

## Ohio Community Service Council

### Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2011

In Attendance: Susan Rogers, Willie Peterson, Margaret Wildi; Maureen Drummond, Sande Johnson, Charlotte Jones-Ward, Nina Keller, Johnmark Oudersluys (phone), William Russell (phone), Clifford Smith, Chuck White. Ex Officio: None. Staff/Counsel: Bill Hall, Mark Holtzapple, Ryan Schmiesing.

Absent: Jeff King, Peggy Lehner, Anne Marie Mann, Chelsea Merriman, Gerald Stebelton, Owen Wrassman. Ex Officio: Tina Dunphy. Staff/Counsel: Walter McNamara.

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Meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Rogers at 10:05 a.m. Chair noted the institution of a consent agenda format as discussed at the Council retreat in November.

Maureen Drummond moved, Margaret Wildi seconded, to approve by consent the following items that had been distributed prior to the meeting:

- Minutes from the September 30, 2010 meeting.
- Executive Director's report (Attachment 1).
- 2011 Organizational Goals derived from discussion at Council member retreat in November (Attachment 2)

#### New Business

Director of Programs Ryan Schmiesing presented results of the 2011 AmeriCorps Competitive Funding program review process. (Attachment 3). Seven sub-grant programs were recommended for submission to the nation-wide competitive funding selection process conducted by the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS). Six applications were not selected for competitive submission; applicants will have the option of reapplying for formula-based funding later in the year. Following questions and discussion the submission was approved as follows:

Funded Agency	Funding	Members	Moved By	Second	Abstain
AMVETS Career Center (N)	\$398,781	36	Johnson	Keller	None
Children's Hunger Alliance (C)	\$277,199	30	Keller	Drummond	None
City Year Cleveland (C)	\$650,000	50	Wildi	Jones-Ward	
Ohio Assoc. of Second Harvest Foodbanks (C)	\$388,630	30	Drummond	Keller	White
Ohio College Access Network (N)	\$904,400	68	Drummond	Keller	None
Ohio State University (C)	\$197,707	90	Johnson	Wildi	Russell
Public Allies (C)	\$518,505	40	Keller	Jones-Ward	None
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,335,222</b>	<b>344</b>			

(C) = Continuation      (N) = New

Council recessed for lunch at 11:10 a.m. Food costs paid by members/non-reimbursable. There were no committee meetings during the lunch break. Reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

### Guest Speaker

Bill Hall introduced Tom Branen, Executive Director of the American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC), headquartered in Washington, D.C. Branen shared with the group a snapshot of Council peer organizations across the nation, based on the ASC 2010 National Survey of State Service Commissions. Open dialogue followed including such topics as federal 2011 AmeriCorps appropriations, the new CNCS Strategic Plan, building relationships with other state agencies, elected officials, and other potential partners for advancing service and volunteerism as a tool for addressing critical needs.

### Announcements

- March 16-18: Ohio Conference on Service & Volunteerism. Council members must register online at [www.ced.edu/OCSV2011](http://www.ced.edu/OCSV2011).
- March 31: Annual Financial Disclosure Reports from Council members are due to the Executive Director for collective submission to the Ohio Ethics Commission.
- April 21: Next Council meeting, Grange Insurance conference room, 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned by consensus at 1:50 p.m.

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

There was no Executive Committee meeting.

Prepared and submitted by Mark Holtzaple.

**Ohio Community Service Council**

**Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2011**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1: Executive Director's Report.**

**Attachment 2: 2011 Organizational Goals**

**Attachment 3: Competitive Funding Recommendations for 2011**

January 2011

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

• **Administration Transition**

We have submitted a formal letter of introduction to the Governor's office with an accompanying packet of information detailing the Council's initiatives and impact. An online event participation request was also submitted relative to the March 17<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony. Initial contact has also been made with the new Director of Boards and Commissions, Jeff Polesovsky. As of this writing, we have received no response from the new administration.

• **Sunset Review**

On Tuesday, December 7, 2010, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed a bill to extend the December 31 deadline to consider the Sunset Review Committee's Report. The revision will allow the General Assembly to take action on the recommendations by July 1, 2011. The chamber took action on a House-passed measure (HB 495), although the amended version omits language that would revise the structure of boards and commissions. A similar bill (SB 268) was introduced in the Senate.

It will need to be determined if the language impacting the Council that was included in this legislation – over reversion back to commission status and ending our role in disaster preparedness – will remain in the Sunset Bill or be inserted in budget language.

• **Ohio Citizen Corps/Ohio Medical Reserve Corps Transition**

Transition of Ohio Citizen Corps and Ohio Medical Reserve Corps programming to Ohio Emergency Management Agency and Ohio Department of Health continues with minimal responsibilities being retained by the Council at this point. ODH and OEMA hope to have the new Ohio Responds website operational as of 1/31.

• **Rebranding and Website Contract**

The Council has entered into contract with iSpark Digital (<http://isparkdigital.com/>), a Cincinnati-based firm, to guide us through a process of landscape assessment, equity development, logo design, digital strategy, website development and launch. You will be hearing more about all of this in the days and weeks ahead.

• **Governor and First Lady's Service Awards**

Nominations for the Governor's –First Lady's Service Awards are open until Friday, January 21, 5PM. Information and nomination forms are available at [www.serveohio.org](http://www.serveohio.org) ; once the nominations have closed we will determine next steps based on nominees, available resources, and communication with the new administration.

• **Ohio Conference on Service and Volunteerism**

Registration for the conference is scheduled to go live 1/ 18 (<http://www.ced.osu.edu/OCSV2011/>); I will forward information on Council registration codes and details in a separate message. Please utilize your personal and professional networks to promote the conference as appropriate – it is imperative that we meet our attendance objectives. Special promotional materials that can be forwarded via email or posted via social media will also be distributed in the upcoming days.

## **Ohio Community Service Council**

### **2011 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS**

#### **ENHANCE VISIBILITY**

- Development of comprehensive communication strategy that engages existing and new partners – clearly defining our role and impact in national service and volunteerism.
- Council rebranding under new name and logo.
- Development of new website and outreach methods.
- Strengthen relationships with elected officials at all levels to increase support of national service and volunteerism; create sustainable relationships; and build support for Council funding.

#### **BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Utilize technology to create partnerships and increase capacity.
- Increase professional development options for constituents and staff of Council programming.
- Harvest data and transformative narratives to demonstrate the impact of Council programs.
- Strengthen Council membership to meet objectives of building relationships and increasing partnerships.
- Maintain Council staffing levels to support the objectives and needs of our constituents.

#### **STRENGTHEN EXISTING PATHWAYS TO SERVICE AND CREATE NEW ONES**

- Continue to build the AmeriCorps portfolio by supporting programs that focus on priority issues and embrace measurable outcomes that have sustained impact.
- Support National Days of Service via project funding, technical assistance and promotion.
- Utilize technology to connect individuals and groups to local volunteer initiatives.

#### **LEVERAGE INVESTMENTS AND UTILIZE OUR POSITION**

- Utilize funding strategies to increase and strengthen partnerships with key organizations to increase the impact and visibility of national service and volunteer initiatives.
- Create new roles for the Council as a convener of other organizations to assist in the development of strategies to utilize service and volunteerism as a potential resource for addressing critical needs.

OHIO COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL

# Competitive Funding Recommendations

Ohio AmeriCorps Programs

2011

[WWW.SERVEOHIO.ORG](http://WWW.SERVEOHIO.ORG)

**AMVETS Career Center** (\$398,781.00; 36 members) – Veterans/Military Families

The AMVETS Career Center AmeriCorps program engages AmeriCorps members and volunteers to translate their technical skills and leadership abilities to gain employment; educate employers about the benefits of hiring veterans; and assisting veterans with career assessments, training opportunities, and developing tools such as resumes, cover letters, job search techniques, and interviewing skills.

**Children's Hunger Alliance** (\$277,199.00; 30 members) - Health

The Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC) AmeriCorps program addresses the needs of at-risk children in Ohio to improve their nutritional intake, decrease food insecurity, reduce obesity rates and increase health related education. Members teach nutrition education and physical activity programming to children attending afterschool programming in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton as well as assist with expanding access to nutritious foods through USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

**City Year, Inc. Cleveland** (\$650,000.00; 50 members) - Education

City Year Cleveland is a full-time, team-based AmeriCorps program serving 1,200 students in five public schools in Cleveland through in- and out-of-school programs. The 50 members, ages 17-24, provide targeted and school-wide interventions in literacy, math, attendance, and behavior to students identified as at-risk to drop out. 200 below-grade level students will be enrolled in our targeted Academic Program and 50% of those who complete will demonstrate improvement in their academic performance.

**Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks** (\$388,630.00; 30 members) – Economic Opportunity

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks grant supports the HarvestCorps program. HarvestCorps members fight "food insecurity" -- hunger -- by connecting Ohioans in need to critical support programs such as SNAP (Food Stamps) and the EITC, as well as increasing capacity at Ohio's Foodbanks to serve the ever-growing numbers of those in need.

**Ohio College Access Network** (\$904,400.00; 68 members) – Education

The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) is comprised of local college access organizations operating in nearly every area of Ohio. The goal of the network is to position local organizations through funding, advocacy and support to provide economic opportunity through college completion for Ohio students. OCAN proposes to boost local member organizations' ability through AmeriCorps members serving as college access advisors to low-income, minority, and first-generation college students in Ohio.

**Public Allies, Inc.** (\$518,505.00; 40 members) – Nonprofit Capacity Building

Public Allies advances new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits and civic participation. Public Allies seeks to change the face and practice of leadership in Cincinnati by identifying talented young adults from diverse and under-represented backgrounds who have a passion to make a difference, and help them turn that passion into a viable career path. Members serve in full-time nonprofit apprenticeships working to address Cincinnati's most challenging educational and economic issues.

**The Ohio State University** (\$197,707.00; 90 members) - Education

OSU Kid Corps is designed to help at risk preschoolers enter school prepared to succeed. The program focuses specifically on enhancing preschoolers' cognitive development for pre-literacy competence and on providing experiences that foster the positive interactions with other children that are needed for the development of pro-social skills and the ability to control one's own behavior. The program is also designed to support families' involvement in their children's educational experiences.



**Table 1: Recommended for Funding**

Organization	Grant Request	Match Contribution	Ed. Award Value
AMVETS Career Center	\$398,781.00	\$126,340.00	\$160,500.00
City Year, Cleveland	\$650,000.00	\$576,415.00	\$267,500.00
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks	\$388,630.00	\$403,626.00	\$160,500.00
Children's Hunger Alliance	\$277,199.00	\$208,751.00	\$112,992.00
The Ohio State University	\$197,707.00	\$120,944.00	\$103,041.00
Public Allies, Inc.	\$518,505.00	\$461,384.00	\$214,000.00
Ohio College Access Network	\$904,400.00	\$317,761.00	\$363,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,335,222.00</b>	<b>\$2,215,221.00</b>	<b>\$1,382,333.00</b>

Note: Ed. Award Value assumes all members complete their term of service.

**Table 2: Additional Organizations Applying for Funding:**

Organization	Funding Request
Community for Youth Development	\$309,170.00
Partnerships Make a Difference, Inc.	\$107,935.00
Ohio University	\$257,473.00
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development	\$265,986.00
Greene County Vocational School District	\$319,987.00
Media Bridges	\$295,567.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,556,118.00</b>

Note: These organizations are eligible to apply in the Spring, 2011

**2011 Competitive Grant Reviewers**

Lynette Santoro Au, City of Upper Arlington \* Dion Rocquemore, Piedmont Behavioral Health \*  
 Scott Herr, Catholic Charities \* Kendall Lankford, Sojourners Care Network \* Ariel Miller,  
 Episcopal Community Services Foundation \* Gregory Stewart, Union Institute & University \*  
 Kathleen Gallant, Amethyst, Inc. \* Shannon Werner, Community Volunteer \* Holli Mallak, Barberton  
 Community Foundation \* Ryan Schmiesing, Ohio Community Service Council \* Ingyr Coleman, Ohio  
 Community Service Council \* Lisa Tope, Ohio Community Service Council \* Jodi Tully, Ohio Community  
 Service Council

## **Ohio AmeriCorps Grant Review Process Competitive Applications**

In an effort to provide greater understanding of the peer and staff review process for Ohio AmeriCorps programs, the following is provided. Applicants should keep in mind that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will be providing further clarification and information regarding the national review when the amendment to the notice of funding opportunity is released.

- Applicant submits a complete proposal, including budget and budget narrative by the stated deadline.
- Applications are reviewed by the Director of Programs to ensure that they have met the minimum qualifications to move to the next stage in the process. Three primary areas reviewed: (1) minimum of 20 MSY's are proposed; (2) budget does not exceed the maximum cost per MSY of \$13,300.00; and (3) all narrative sections, budget, and budget narrative are completed.
- New and recompile applications are grouped by general focus areas and assigned to a panel of peer reviewers. A panel generally consists of two to three individuals with expertise, experience, and/or knowledge in the field of the proposed focus area and/or service, volunteerism, community development, etc. Ongoing recruitment of peer reviewers is done through the OCSC website.
- All new, recompile, and continuation applications are reviewed by staff of the Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) including (at minimum) the Director of Programs, two Program Officers, and Grants Officer.
- Peer reviewers convene on a conference call at a designated time to discuss each applicant, in detail. Call is facilitated by a staff member of the Ohio Community Service Council. The discussion is summarized and is included with the individual peer review feedback for each grant.
- Ohio Community Service Council staff convenes to discuss each application and provide strengths and weaknesses.
- Based upon all information collected, strengths and weaknesses are identified, applications are ranked, and a presentation is made to the Ohio Community Service Council. The Ohio Community Service Council has the opportunity to discuss each application and then vote to approve or not approve the recommendations presented.
- Important considerations: (1) scores on applications are one factor in the overall decision-making process, not the determining factor; (2) comments and written feedback, beyond the score, carry significant weight in the process; (3) AmeriCorps program non-compliance or administrative challenges by an applicant (continuation, recompile, or new) is considered during the staff review process; and (4) clarification requests are made of applicants before final submission to CNCS.