



**Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism**  
**Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 1:30 PM**

A general meeting of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (GCSV)  
 convened on **May 8, 2024**, notice duly given.

Members Present (11)	
Donna Davis, Chair	Felipe Garcia
Robert Ashcraft	Ariel Barber
Kimberly Rice	Michael Hammett
Wynn "Chris" Gibbs	Carla Nuñez (Ex-Officio)
Tyler Butler	Victoria (Tori) Carlson-Foscuz
Donna Martin	
Members Absent (3)	
Thomas Winkel	Helain Day
Alex Gabaldon	
Staff and Guests (6)	
Emily Litchfield, Staff	Kainoa Spenser, Staff
Alana-Jasmene Little, Staff	Jessica Deery, Staff
Grace Kuruvilla, Staff	

**Call to Order**

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, called the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism meeting to order at **1:40 PM**. **Eleven** members and **five** staff/guests were present.

**Welcome/Introductions**

- With the quorum met, **Commission Chair Davis** welcomed attendees, asked commissioners and the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) staff to introduce themselves, and conducted an icebreaker with each person sharing what they look forward to over the summer.

**Approval of Minutes**

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, requested a review of the **March 6, 2024** meeting minutes.
  - **Tori Carlson-Fascuz** moved to accept the meeting minutes.
  - **Felipe Garcia** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **1:57 PM**.

**Strengthening Civic Health in Arizona**

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, introduced **David Martinez III**, the Director of Strategic Community Partnerships at [Vitalyst Health Foundation](#), to share a recent report from Vitalyst titled [Strengthening Civic Health in Arizona](#) about the intersection of civic engagement and community health.
- **Director Martinez** explained that Vitalyst Health Foundation is a health conversion foundation in Phoenix. They believe that health is more than just healthcare and consider the broader social determinants of health (SDOH) crucial elements for a healthy community. Vitalyst focuses on upstream interventions, meaning they address the root causes of health issues. These interventions often involve policy and system changes to remove barriers and enable people to engage with their government, guided by the strategic plan created by the [US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#), called [Healthy People 2030](#). This plan sets objectives for the country's health every ten years. Civic engagement and participation are now core objectives of Healthy People 2030, linking civic health and community participation to a healthier nation.

- **Director Martinez** mentioned that approximately 45% of Arizona's general funds come from federal resources directed toward health-oriented programs operated at the state level. This funding enables residents to live healthier lives by addressing the broader aspects of SDOH.
- **Director Martinez** commented on the impact of increased civic engagement on communities with lower life expectancy. There are a variety of ways that residents can engage in civic health, from interacting with neighbors to formal volunteering to political engagement, like voting. Civic health progress meters, presented in collaboration with the [Center for the Future of Arizona](#), show how communities are connected and participate civically and how critical Arizona's civic health is.
- **Director Martinez** states that Vitalyst prioritizes strengthening civic health by supporting the [Arizona Town Hall](#), whose topic this year is voting and elections, and [Arizona Gives Day](#), the annual day of giving facilitated by [AZ Impact for Good](#). The foundation pays attention to legislative policies to ensure they are inclusive and robust, which is vital to creating an opportunity for people and communities to be healthy.
- **Robert Ashcraft** asks about Vitalyst's "long game" regarding their community investments. Typically, foundation funding lasts one to three years, but the information he presented looks farther into the future than that.
  - **Director Martinez** responded that the organization is in it for the long haul and uses the 2030 census as a guidepost. The data collected from the census is essential for various reasons, and Vitalyst wants to ensure that it is accurate and complete. The collected data drives decision-making about where and how to allocate funding, so a full census is crucial.
- **Felipe Garcia** inquired about the correlation between voting and health policy outcomes in immigrant communities and those without US citizenship.
  - **Director Martinez** responded that he was unsure since the data collected does not indicate residency or citizenship status. The immigrant population is included in the Cost of Voting Index and the Health and Democracy Index, which analyze public health indicators.
- To view **David Martinez III's** presentation, [click here](#).

#### Executive Session

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, requested to move into Executive Session.
- Due to conflicts of interest, **Donna Davis, Chair**, **Robert Ashcraft**, and **Michael Hammett** recused themselves from discussion and voting.
  - **Kim Martin** motioned to accept moving into Executive Session.
  - **Felipe Garcia** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **2:28 PM**.
- **Kainoa Spenser**, the Service and Volunteerism Specialist at the GOYFF provided instructions on how to comply with the open meeting law and keep the meeting open to the public.
- **Emily Litchfield**, the GOYFF AmeriCorps Director, stated that AmeriCorps funding comes into Arizona from two different sources: the State Formula allocation every three years and the National Competitive, which occurs annually. The National Competitive allows states to pull additional federal dollars beyond the allocated formula. She discussed the outcomes of the AmeriCorps National Competitive and State Formula grant applications.
  - **Kim Martin** motioned to approve the submission of the State Formula subapplicants.
  - **Ariel Barber** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **2:55 PM**.
- **Donna Davis, Chair**, requested to resume the Regular Session.
  - **Felipe Garcia** moved to resume the Regular Session.
  - **Michael Hammett** seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with no dissenting votes at **2:59 PM**.

#### Updates

- **Emily Litchfield** provided updates regarding the AmeriCorps State and National programs, finishing their third quarter of the federal fiscal year 2024.
  - Member enrollment has increased to 76.34%, up 8% from the last meeting, and retention is at 95%, putting programs on track to exceed last year's enrollment rate of 82%.
  - Orientation for new AmeriCorps programs will occur August 15-16, 2024, and members are requested to reserve dates; more information will be forthcoming.

- As part of AmeriCorps Week, the AmeriCorps State and National (ASN) Director, Sonali Nijhawan, visited Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff to observe the [Arizona Climate Resilience Corps](#). During the visit, they also visited the community garden at the [Flagstaff Sustainability Office](#). Almost half of the staff present were AmeriCorps alums. Furthermore, the ASN Director toured a section of the [Rio de Flag](#) to learn about invasive species and water conservation. She also witnessed a [Fire Ecology Learning Lab \(FELL\) curriculum](#) demonstration.
- **Alana-Jasmene Little**, the GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator, reviewed AmeriCorps Week in Arizona and the 2024 AmeriCorps public service announcements (PSAs). The social media sites Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X tracked #AmeriCorpsWeek from March 10-16, generating a discussion on general civic involvement using keywords service and volunteerism. Additionally, two PSAs created by the [Arizona Media Foundation](#) highlighted 30 years of AmeriCorps in Arizona.
- **Kainoa Spenser** gave an update about the [Governor's Youth Commission \(GYC\)](#). The Quarter Four meeting occurred on April 27, concluding with an end-of-year celebration for the largest senior class of over 20 graduates. GYC members completed 4,743 service hours in their communities and leveraged an additional 15,684 hours served by their families and friends. Furthermore, the Domestic Violence Workgroup conducted a donation drive that generated almost \$50,000 in hygiene products for domestic violence shelters across the state. The deadline for new applications to the GYC is May 31 at 11:59 PM, while the renewal application period has ended. The GYC aims to become more reflective of Arizona and is looking to recruit civically-minded and service-oriented students representing all 15 counties.
  - **Robert Ashcraft** was contemplating the challenge of achieving fair representation within geographically defined spaces. He referred to a presentation by Dan Hunting of Arizona State University, who discussed the use of [Public Use Microdata Areas \(PUMAs\)](#) at the West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference. PUMAs would entail dividing Maricopa County into smaller sectors and grouping some smaller counties to achieve a more accurate representation.
  - **Donna Davis, Chair**, agreed on the importance of representation in the GYC. As part of her role with Education Forward, she has established a close relationship with Arizona's rural communities, and it is crucial to include their voices to address the needs of all Arizonans successfully. She commented that youth need to learn about their communities' priorities and the resources available from their peers.
  - **Felipe Garcia** concurs with increasing GYC recruitment focus on rural areas to include different perspectives.
- **Emily Litchfield** stated that the commission was awarded \$30,000 over 18 months through the Youth service grant, previewed in the last meeting, to help identify youth service and leadership opportunities across the state. The goal is to create collaboration among existing organizations or groups, identify barriers to participation, and expand reach/opportunities across the state.
- **Emily Litchfield** announced that the commission had received a \$30,000 grant for 18 months from the Youth Service Grant. The grant aims to recognize the obstacles and opportunities for youth services and leadership and to enhance cooperation between existing organizations or groups across the state.
- **Donna Davis, Chair**, mentioned that **Robert Ashcraft** provided a written update on the [Service Enterprise Initiative](#). [Click here](#) to view.

#### Business

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, announced that due to time constraints, members will revisit the discussion of changing the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism logo and increasing volunteerism and civic participation.

#### Future Meeting Dates

- **Donna Davis, Chair**, stated that the next meeting will occur on **August 7, 2024, at 1:30 PM**.

#### Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at **3:35 PM**.

Dated the 9th day of May 2024  
Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Alana-Jasmene Little  
GOYFF AmeriCorps Program Administrator