

Advisory Committee Meeting
2020-011-17

3:00 – 4:15 pm

In attendance: Advisory Committee Members: Ruth Anne Hanahan, Erin Rosolina, Willa Essie, Alanna McKissack, Eden Slater, Stephanie Carlson, and Connie Flachs. CAC AmeriCorps Staff and Members – Jason Scott, Christine Doka, Lauren Bird, Mark Carper, and Leah Fontaine.

1) Update of programs

a. State/National Environmental

- i. Submitted for 3rd year (50 members) but asked for a higher stipend amount to accommodate local cost of living – target from \$14K to \$15,150.
- ii. The approaching Thursday (November 19th) the staff will engage in strategic planning for S/N for subsequent year, and the office will send out themes to Committee for feedback
- iii. Currently looking to include part-time aspect to S/N (Community Action Fellows), hoping to create more flexibility and recruitment access, an early concept idea still being worked out.
- iv. Currently asking to see which partners will remain in for 2021-2022
- v. Progress report support just sent to Vol TN
 1. Still changed with education and disaster preparedness because of the limitations of operations during pandemic; looking to help members work on alternative method for environmental education. (Sampling small but perhaps enough for some conclusions to be made).

Question: Connie – clarification for living allowance S/N and VISTA – flexibility with S/N support.

b. VISTA

- i. The program is successfully continuing and office is making efforts to finalize recruitment for the year as there are still 3 sites with open positions: CAC Office on Aging, Kickstand, and Community Building Institute (CBI)
- ii. Exploring means of assisting VISTAs with economic hardship. Potential reimbursement for health insurance premiums is one option, but whatever is selected must be done uniformly among all VISTA Members
- iii. Currently gearing up for the next grant cycle and an expansion. We were notified of 5 extra positions and 2 leaders. A due date at end of November was extended to early December. Once everything is worked out, the program may stay at same number, but it will get two VISTA Leaders
- iv. Adjusting timeline of RFP for next year.
- v. There is a 120-day gap required for submission of grant and program launch date.
- vi. Summer associates – prepping for, up to 10 associates based on interests.

Ruth Anne asks for position descriptions on the three still available sites.

c. Community Action Fellows

- i. An RFP was sent out and we are awaiting response from applicants and are gauging demand from community partners and some interest request from UT students.

- ii. The program can offer flexibility to others seeking entry into AmeriCorps service, such as seniors or those with other life circumstances that require flexibility

2) Approaching Events

- a. December 3rd
 - i. CAC Board Meeting – will be done remotely and will be doing an adaptive form.
 - ii. Educational Opportunities for Members:
 - 1. ABN (certificates for 2nd year members)
 - 2. graduate schools (UT landscape & social work, Vanderbilt, Clinton School of Public Service)
 - 3. Alternative opportunities: NOLS, Earthship
- b. December 4th – open room forum at CAC multipurpose to come and engage, Jackbox. Holiday Thanks to Members
- c. January 14th, 15th, 16th, & 21st
MLK Days of Service – Multiple days to accommodate broad range of interests and smaller gatherings.
- d. January 29th
 - i. Mid-Year Member Retreat – various session – ed award, professional development, reconnecting to people, place and purpose.

3) Increased Resources for Members

- a. Orientation to include resources for people of diverse communities so they can connect (UT has list of community organizations). This can be bolstered by developing relationships with those organizations (a possible task for the Corps Ambassadors)
- b. Food security – SNAP helpful but not for those with resources – what are the means of additional support? – CAC Resources – can additional sites help with food costs?
- c. Days of service have been good in terms of getting members getting acquainted (Applications for hosting service days: <https://form.jotform.com/202956217843056>)
- d. Will explore ways of making connections among members (subgroups)

4) Recruitment of Committee Members – still taking suggestions and nominations from Committee members. Have had recent conversation with a few alums who may wish to serve on Committee

5) Open Discussion

- a. Christine – update on other subgroups Corps Ambassadors, media representatives – meeting with other members and putting on social meeting and blog
- b. Connie – data analysis as a large part of service – seeking resources and training – have a conversation – ABN young professions
- c. Leah – Alumni relations – members are wanting to know more about their predecessor, perhaps connecting with current members – Alum basecamp.
- d. Mentor program – a prospect being investigated and discussed
 - i. Connecting folks by interests
 - ii. Communications board
 - iii. Mentor Application

6) Close of meeting