



Arizona
Governor's
Commission
on **Service** and
Volunteerism



Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 1:30 PM
Virtual Meeting [Link](#)
Arizona State Capitol, Phoenix, Arizona

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) was convened on January 18, 2023, via hybrid meeting, Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix Arizona 85007, notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the GCSV:

| Members Present (8) | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Donna Martin | Donna Davis |
| Kim Rice | Chris Gibbs |
| Robert Ashcraft | Michael Hammett |
| Tori Carlson | Helain Day |
| | |
| Members Absent (3) | |
| Thomas Winkel | Tyler Butler |
| Alex Gabaldon | |
| | |
| | |
| Staff & Guests (5) | |
| Emily Litchfield | Tonya Hamilton |
| Ali Channa | Shayne Johnson |
| Kainoa Spenser | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM. Quorum present.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Commission Chair Davis welcomed attendees and asked the Commissioners, guests and staff to introduce themselves. During this time, recently appointed **Director Tonya Hamilton** of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) introduced herself. Director Hamilton has been with the GOYFF for 15 years, serving the previous five years as Deputy Director of GOYFF.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission Chair Davis called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 8, 2022. **Commissioner Ashcraft** moved to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Martin** seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. UPDATES

Emily Litchfield, Director of AmeriCorps at GOYFF, welcomed newly appointed GOYFF Director Hamilton to the meeting. Director Hamilton has worked with GOYFF for over 15 years, serving the last 5 years as Deputy Director. She is well-versed in the work of the AmeriCorps Team who are very excited to continue working with Director Hamilton in her new role.

Ali Channa, AmeriCorps Program Administrator at GOYFF, shared an update with regard to quarter one of the AmeriCorps portfolio. Enrollment rates are 43.5% for the competitive portfolio of subgrantees and 63.75% for the formula portfolio. These rates are approximately 15% behind the original enrollment projections made by the subgrantees at the beginning of the year; the federal requirement is to achieve 100% enrollment by the close of the program year. GOYFF staff have met with programs to re-forecast enrollment projections and to complete a countermeasure worksheet related to identifying causes and potential solutions.

Commissioner Ashcraft shared that there is an opportunity to increase collaboration across programs related to recruitment efforts, as opposed to competing. **Commissioners Martin** and **Hammett** agreed and shared their personal challenges related to an overall decrease in the number of applicants in general.

Ms. Litchfield shared that the GOYFF is making an investment in Public Service Announcements through the Arizona Broadcasters Association. Additionally, there is a new federal requirement to have 0.5 full time employees allocated to supporting member recruitment. The current strategy is to create larger conversations with the universities, workforce development, and school districts.

Kainoa Spenser, Service and Volunteerism Specialist at GOYFF, shared an update related to the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC). The next in-person meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2023 at the State Capitol with a focus on civic and political engagement. The fourth quarter meeting will coincide with Global Youth Service Day; the GYC is in search of a service project in the Phoenix area that can accommodate approximately 50 individuals. Needs of the GYC include assistance in promoting an upcoming event in Coconino County on February 5, 2023.

Commissioner Rice shared that it would be advantageous to reach out to superintendents of the many school districts in Arizona.

5. BUSINESS

Ms. Litchfield shared an overview of the State Service Plan process including statutory requirements, proposed timeline, and ideas for incorporating the public in its development (see additional materials). There is much to accomplish in order for a finalized plan on the Governor's desk by June 30, 2024. The proposal is to convene issue-specific workgroups from February to July 2023. These workgroups will provide recommendations that the commission will compile and then seek public feedback during Fall 2023. Proposed workgroups include: Youth Engagement, Adults 55+, AmeriCorps, and General Volunteerism

Commissioner Ashcraft questioned whether it would be better to gather public input at the beginning of the process. In years past, the commissioners and GOYFF staff hosted focus groups across the state seeking input on the plan. **Ms. Litchfield** shared that the workgroups may include representatives of the public that are experts in the areas of focus who provide recommendations based on their experiences in the field. These recommendations could serve as a baseline in creating a survey for the general public. This will help to keep recommendations aligned with what might

be possible for the commission to implement. **Commission Chair Davis** recalled conducting the focus groups and appreciated that the survey may be helpful in identifying more concrete goals and objectives.

Commissioner Martin also recalled participating in the focus groups previously. She expressed support for the survey, however emphasized that there is still a need to meet communities where they are; in particular rural and tribal communities who may have unreliable access to the internet, web-based meetings, etc. This sentiment was echoed by all commissioners. **Director Hamilton** affirmed support for engaging tribal communities and that this will be possible through coordination with the GOYFF Tribal Liaison and possibly support from the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs.

Commissioner Carlson suggested the possibility of incorporating input from attendees of the Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement as they already have interest in the area of service and volunteerism.

Commissioner Gibbs enjoyed the inclusion of work groups for general volunteerism and Adults 55+ specifically. He is happy to assist with outreach and coordination of a rural focus group/town hall.

Commission Chair Davis shared that engaging feedback from volunteers in the faith community is also essential, sharing the personal sentiment that much of her volunteer activities take place through her church. Other commissioners shared support for this suggestion. Relatedly, **Commissioner Hammett** introduced that not everyone relates to the word 'volunteer'; some individuals think of their volunteer activities as 'just helping' or 'being neighborly'. The word 'volunteer' evokes thoughts of more formal activities, such as serving with a local nonprofit organization in a specific role.

The commissioners supported the creation of the workgroups and the survey as a means of collecting information from the general public with the caveat that there be some in-person events to glean information from rural and tribal communities. The next steps are for commissioners to identify which workgroups they would like to participate in and to begin making suggestions as to who else should be included in the workgroups.

6. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next convening of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 1:30 pm. Proposed agenda items include continued work on the State Service Plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gibbs motioned for adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Martin**. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM.

Dated the 20th day of January, 2023
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism
Respectfully Submitted By:
Emily Litchfield
AmeriCorps Director