



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Commission Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, March 14, 2024, 9:30 am EST
Governor's Reception Room, Maryland State House,
100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland**

Attendees:

GOSV Commissioners: John Barr, John Brothers (virtual), Phyllis Coley, Candace Dodson- Reed (virtual), Todd Everly (virtual), Don Hackett, Dominic Henry, Grace Jiang (virtual), Kyle Lierman, Lauren McKinley, Jody Olsen, Aru Rao (Chair), Barbara Stewart (virtual), Alison Vogrin, John Palinski (Past Chair, virtual)

Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) Staff: Lisa Bishop, Erin Dahlin, Sarah Flammang (DSCI Deputy Secretary & GOSV Interim Executive Director), Tyler Groves, Tess Hetzel, Marnie Kenefick, Joy Lawson-McGinnis, Paul Monteiro (DSCI Secretary), Carmina Perez-Fowler

Guests: Pablo Blank (virtual), Paul Costello (virtual), Angila Curvey-Chuwku (Equity Now), Matthew Forrest (AmeriCorps Grants Portfolio Manager), Sophia Dimarno (Equity Now), Melissa Hartung (AmeriCorps Senior Portfolio Manager), Atasha James (Legends Charter School), Shomari James (Equity Now)

Welcome Remarks

- Welcome remarks by Ms. Flammang.
- Ms. Flammang introduces Special Guest – Lt. Governor Aruna Miller. Lt. Governor Miller discussed the Administration's commitment to public service and how DSCI was supporting that objective. She also encouraged the public to contact her office. Lt. Governor Miller then departed the meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Rao called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.

Remarks by DSCI Secretary - Paul Monteiro

- "Making Maryland a state that serves" is a priority for the Administration.
- DSCI's mission is to grow service opportunities, to remove barriers for participation, and to encourage service as a career pathway.
- The Maryland Corps/ Service Year Option will complement the existing AmeriCorps program to increase service opportunities across the state.

Introductions of Attendees

Discussion of Portfolio and Grant Cycle Overview by Lisa Bishop, DSCI Director of Maryland Corps Program

- 2024 calendar:
 - *May meeting*- vote on AmeriCorps State and National Formula sub-applications
 - *Spring-Fall*- Outreach for competitive and formula applications.
 - *October meeting* - vote on Commission Support Grant and Commission Investment Fund applications.
 - *December meeting* - vote on AmeriCorps State and National Competitive sub-applications
- Current portfolio:
 - 16 operational sub-grantees with 70+ AmeriCorps Program staff
 - 617 AmeriCorps service members actively serving at 307 service locations across Maryland.
 - Additional 71 AmeriCorps members anticipated to enroll in the remainder of the FY23 Service Year

Commission Action Items

- Approval of December 2023 meeting minutes
 - Motion to Approve by: Chair Rao
 - Approved by Chair Rao, Ms. Vogrin, and Ms. McKinley
- Executive Committee – Special Elections
 - Chair Rao reviewed the roles of the Executive Committee
 - Two open positions:
 - Vice-Chair
 - **Kyle Lierman.** Mr. Lierman was nominated by Chair Rao and unanimously approved.
 - Member at Large
 - **Candace Dodson-Reed.** Ms. Dodson-Reed nominated herself and was unanimously approved.
- Discussion of current Commission Committees
 - Motion by Chair Rao to eliminate all current committees except for the Executive and Grant Guidance Committees.
 - Motion was unanimously approved.
 - Bylaws will be amended to reflect the Commission's action.

Grantee Presentation: Equity Now

- Representatives from Equity Now and Legends Charter School spoke about the impact AmeriCorps members have had in leveraging efforts to advance students' performance. This year, they have 30 AmeriCorps members for 900 students. Additional support allows teachers to focus on the classroom.

Updates from AmeriCorps: Ms. Hartung and Mr. Forrest

- Ms. Hartung provided a regional overview of AmeriCorps.
- American Rescue Plan and Public Health Corps funds are being phased out.
- A notice of funding for the VISTA program is open with a March 28th deadline.

Meeting Wrap-Up

- Chair Rao reminded Commissioners regarding the required annual financial disclosure and ethics training.

Meeting Adjournment. Motion to adjourn: Chair Rao Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:02 AM.