

OREGONSERVES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 27, 2024

Commission Members in Attendance:

Heidi Echeverría, Greg Carpinello, Jayesh Palshikar, Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, Shenika Cumberbatch-Corpas, Mary Greusel

Commission Members Absent:

June Bass, CM Hall, Sierra Barnes, Jared Pruch

Commission Staff in Attendance:

Carie Bauer, OregonServes Commission Director, Kelly Hale McNabb, Office Support Specialist, Priscila Narcio, Outreach and Program Development Specialist, Myronda Schiding, Office of Workforce Investments (OWI) Workforce Programs Manager.

Invited Guests in Attendance:

Casey Reynolds, ASC State Policy Manager, America's Service Commissions
Susan Taylor

Meeting Opening:

Meeting chaired by Heidi Echeverría.

Meeting called to order at 11:05am by Chair.

No public comment at this time.

Introductions & Announcements:

New Members, Staff Updates, General News | Chair Echeverría

- Director Bauer began the round of introductions, by introducing new members to the commission
- Chair reviewed the agenda; we are moving presentation to 12pm by Casey to meet his schedule needs
- Quorum was met.
- August 24th Meeting Minutes were submitted for approval 1st: Shenika Cumberbatch-Corpas, 2nd: Greg Carpinello – No discussion, no abstentions, minutes approved.
- Consent agenda submitted for approval 1st: Shenika Cumberbatch-Corpas, 2nd: Jayesh Palshikar. No discussion, no abstentions, agenda approved.
- Carie requested approval of Heidi as Chair and Vice-Chair Daniel Altamirano Hernandez. 1st: Greg Capinello, 2nd: Shenika Cumberbatch-Corpas. No discussion, no abstentions, request approved.

Informational Items:

Promoting Service Through AmeriCorps Act | Carie Bauer

- Director Bauer gave an overview of a bill that was introduced and sponsored on 9/12/24 by Senator Chris Coons and Dr. Bill Cassidy: The Promoting Service through AmeriCorps (PSA) Act of 2024. Bauer

discussed some key points of the bill, including: The bill provides more variety of ways for people to serve, there is an extend age range for NCCC program. Residential program for ages 17-24 currently. Would increase age to 26. Another highlight is that the cap of the administrative cost would be raised from 5% to 10%. Another highlight would be that it would create an office Alumni engagement and strengthen the relationships with alumni post-service. Broaden usage, and increase time limit of, the education award. Increasing the award limit. Allowing a reduced payment instead of the education award. Creating hiring priority for alumni.

- Jayesh mentioned a concern about folks potentially selling the education award and asked about the possibility of this passing.
- Skenika asked if there was anything they can do to support/champion the bill? Director Bauer responded that board members can take action within the guidelines set forth and provided last month. Folks can email their representatives.
- Daniel commented that the ability to transfer the award already exists, and what tracking would be available? It sounds like there are some things in place already. When will it be introduced? Will it pass in its entirety? Will need to in order for programs to continue operating as they are currently. Director Bauer responded that it was introduced on the 12th and that more information is needed and that (we) can ask Casey about it later in the meeting.
- Director Bauer reminded folks that the education award goes from the Trust to the chosen entity – it doesn't go directly to the member.
- Jayesh mentioned something we can do as commissioners is to encourage our Senators to look at these and sponsor it. For instance, Senator Merkley.
- Heidi mentioned signing off on supporting certain bills. Director Bauer asked to provide additional clarification at the next meeting, on Oct. 11.

Bridging and Belonging Initiative | Carie Bauer

- Director Bauer referenced the document in your packet, and wanted to share more. The Bridging and Belonging Initiative was introduced by the White House last year, and was done as a pilot with the Utah Commission. The initiative is related to DEIA and is focused on finding ways to collaborate and make civic engagement connections. Discusses serving communities, meaning the whole community. Focused on taking care of each other, collaborating and finding common ground.
- This is provided this as a curriculum to AmeriCorps members through trainings. Performance measures and outcomes have shown that AmeriCorps alumni feel more connected to their communities and better equipped to use tools to make positive impacts within Civic Engagement. We can use this information as well to help us within our communities.
- Essential employability skills tie-in. Director Bauer is the contact for this locally. Program was opened up to all AmeriCorps members this year. Director Bauer plans to talk about this more at Oct. 11 meeting.

General Legislative and State Updates | Carie Bauer

- Director Bauer met with Sen. Merkley with Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) last Friday. The program shared about their ClimateCorps and electric vehicle program. They provide help to credit-challenged, low-income population to obtain and use electronic vehicles and devices. Challenges that came up included lack of charging stations in Oregon and while there is funding available, there are challenges in getting them installed. Merkley noted that it was his first time meeting a ClimateCorps program and seeing how funding is being used.

- Director Bauer confirmed there are no new bills in this session and will elaborate in next meeting. Need capacity-building. Have not received additional funding to develop position to provide supports in rural communities.
- Director Bauer also mentioned that ARPA expires at the end of the year. Disaster Services will not be continued as status quo, and the position on the OregonServes team will expire June of next year. ORVID software provides organizations across the state free access to volunteer management services. A partnership with Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) has been developing in order to continue these important services to Oregonians. Director Bauer emphasized that this is an important community resource. We would love to see it continue as it currently is without interruption. This program is at risk due to ARPA discontinuing.

Chair Heidi moved discussion to discussion items and noted that Director Bauer can share the October draft agenda at end of the meeting.

Discussion Items | Carie Bauer

Policy Proposal Submission

Director Bauer shared the 'Draft Template of Policy Proposal Submission'

Questions that helped guide creating of this documented included, "Who will this impact?" and "What is the impact?" It is intended to be a guiding document for the board.

Director Bauer then gave some examples of how the document could be used: Commission can retain 2% of the administration cost of grantees. While this would leave grantees with less money, it would help the commission to curb the effects that are result of losing funding such as ARPA.

Submitting competitive applications; grantmaking priorities and grantmaking requirements.

Another example is when a member is assigned to a very rural environment and struggling to find housing. Folks may not complete their terms of service due to the challenges. Looking at making decisions that are operational as opposed to policy. Where is the threshold? Establishing criteria with the Board to determine what is operational and what is policy that should be guided by the Board. Director Bauer solicited comments and questions from the Board.

Chair Heidi asked to allow the board to take time and think about ideas that may fit within this, and we can pilot it for 6-9 mos. The Board doesn't need to have everything come to them, so this form would help direct/guide correspondence related to it, where it would be a good fit. Chair Heidi also noted that creating documented, written processes is important, but we don't want to overdo the documentation either.

ASC National Service Advocacy Academy | Casey Reynolds, ASC

Guest speaker, Casey Reynolds, ASC State Policy Manager, America's Service Commissions, presented on National Service Advocacy Academy:

- Current members can take advantage of resources.
- This training helps programs go out into the state using the legislative process and is funded by the Ballmer Group who is a Congressional Management Foundation. This programming was created specifically for ASC and just started first cohort in April 2024.
- Participation is free to all state service members.

- Congressional Management Foundation is a 501(c)(3)



Certification Program

- 8 modules
 - Approximately 25 online videos
 - 20-30 minutes each
 - 4 Hours total teaching time
- Interactive quizzes to track comprehension
- Up to 200 participants at one time
- Materials and trainings branded to States for Service
- Cohorts begin every 3 months (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)
- Participants have 90 days to finish program

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- Cohorts finish within 90 days – time limit is important to accountability and finishing out the program.
- Online platform allows folks to complete on your own time.
- Mr. Reynolds gave some high-level information on selected modules and what training topics they include
- Modules include: Introduction to Advocacy, How to Build a Relationship with Lawmakers, Preparing for a Meeting, Crafting Your Message, Conducting a Meeting, Advance Citizen Advocacy Strategies, History of National Service Advocacy, Contemporary Issues in National Service
- With this training, folks will be more empowered to go out and do this work
- Total time commitment is about 3-1/2 hours
- New cohort will begin 10/1/2024
- While pricing for State Service Members is free, here is the price breakdown:



States for Service Memberships

Memberships are for one year and must be renewed annually.

Membership Prices:

- Statewide for commissions (3 NSAC slots per program/commission)
 - 26+ programs: \$3,000
 - 11-25 programs: \$2,000
 - 1-10 programs: \$1,000
- **Commissions only (no programs included): \$500** (3 NSAC slots)
- Programs and partners: \$150 (3 NSAC slots)
- Individuals: \$50 (NSAC free with membership)
- Young professionals and alums: \$25 (NSAC free with membership)

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- Creynolds@statecommissions.org
- Members can collaborate with Director Bauer on which three individuals can attend. Cohorts happen every three months.
- Opportunities and registration are also posted in Basecamp
- Chair Heidi opened up the discussion to ask Mr. Reynolds questions
 - Daniel – Logistically, do we coordinate with Director Bauer? Three spots per year? Can we develop a strategy to get everyone trained? Great opportunity for Chair and Chair of Public Policy Committee to take these first. To Casey – at end of training, is there any certification or anything for LinkedIn? Casey responded that you do receive a certification of completion after completing all eight modules.
 - Chair Heidi asked Director Bauer how to proceed. Director Bauer responded that we do have a membership that covers this and it does not include her in the three. Please contact Director Bauer to let her know of your interest, and Director Bauer will determine. Agrees with Daniel’s comment about representation from those areas would be appropriate. She will talk to Mr. Reynolds more about our options. Three can start in October then you get another three in January for 2025. Alumni is only \$25 to take the training. Director Bauer will put together some thoughts and will come up with a structure. Chair Heidi asked the interested parties (Shenika and Greg) if they would be available in October. Director Bauer mentioned Sierra is the rep for Public Policy. Greg is willing to pay his way and is available. Daniel is unsure of availability but would likely pay as an alumni.

Discussion Items | Carie Bauer

October Meeting

Director Bauer mentioned that this will be the first in-person meeting in years! It is the longer meeting, and part two of our annual meeting. Members may join in-person or remote, hybrid. Kelly will coordinate a lunch order so please let her know if you will be attending in person. Director Bauer presented the draft agenda and went through the information listed. While not on the agenda, Director Bauer would also like to discuss Land Acknowledgements and how to respectfully carry it out without coming across as performative.

Meeting Closing:

Recap, Reminders, and Agenda Item Requests

- Please let Kelly know who will be attending in person (and lunch order process)
- Carie to provide additional clarification at the next meeting on how to support bills
- The board was asked think about ideas that may fit within the policy proposal submission process
- Carie to follow up with Shenika, Greg and Sierra about States for Service training opportunity
- Carie would also like to discuss Land Acknowledgements and how to respectfully carry it out

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 12:32pm by Chair.

Next meeting: October 11, 2024.

Heidi will not be in person

Susan will be in person

Greg will be in person

Shenika will be in person

Daniel will be in person

Jayesh will not be in person

Commission meeting materials can be located on our website:
[OregonServes Commission Board : About Us : State of Oregon](#)

Please contact board administration for any further assistance at:
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