



**SerVermont Commission Meeting**  
*133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05641*  
*"Basement Conference Room" (Room 021)*  
**October 15, 2015**  
**(Approved 1/21/16)**

**Members in Attendance:** Susan Cheesman ex officio, Madeline Strauser, Dan Noyes, Guy Isabelle, Lee White

**Staff in Attendance:** Philip Kolling, Sharon Hearne

**Attended by Phone:** Shelley Park, Betsy Ward, Sabina Haskell, Justin Morande, Christy Gallese, Jacob Bogre, and Jim Coutts

**Unable to Attend:** Ryan McLaren, Jason Gosselin, Ashley Burke, Thomas Hark, Lisa Schold, Michelle Park, Peter Hayward, and Doug Kievit-Kylar

**10:00 am Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson, Betsy Ward, brought the meeting to order at 10:04 AM asking those present and those on the phone to introduce themselves and to say who it is that they represent (and what our favorite fall activity was this year).

**10:20 am Approve Minutes from July 16, 2015 Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of July 16 2015 was made by Betsy Ward and seconded by Christy Gallese. The minutes were approved without amendment unanimously.

**10:25 am Public Comment**

Guy mentioned that barre had just hosted its annual Joint Services Award. He knows that some other communities hold similar events. It might be good for SER VERMONT to partner with or recognize these events.

**10:30 am Policy Adoption**

Phil asked to have this agenda moved while there was a quorum present. Phil explained that the CNCS requires a number of policies to be written and available as part of the program operations. Some of these were not sufficient at the last review. Since then he and Sharon have either tweaked or redone the following policies:

Sub grantee Monitoring  
Non Duplication Displacement  
NSCHC and State Criminal History check  
Enrolling and Existing AmeriCorps Members  
AmeriCorps Member Time Keeping

Guy asked whether any of the policies were new or whether they were adapted from other programs or projects. Phil stated that they were all adapted from existing policies and that they had been reviewed by the Program Officer and that they had received positive feedback.

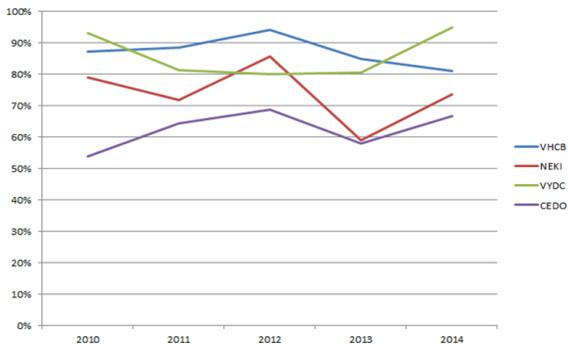
A motion to approve the policies was made by Sabrina and seconded by Jacob. The motion passed with no abstentions or dissensions.

Lee asked if the Commissioners were going to get policy books. Sharon stated they will be available as soon as the updates and

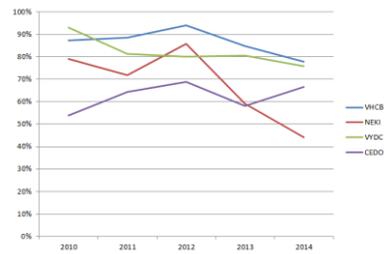


## Member Enrollment / Retention

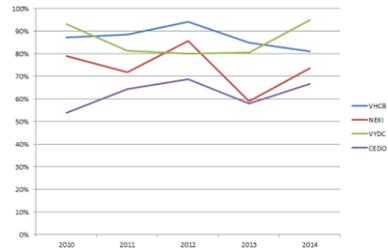
as a performance indicator as calculated as by % of slots and MSY awarded vs. filled



April 2015



July 2015



Member enrollment overall continues to improve. Admittedly, it is more difficult to fill AmeriCorps slots with an improving economy.

**INTERESTING NOTE:** Vermont AmeriCorps is approximately 50/50 Vermonters and Out-Of-Staters.

11:10 am Partners and Plans / New Data

### Activities and Updates:

The Leahy grant announcement went really well in Lyndonville. He thanked those who were able to attend and shared that there is a lot of energy behind LEAP formerly the NEK initiative.

The Keurig Green Mountain/ Watershed update- they are going to use the money to offset a cost share with Watersheds United of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Symposium in DC was useful. Phil made contacts with the House and Senate delegations. There were not many meetings with the CNCS leadership. Clearly people are preparing for a new administration.

Phil shared that the contracting process has changed and has slowed how quickly people can get funds. The programs are a little nervous. There is a huge backlog and some folks are at risk of compliance issues. Phil has been keeping in touch with folks but patience is running thin.

Phil shared that the background check requirements have been very frustrating. While it is the law getting the checks back have proved challenging. He shared that the Vermont Criminal Investigation Center has been great with agencies that deal with vulnerable populations but there are projects that don't deal with those populations and the checks are being done but denied based on where people are serving. CNCS is working to try to find a nationwide clearing house. This is extremely frustrating for folks.

Phil explained the Red Cross and AHS plan to ask the Vermont members to play a role in helping at shelters during disasters because the Red Cross numbers are down on those types of volunteers. Phil feels that this finally identifies an appropriate role for those serving in Vermont when disasters happen. There will be training on December 8, 2015 at the barre Auditorium. Commissioners are welcome to attend. Dan asked whether Senior corps members could attend. Phil stated yes.

Phil shared that there were not enough people enrolled in the FEMA training and they are looking at rescheduling for March or April.

He reminded folks about the Collective Impact Conference in Fairlee Vermont

The 2016 funding picture continues to be a mess. He is working with the America's Service Commissions but the next date for anything to happen is December 11 when the continuing resolution runs out and the country faces a shut down.

The State funds will be looked at more closely this year because of the continuing budget issues in Vermont. Phil has been making the arguments and hopes to be convincing.

There will be an AmeriCorps support sign on letter coming out by Voices for Service. Phil will send out an email when it is ready.

The Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility dues are \$200. Part of the dues are used for lobbying and Phil asked if someone could donate \$50 to offset that issue. (Lee White agreed to provide those funds. **Thank You Lee!!!!!!**)

#### 11:40 am      **Upcoming Events**

- Lt Governor Phil Scott will be handing out the awards. Hal Cohen, the AHS Secretary will be speaking. Representatives from the Vermont delegation will be offering words. There will be an AmeriCorps and senior Pledge. Betsy asked for a volunteer to help announce the awards. Lee White volunteered. They are still looking for a photographer, Susan said she can help but cannot do the whole thing. Dan has contacted WCAX.
- October 19-21; national Conference on Service and Volunteering, Houston Texas
- October 19-21 Emergency Management Conference
- Collective Impact Conference
- November 25: AmeriCorps grants due
- January 18 MLK Day
- **Next meeting will be December 10, 2015. The 2016 meetings will be the third Thursday of the month in the months of January, April, July and October.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:51

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. Guy Isabelle

Secretary for the Day