

CAC AmeriCorps Advisory Committee

2020-05-18

[Go-to-Meeting](#)

3:00 - 4:05 pm

In Attendance: Advisory Committee Members - Sheila Lindsey, Ruth Ann Hanahan, Erin Rosolina, Willa Essie, Alanna McKissack, and Julie Elfin. CAC AmeriCorps Staff and Members – Jason Scott, Christine Doka, Lauren Bird, Mark Carper, and Gordon Harless.

Meeting Start: 3:00 Meeting Adjournment: 4:05

- 1) Introductions with two new attendees: Willa Essie (Committee Member) and Lauren Bird (CAC AmeriCorps Program Coordinator)
- 2) Environmental State/National Update (Jason Scott)
 - a. Despite the disruption of the COVID 19 pandemic, members have been able to remain, in varying degrees, in service to their sites.
 - b. Grant related interventions and their performance measures have been mixed. While acres and miles of public lands improved has continued and objectives will be met, environmental education, which is an outdoors-based activity, has practically dried up. Fortunately, CNCS is considering the disruptions and is remaining flexible in whether certain types of performance measurement goals are reached.
 - c. The remaining disaster-related interventions, such as smoke alarm installations, have been canceled and the goal numbers will not be reached.
- 3) VISTA Update (Christine Doka)
 - a. The Summer Associates program is a go, and the five available positions have been filled. The host organizations include Big Brothers Big Sisters, CAC Summer Feeding Program, ASAP of Anderson County, and Nourish Knoxville.
 - b. The annual progress report has been positive, especially for Mobile Meals, which was given national recognition by the VISTA Program.
 - c. The program itself has grown to 25 slots for the approaching service year.
 - d. VISTA is transitioning from a state to a regional management structure.
 - e. The VISTA response to COVID-19 has been to allow, until June 10, to do direct service at sites or to take emergency leave. Members remaining in service had to maintain full-time service or if returning from leave had to continue with full-time service. If a program is unable to provide full-time opportunity for a member to serve, then the member's service would be terminated early.
 - f. Currently working on training and orientations for host sites as well as members.
 - g. The incoming VISTA Leader will begin service in the office on July 6, allowing some overlap between Leaders as well as opportunity for Leah to be involved with planning of Orientation.
 - h. In the case of both programs, orientation will look very different from what it has been in the past when we brought a large group of people together for several days. Still in the planning process.
- 4) Corps Events:
 - a. Job fair (May 29): Received suggestion on how to find prospective employers who may wish to participate: Water Quality Forum, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.
 - b. End of Service Ceremony (June 12): Received suggestions on creating a meaningful event under the current constraints to honor the service of the member.
- 5) Recruitment: The current status is that 70-80% of the spots have been filled. Some of the partner organizations have shrunk in the number of members that can be hosted, so we have bought in others that have been in the wait list and expect to have the full number of members allowed in our grant: 50.

- 6) COVID-19 Management Plan: A draft was sent out and the key points on safety measures were presented. Included was the implications for partner orientation, orientation, gatherings, and travel. Suggestions include a tightening of the language and considering the use of equipment at sites (i.e. computers) to ensure it be single user and who would be responsible for providing.
- 7) Basecamp Communications: CAC AmeriCorps is adopting this platform for its multimodal communication needs. The Advisory Committee will be included as its own group and will be able to communicate more freely with each other collectively.