnmark Oudersluys, Bill Russell, Clifford Smith, Jay Smith, Chuck White, Owen Wrassman, Tina Dunphy, Greg Landsman, Walter McNamara, Bill Hall, Mark Holtzapple.

Absent: Gary Cates, Maureen Drummond, Sande Johnson, Charlotte Jones-Ward, Brian Williams.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Rogers at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes from the 9/24/2009 meeting were distributed for review and were approved by voice vote with no additions or corrections. [There was no meeting in November due to the Council retreat.]

Final Operating Budget for Fiscal 2010 (attached) had been distributed in advance of the meeting. [Operated under continuing authorizations from July-December due to pending federal funding.] Mark Holtzapple responded to questions from the floor regarding the budget. Peterson moved, Keller seconded, and budget was approved by voice vote. Council requested that Holtzapple provide a prior year comparison budget document and an expanded level of detail for future financial reporting.

Executive Director's Report

ServeAmerica Act regulations are under development in Washington. To achieve the intended increase in AmeriCorps members we will need to focus on attracting and funding much larger projects than at present.

Senior Civic Engagement project continues to move forward with a series of recommendations having been forwarded to the Governor's office. One of the recommendations involves the creation of a Senior Volunteer component which, if implemented, will be housed in the Council office.

A new Table of Organization (attached) was distributed, reflecting a more vertical structure. Both AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps operations have been assigned to the Director of Programs. The table reflects the intent to add two positions in the near future: a second Program Officer for Citizen Corps (funded from Department of Health contract) and a Training Director (funded through our federal PDAT grant.) Both positions will require approval from DAS and OBM as exceptions to the state hiring freeze.

Old Business

- Volunteer License Plate: Walter McNamara presented an advisory memo (attached) regarding the concept of "partnering" with other organizations to promote the license plate in exchange for a share of the proceeds. General discussion ensued regarding the license plate project given that only 48 plates have been sold in the past year. [DOT requires 500 plates sold during initial 2-year period to continue.] Agreed by consensus that no further resources be committed

to promotion of the plate and the project be allowed to sunset in March 2011 when DOT reviews sales quota data. King moved, Garbo seconded, that any proceeds generated by plate sales be granted to Forging New Links, with the schedule and method of distribution left to the discretion of the Director of Finance and Operations. Motion carried.

- Fiscal agent change: McNamara reported that draft agreement between OCSC, Central Services, and Aging has been reviewed in his office as to form. Final details are under development. No formal timeline has been established.

New Business

- AmeriCorps Competitive Proposals: Ryan Schmiesing, Director of Programs, presented a summary (attached) of competitive applications received and the staff/peer review process through which funding recommendations were determined. Following general discussions and questions Council approved the recommendations presented, as follows:

Funded Agency	Funding	MSY #	Move	Second	Abstain
Children’s Hunger Alliance	\$273,000	21.12	Wrassman	King	N/A
Ohio University	\$260,004	20	Peterson	Keller	N/A
Advocates Basic Legal Equality	\$285,997	22	Wrassman	King	N/A
Ohio Assoc. Second Harvest Food Banks	\$384,398	30	White	Nina	N/A
Urban Appalachian Council	\$388,560	30	Peterson	King	Russell
Columbus Housing Partnership	\$362,697	30	Merriman	C. Smith	White
American Red Cross Greater Columbus	\$351,000	27	Peterson	King	N/A
Mercy Health Partners	\$346,308*	20*	Peterson	King	N/A

MHP funded at prorated amount equal to 20 Member Service Years instead of 35 requested.

- AmeriCorps Formula Planning Grant: Schmiesing presented an off-cycle formula funding request in amount of \$50,000 for Growing Together Partnerships Make A Difference, Inc. Staff have been working with the organization to develop capacity for managing an AmeriCorps program in the coming year. Term of the award is six months, commencing 01/22/2010. Moved by Keller, seconded by White; carried.

Executive Session

At 12:03 p.m. King moved, Keller seconded to enter Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters. Unanimous by roll call vote. Returned at 12:37 p.m. with no action taken.

Committee Meetings

Council recessed at 12:38 p.m. for committee meetings over working lunch. Food costs paid by members/non-reimbursable. Reconvened at 2:15 p.m. for committee reports and announcements.

Committee Reports

- Planning & Development (King): Identify OCSC program priorities. Analyze national information/trends, analysis/feedback (some at Forging), develop evaluation measures, tie identified priorities to funding decisions. Special meeting scheduled for 2/12/2010 to continue work. *No Council actions requested.*
- Outreach & Education (Oudersluys): Identify "Call to Action" as key outreach message; will link to priorities identified by Program Committee; identity/branding will follow, including use of social media and other relevant outreach tools. John Poole presented a summary of current outreach efforts as starting place for committee action. *No Council actions requested.*
- Member Development (Merriman): General discussion about recruitment, identifying member expertise areas and potential Council member professional development opportunities. Formed Legislative Subcommittee; members Keller and Landsman. Potentially change ORC language regarding mandated legislative appointees. *No Council actions requested.*

Announcements

Forging New Links Conference, March 15-16 at Hyatt Regency Columbus. Council members exempt from registration fee but still must register online. Debriefing session for Council input and assessment directly after; no matters of business will be discussed.

Financial Disclosure for 2009 packets have been distributed by the Ethics Commission. All are to be submitted *to the Council office no later than 3/31/2010* for group submission to Ethics before April 15 due date.

Ethics training sessions for calendar 2010 have been announced. Members must attend every other year. New members must attend within 1 year of appointment. Schedule will be distributed to members by email. Check with Shirley if unsure of last session attended.

Executive Committee immediately following.

Adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Next meeting: April 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Prepared and submitted by Mark Holtzaple.

Ohio Community Service Council
FISCAL 2010 OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUES	AMOUNT
FEDERAL GRANTS	\$ 676,000.00
STATE ALLOTMENTS	\$ 147,034.00
CONTRACTS/EARNED INCOME*	\$ 727,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,550,034.00

*CONTRACTS/EARNED REVENUES REFLECTS \$100,000 CASH CARRYOVER.

EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$ 899,218.00
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$ 65,000.00
TRAVEL-STAFF	\$ 18,000.00
TRAVEL-COUNCIL	\$ 6,000.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 35,000.00
FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE	\$ 10,000.00
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$ 8,400.00
POSTAGE & SHIPPING	\$ 5,000.00
TELEPHONE & DATA SERVICES	\$ 34,000.00
PRINTING & GRAPHICS	\$ 18,000.00
OFFICE RENT	\$ 60,000.00
MEMBERSHIPS & DUES	\$ 7,000.00
FISCAL AGENT SERVICES	\$ 6,000.00
SUBGRANTS & SUBSIDIES	\$ 233,000.00
TRANSFERS & ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 57,283.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,461,901.00

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 88,133.00
--------------------------	---------------------

Final budget for FY2010, replacing continuing authorizations from Council through 12/31/2009.



RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ohio Community Service Council

FROM: Walter McNamara, AAG
Executive Agencies Section

RE: License Plate Exchange Program

DATE: October 16, 2009

This memo is in regards to the proposed action to offer certain partnering organizations an opportunity to promote the sale of volunteer license plates with the organization then receiving a fee from the OCSC for each plate sold. This memo examines specific concerns that your legal counsel has with this proposed idea.

The idea, as I understand it, is to partner with certain volunteer organizations in an effort to sell more volunteer license plates. OCSC would offer each organization a nominal monetary amount for each volunteer license plate that the organization is able to promote and sell. The goal being to increase overall sales of the plate. While the goal is laudable, and could potentially increase the profile of the plate as well as accrue greater funds to the Council, several legal issues exist that must be examined by the Council prior to implementation of the program.

The current proposed plan would not open the "exchange" to any organization, but would involve an "application" process whereby an organization would seek to qualify for partnership with the Council. Such an "application" process necessarily involves a determination by the Council as to the organizations potential efficacy in the exchange program. Whenever a governmental agency has discretionary determination over whether a public or private organization can participate in a government sponsored program which could potentially yield benefits to the organization, certain procedures must be followed, and a certain exposure exists. Anytime a government agency rejects an applicant from a program available to the public, that agency faces legal exposure. While a set of criteria may be developed to determine the admittance of appropriate organizations to the program, any rejected

organization may still bring legal action. It will also be incumbent upon the Council to determine an appeals process for rejected entities. A rejection on appeal could also allow the organization a direct appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction, and potentially expose the Council to legal fees, or a Mandamus action. I can also envision difficulty with the criteria used to determine appropriate partners. The applicants will present the Council with a very eclectic group of volunteer organizations, each with its own missions, policies and practices. Any criteria developed would have to take into account the very different types of applicants.

Additionally, I have concerns about the manner in which admitted organizations could use the fees received from the Council. If an organization were to employ the received fees in a manner inconsistent with the overall goals of the Council, or even the partnered entity's own mission, the Council could face legal exposure as the ultimate provider of said fees. Moreover, it is conceivable that any negative public relations resulting from a misuse of the fees could affect the Council's public image, as well as its relationship with the Governor's office and other agencies. One way to avoid this issue would be to place controlling conditions over the use of the fees. However, this introduces an entirely new set of issues to the Council, such as potential sanctions for uncooperative partners, which would require some type of due process procedure, with an opportunity for the partnering entity to appeal any sanction. Also, the Council may not have the logistical support in place to monitor the usage of the fees.

Admittedly, these scenarios may be unlikely, but these issues must be examined by the Council.

Competitive AmeriCorps Applications

January 19

2010

This document includes the results of the peer and staff reviews for the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps Competitive Grant process. Documentation is provided regarding past history of grant applicant and strengths and areas for continuous improvement. Also included is an overview of a Planning Grant that will be supported by 2009 funds.

Ohio AmeriCorps

NEW COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS

PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE PRIORITIES	PEER REVIEW (100)	STAFF REVIEW (100)	2008-2009 ENROLLMENT RETENTION	2010-2011 REQUEST	2009 - 2010 REQUEST HISTORY
Housing and Economic Opportunity AmeriCorps Program Advocates For Basic Legal Equality, Inc.	32 counties in Western Ohio	Helping people with low incomes stay in their homes or to stabilize situations that could lead to loss of housing by providing legal and advocacy assistance.	79	79	100% 90%	\$285,997.00 22.0 MSY Year 7	\$252,008.00
Comments: Program has strong training requirements in place; good recruitment plans that are enhanced by additional resources provided to members; focus of member activities is important for community strengthening; member roles are clearly documented. Strengthening of volunteer engagement and support; utilization of client survey data, sustainability planning, and sources for matching funds are areas of ongoing continuous improvement.							
Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Children's Hunger Alliance	Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Akron, Columbus, & Toledo	Addressing food insecurity, poor nutritional intake and childhood obesity.	82	89	100% 95%	\$273,000.00 21.12 MSY Year 7	\$176,400.00
Comments: Strong program model that addresses the critical need of nutrition, food insecurity, and childhood obesity; use of evidence-based curriculum; strong member recruitment and enrollment strategies; effective member training, support, and supervision strategies. Areas for continuous improvement include volunteer recruitment and management; collaborations with other national service programs; and diversification of funding/partners.							
CHP Community Corps Columbus Housing Partnership, Inc.	Columbus	Connecting residents to opportunities (i.e., support services, housing, employment) through referrals and academic enrichment programs.	53	51	100% 85%	\$362,697.00 30.0 MSY Year 7	\$168,749.00
Comments: Addresses critical need of helping individuals stay in affordable housing; volunteer management is effective; effective member support strategies are in place, including supervision; strong relationships to other service programs and engagement of community partners. Areas for continuous improvement include clear articulation of member roles/responsibilities as they relate to identified needs; developing a comprehensive sustainability plan; and ongoing training and support of members.							
AmeriCorps Serving Northwest Ohio Mercy Health Partners	Lucas County	Provides family health mentors, tutoring and support initiative and organizes community-wide service events.	67	57	79% 82%	\$345,097.00 35.0 MSY Year 8	\$250,142.00
Comments: Proposing to increase from 20 MSY to 35 MSY. Organization has a strong history in northwest Ohio with positive relationships with current and potential partners; opportunities for growth are evident; member recruitment, orientation and satisfaction are strong; developing a sustainability plan and re-engaging advisory board. Areas for continuous improvement are member role clarification and more clearly articulating host site needs; ongoing member and supervisor support; and role of advisory board in relation to continuous improvement strategies.							

PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE PRIORITIES	PEER REVIEW (100)	STAFF REVIEW (100)	2008-2009 ENROLLMENT RETENTION	2010-2011 REQUEST	2009 - 2010 REQUEST HISTORY
Harvest Corps The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks	Statewide	Connecting clients to essential services to fight hunger and food insecurity.	60	70	100% 100%	\$378,772.00 30.0 MSY Year 2	\$360,554.00
Comments: Strong program model that was efficiently implemented in a compressed timeframe. Meeting critical needs associated with referrals and food insecurity, strong relationships with statewide organizations and agencies; solid track record of funding support; and complimentary relationships with other national service programs. Areas for continuous improvement include member supervision and support; volunteer engagement and management; and utilization of client survey feedback.							
ComCorps Ohio University	Athens County	Addressing unmet needs in Athens County through health screenings, health promotion activities, and social service referrals.	70	78	100% 95%	\$260,004.00 20.0 MSY Year 8	\$214,205.00
Comments: Proposes an expansion of three additional members; strong record of accomplishments in Athens County; meeting critical needs of health education and health screening programs that complement and enhance existing services; developing a stronger approach to sustainability; and strong model of member recruitment, orientation, and training. Areas of continuous improvement include utilization of client feedback; clearly matching member roles/responsibilities with needs; support and training for site supervisors; and rebuilding the cohesiveness of partners that host members.							
Project ACE Urban Appalachian Council	Cincinnati	Providing tutoring and instruction in basic literacy, adult education and GED classes and homework help; social service referrals; and academic enrichment activities.	57	47	100% 88%	\$388,756.00 30.0 MSY Year 2	\$226,013.00
Comments: Proposing an increase in MSY's. History of national service engagement is positive, addressing a critical need in partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools; strengthening member orientation, training, and support based upon critical evaluation conducted; serving a critical need in a socio-economically depressed region of the state. Areas for continuous improvement include strengthening the sustainability plan; growing partner match contributions and diversity of funding sources; and volunteer engagement and support.							
COMPETITIVE RECOMPETE							
Prepare Central Ohio American Red Cross of Greater Columbus	Central Ohio Counties: Franklin, Madison, Fayette, and Pickaway	Providing services, education, and training that equip communities and families with skills and knowledge to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters.	66	69	93% 76%	\$351,000.00 27.0 MSY Year 7	\$340,195.00
Comments: A focused program on disaster preparedness that has a strong history of success; expanding services to meet underserved and low income neighborhoods; focusing on volunteer engagement to build overall capacity; detailed member service activities are strong; member training and orientation reflects a commitment to the overall goals/objectives of the program. Areas for continuous improvement include member supervision, overall volunteer management systems, and members feeling/being a part of the national service movement.							

CONTINUATION COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS					
PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE PRIORITIES	2008 - 2009 ENROLLMENT RETENTION	2010 - 2011 REQUEST	2009 - 2010 REQUEST HISTORY
City Year Cleveland City Year, Inc.	Cleveland	Serving Cleveland's most disadvantaged youth through mentoring, tutoring, and academic enrichment programs.	100%	\$625,001.00	\$598,000.00
			82%	Year 8	
OSU Kid Corps The Ohio State University Research Foundation	Columbus	Provides quality experiences for preschool children in subsidized centers and home care settings.	100%	\$197,939.00	\$199,992.00
			62%	Year 6	
Public Allies Cincinnati Public Allies, Inc.	Hamilton, Clermont, Butler and Warren Counties	Intermediary that supports capacity building by providing services that will strengthen youth leadership development, economic justice, and employing creativity for change.	93%	\$518,908.00	\$436,143.00
			89%	Year 8 (seeking expansion to 40 FT)	

The Ohio Community Service Council receives AmeriCorps funding in two categories – competitive and formula. These charts are reflective of programs either currently receiving competitive funding (Recompete Competitive Applicants and Continuation Competitive Applicants) or currently receiving formula funding and now applying for competitive funding (New Competitive Applicants). Competitive funds are available to all state commissions at the national level – programs must “compete” against each other to receive this funding. Formula funds are allocated to state commissions based on population – competition for that funding remains at the state level. In Ohio, we have a formula funding limitation of 6 years for programs funded as of 2002; the limitation for formula programs funded prior to 2002 is 9 years. There are no limitations for competitive funding beyond performance. It is our policy to nurture programs within our formula portfolio – forwarding only the most successful to the national level for potential competitive funding. Note: all the previously mentioned policies have been suspended and will be reviewed based upon final implementation of the Serve America Act.

Planning Grant Proposal – Formula Funds					
PROGRAM	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE PRIORITIES	ENROLLMENT RETENTION	2009 – 2010 REQUEST	2008 2009 REQUEST HISTORY
Growing Together Partnerships Make A Difference, Inc.	Central Ohio (initially)	Develop and implement, in collaboration with schools, service-learning programs that engage youth from rural, suburban, and urban communities.	N/A	\$50,000.00	N/A
			N/A		

Proposed Ranking of Competitive Applications	
1	Children's Hunger Alliance (Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities)
2	Ohio University (ComCorps)
3	Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc (ABLE)
4	The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks (OBB Community Corps)
5	Urban Appalachian Council (Project ACE)
6	Columbus Housing Partnership, Inc. (CHP Community Corps)
7	American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (Prepare Central Ohio)
8	Mercy Health Partners ¹ (AmeriCorps Serving Northwest Ohio)

(1) It is not recommended that Mercy Health Partners receive approval to expand beyond their current 20 MSY.