



**SERVE SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**South Dakota Commission for National and Community Service (SDCNCS)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, July 31, 2015**

Commissioner Michael Wyland called meeting to order at 2:03 pm CDT

**Roll Call:**

In attendance – Burke, Deitz (ex officio), Katus, Nagle, Nordstrom, Pfaff, Saba, Wyland  
Absent – Merdanian, Schlimgen

Staff present – Ladonski, Miller, Thomas

**Approval of Agenda** - Wyland asked for motion to approve agenda as presented

**Motion** by Katus to approve agenda as presented. **Second** by Burke. All in favor and none opposed. Motion **carried**.

**Approval of Minutes** – Wyland asked for motion to approve commission’s May 28, 2015 minutes.

**Motion** by Pfaff to approve commission’s May 28, 2015 minutes. **Second** by Burke. No further discussion. All in favor and none opposed. Motion **carried**.

**Informational Public Comment** – Wyland asked if there were any members of the public present that wished to make comment. Hearing none, Wyland moved to the next agenda item.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

*CNCS Report* – Ladonski stated a mid-year progress report was filed with CNCS stating that Serve SD is on schedule to meet all measures except one to hold a regional conference. We did not proceed with planning an October conference due to the uncertainty of the organization’s potential restructuring.

*Prime Grant* – Ladonski announced the prime grant application has been awarded and subgrantee agreements have been distributed for signatures. Programs may start their programs as early as next week. These programs are:

- Operational: American Red Cross, South Dakota State University Extension, Sioux Council Boy Scouts of America, Black Hills Special Services Coop.
- Planning: University of South Dakota Department of Education, St. Francis Mission Foundation’s Sapa Un Academy, Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies.
- Competitive: Red Cloud Indian School, Teach for America.

*Program Director Training* – Ladonski reported that for the first time, Serve South Dakota will host a program director training session on August 18 and 19 in Pierre.

*Support Letters* – Ladonski commented Serve South Dakota has received letters of support from subgrantees.

*Bush Foundation* – Ladonski informed commissioners that Serve South Dakota has applied to the Bush Foundation for funds from their Presidents Innovation Fund. She expects a response in the next couple of weeks.

*Audit* – Ladonski reported that staff will be submitting audit responses to the auditors. Audit is to be complete by September 30, and auditors will provide a report to commission officers.

*State Commission Convening on National Disaster* – Leah Miller attended the State Commission Convening for national disaster held in West Virginia this month. SD was part of an exclusive group invited to attend free of charge in order to advance national service participation in times of disaster.

*Leadership South Dakota* – Ladonski announced she has been accepted into Leadership South Dakota. Leadership SD's mission is to attract engaged citizens from across the state, then provide them with the background, unique experiences and insights necessary to assume or enhance leadership positions at the community, state and national levels. The program starts in September and runs for eight months. The group will meet three days each month in various locations across the state. It is a great opportunity to spread the word about Serve South Dakota's involvement in national service.

*Social Media* – Ladonski encouraged commissioners to visit Serve South Dakota's Facebook page and like Serve South Dakota for more information on service in South Dakota.

## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE STATE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Deitz indicated she has several trips coming up including an annual program director meeting in Washington DC next week for updates on 2016, and a trip to Sioux Falls for a Senior Corps compliance monitoring visit in late August and early September. While in Sioux Falls, she will visit with Ladonski and Miller.

Deitz announced that Nebraska has included South Dakota in an invitation to an upcoming online webinar training on "telling our story" that is being offered to their grantees on September 22.

Deitz reported that she will be starting the initial contact with Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation concerning AmeriCorps VISTA members and the Promise Zone project. It is a long process but Dietz expects members to be working on the reservation by summer or fall of 2016.

## **STATUS OF COMMISSION**

Wyland commented on the concerns of the sustainability of Serve South Dakota and the state of the commission. Key issues are: 1. Recommended commission appointees have not been appointed by the Governor's office; 2. Organization has been operating under a CNCS alternative match schedule that will escalate to a 50-50 CNCS-Serve SD match in 2016. Without

an alternative match schedule in 2016, Serve SD will likely need a \$150,000 cash match to meet standards in 2016.

Wyland and Ladonski shared that we have been told indirectly that the Governor's office has been looking at restructuring the state commission, and without any concrete information to the contrary, we have to be prepared that the new configuration may not include Serve South Dakota and its 501(c)3 designation. Despite our request for approval of commissioner nominations in December of 2014, we have been told by the Governor's Office that those nominations have been put on hold until the Governor's Office researches the best approach to hosting a commission. Seven months have passed with little to no communication from the Governor's Office despite requests from staff and board members and therefore, we cannot make a determination of when the Governor's Office will come to their conclusion.

Ladonski thanked Burke and Wyland for their work in reaching out to the Governor's office on Serve South Dakota's behalf. Although there have been many outreach efforts undertaken by a variety of parties over the past seven months, Ladonski said that the only response has been to inform staff that the Governor's Office was not prepared to bring the commission into the discussion at this time.

In addition to the structural challenges, Ladonski explained the difficulty in fundraising administrative funds, particularly with uncertainty surrounding a restructuring. Then there is the issue of funders wanting to ensure state participation, for which we have not traditionally experienced and cannot guarantee into the future.

Ladonski informed commissioners that Bill Basl, President of AmeriCorps, was scheduled for a telephone conversation today with our co-liaison, Grace Kessler, Policy Analyst with the Governor's office. Unfortunately Kessler was ill and unable to speak with Bill. CNCS will attempt to reschedule meeting with Kessler.

Commissioners discussed the difficulty of the lack of communication with Governor's Office and how it affects the future success of Serve South Dakota. Wyland and Ladonski shared that without BOTH support of the Governor's Office and additional funding for 2016, we will need to entertain dissolution of the commission.

Wyland thanked the commissioners and staff, and indicated a commission meeting will likely be held in the next month for an update on the future of the commission.

**Motion** to adjourn by Katus. **Second** by Nordstrom. All in favor with none opposed. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm CDT.