

Corporation for National and Community Service
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
September 29, 2010
11:00 a.m. - 12:11 p.m. EST

The Board of Directors convened in Washington D.C. The following members of the Board were present:

Mark Gearan, Chairman
Eric Tanenblatt, Vice Chairman
Hyepin Im
Jim Palmer
Stan Soloway
Laysha Ward

Julie Fisher Cummings participated by telephone.

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 2010 by voice vote (Transcript, 23).

Chairman's Opening Remarks.

Chairman Mark Gearan opened the meeting by thanking the staff of the Corporation for their public service, and Patrick Corvington for his leadership as Chief Executive Officer and expressed his confidence in their ability to meet the challenges of expanding the Corporation's initiatives, demonstrating the impact of service in communities, and increasing accountability. He gave an overview of the Board's Retreat, and reported that the Board had received briefings on: open government and increased transparency in grantmaking; strategic goals and the challenges of measuring success; service in the areas of education, veterans and military families, and disaster preparedness and response; stakeholder engagement; the National Conference; and the 2011 and 2012 budgets. The Board also heard reports from the Acting Inspector General and the employees' union during the retreat.

Mr. Gearan remarked upon the successes of the National Conference in New York City. He reported that the Board had taken the opportunity the previous day to honor former General Counsel Frank Trinity, and thanked Wilsie Minor for serving in the role of Acting General Counsel.

Approval of Board Minutes

Stan Soloway moved to approve the minutes of the May 2010 Board meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO Patrick Corvington reported on the Corporation's goal of demonstrating the impact of service, both on the community served and the individual engaging in service. He reported that the Corporation had added new leadership since the May Board meeting, including Nicole Gallant as Director of Learn and Serve America, Marco Davis as Director of Public Engagement, Dr. Erwin Tan as Director of Senior Corps, and Robert Velasco, III as Chief Operating Officer. He reported that the White House asked the Corporation to take the lead in the human service response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Corporation convened with other federal agencies, and hosted a meeting in the Gulf to discuss the role of national service in addressing the human service needs in the impacted areas. Mr. Corvington reported on two new grant programs, the Social Innovation Fund and the Volunteer Generation Fund, including the use of some of the Volunteer Generation Fund grants to support the State Service Commissions serving the affected Gulf region to recruit and manage volunteers in response to the oil spill. He reported that through these and other grant programs the Corporation had awarded \$420 million in grants to over 520 organizations during the past six months.

Mr. Corvington reported on the agency's work over the summer in developing the next Strategic Plan, including his travels to engage in community dialogues around the country along with Board members, his appreciation for stakeholder input on

the Corporation's role and the impact of the Serve America Act on the Corporation's strategy, and his sense that the field is already engaged and delivering results in the focus areas. In addition to the community dialogues, the Corporation held webinars and conference calls and received over 1,500 comments. He noted that while travelling for the community dialogues, he had the opportunity to go on site visits and witness the impact of service.

Committee Reports

Oversight, Audit, and Governance Committee

Eric Tanenblatt, Chair of the OGA Committee, reported that new COO Robert Velasco has taken the role of liaison for the Committee. He reported that during the Committee's meeting on September 16th, the Committee received updates on the seven nominees for the open positions on the Board, the realignment of the offices of Human Capital, Information Technology, and the Chief Financial Office under the COO, and the agency's ongoing review of candidates for the positions of General Counsel and Chief Communications Officer. He reported that the Board has compiled review criteria for the first annual Board review of the CEO's performance; the first step of the review process is for the CEO to engage in a self-evaluation to occur in January, 2011. The Committee was also briefed by CFO Bill Anderson on the agency's efforts to enhance transparency with regard to the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant process, including posting review process information on the agency's website. The agency is undertaking a further examination of transparency in grantmaking, including a discussion with AmeriCorps grantees. The Committee received a briefing on the agency's FY 2010 budget closeout activities. With regard to the FY 2011 budget, the Committee was briefed on plans for operating under the likely event of a Continuing Resolution.

Mr. Tanenblatt reported that the Committee received a technology update from Chief Information Officer Mary Cadagin, including: the completion of the managed data services transition; connectivity upgrades for all Corporation field offices; the successful completion of the agency's first disaster recovery exercise with SRA and agency plans to examine the operation and recovery plans in case of a disaster; and Corporation efforts with external consultants to assess and upgrade IT systems and address security issues related to the MyAmeriCorps portal.

Mr. Tanenblatt reported that the Committee learned in a briefing from Acting Inspector General Ken Bach that the financial audit statement revealed no significant deficiencies, and the FISMA review found that the agency's systems are operating well, although several issues with contractor systems were identified. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed its pre-award survey of the SIF grant recipients' accounting systems and financial capabilities. While there were no significant findings, the OIG may undertake a similar process for new SIF grantees next year and for the Nonprofit Capacity Building Fund awardees. OIG is also in the planning phases for an evaluation of the SIF grant making process. The OIG gave an

overview to the Committee of the preliminary findings of an audit of the Commission in American Samoa.

Mr. Tanenblatt reported that the Committee reviewed financial metrics for the last two quarters and was pleased that all categories were rated green. He reported that the Corporation's Strategic Plan review and approval process has been lengthened by several months, and that voting on the Plan has been postponed.

External Relations Committee

Laysha Ward, Chair of the ER Committee, gave an overview of the Let's Read, Let's Move summer initiative, which centered on using service as a solution to youth education and health issues such as child obesity and summer reading loss by encouraging youth to read and participate in physical activity as well as providing access to healthy, affordable food. This initiative is part of United We Serve, the President's Call to Service, and was led by the Corporation, promoted by the First Lady, and advanced through collaborations with other federal agencies including the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Interior, the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, and the Department of Agriculture through their "People's Garden" initiative, as well as over 25 national nonprofit organizations that deal with youth issues. She gave some highlights of the summer, including, through the work of organizations such as First Book, Reach Out and Read, the National Summer Learning Association, Up to Us, KaBOOM!, and Hope Worldwide, providing over 2 million books to children, building and cleaning up playgrounds in neighborhoods in over 20 cities, starting libraries in 45 sports camps to further link the notion of healthy mind and healthy body, and revitalizing for use 2,000 vacant lots in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.

Ms. Ward reported that earlier this month, as part of United We Serve, the President and the Corporation asked Americans to come together to pay tribute to those lost and injured on September 11, 2001, by engaging in service projects, on the second annual September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance (designated as such by the Serve America Act in 2009). The Corporation worked alongside My Good Deed, the Hands On Network, the National September 11th Memorial and Museum, Service Nation, and the Association of State Service Commissions. The President, First Lady, Vice President, and Dr. Biden all participated in events, while the Corporation directly supported service events in six cities around the nation including New York, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles, and Arlington, VA. The Corporation provided teaching guides about September 11th that were distributed to more than 17,000 middle schools throughout the nation, printed by Scholastic with many more downloaded electronically. Service activities and events were held in all 50 states.

Ms. Ward gave an overview of the 2010 National Conference on Volunteering and Service in New York City, one of the largest and most successful conferences in the

Corporation's history. She thanked the Board for their engagement during the Conference, and staff for their work in planning and orchestrating the event. She described the Conference as an opportunity to connect the agency's strategy and stakeholder engagement in a meaningful way, to celebrate national service, and to challenge the national service field to increase its impact. The Conference is co-hosted with the Points of Light Institute. Assessments of the effectiveness of this year's conference are ongoing.

The Corporation has begun planning the next conference to be held in New Orleans, LA in June, 2011. Mayor Mitch Landrieu, along with the First Lady of New Orleans, who attended the 2010 Conference, will lead the still-forming host committee. In addition to the traditional goals of learning, connecting, and inspiration, this year's conference will also focus on bringing together the nation's thought leaders to hold a national dialogue around the agenda of service, innovative practices, elevating the strategic value of volunteer management, and using new media to provide a more virtual conference to expand our attendee outreach. The Corporation aspires to ensure that the conference continues to meet the needs of our key stakeholders, that it's relevant and engaging, and not only inspires leaders to understand what our strategic priorities are, but enables them to be active ambassadors of the work in their local communities.

Julie Fisher Cummings reported on the listening sessions undertaken by the Corporation in crafting the Strategic Plan. Beginning with the National Conference, the Corporation held numerous community dialogues, including nine attended by Board members and fifteen with Patrick Corvington. These community dialogues were well-attended by a diverse group, with an estimated 700 people participating. Additionally, the Corporation conducted seven webinars on focus areas, including two for education, and accepted input through other outlets, including nearly 150 comments through an online comment portal. She reported that, overall, over 1,500 individuals participated in giving feedback, all of which was reviewed by the Corporation's Strategy Office. Ms. Cummings gave an overview of her activities in Michigan, including participating in listening sessions in the cities of Flint and Detroit, each of which included over 50 participants, meeting with Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, who has committed to using service as a solution in his city, and meeting with the head of the Michigan State Commission and the local Cities of Service representative. She reported that the Corporation has incorporated feedback into the most current iteration of the plan, such as adjusting the clean energy focus area, to be referred to as "environmental stewardship." A summary of the input received as of mid-August has been posted on the Corporation's website; a full report will be available in October.

Mr. Gearan gave an overview of the listening session he attended in Rochester, NY, along with the Chair of the House Rules Committee, New York Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, as well as local officials and university officials. In light of the benefits of these sessions, he expressed an interest in hosting similar sessions in the future for other purposes.

Program, Budget, and Evaluation Committee

Stan Soloway, Chair of the PBE Committee, reported that the Committee had been in discussions on the development of the FY2012 budget and planning for operating under a Continuing Resolution for FY2011. He noted that the Board appreciates the pressure a Continuing Resolution places on planning, programming, and staffing for national service programs. Mr. Soloway gave an update on the status of the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, thanking the Strategy Office for their work on the plan to date. The timeframe for completing the Plan has been extended in order to gather additional input in specific areas and improve the final product, thus, the Board has postponed voting on the Plan.

The Board discussed the value of the feedback they received in the listening sessions in which they participated, and the benefits of providing a discussion forum both on development of the Strategic Plan but in other future contexts, as well. The Board discussed the benefit of having local elected officials recognize the value of service in their communities, including officials who attended listening sessions in Hamilton, OH, and Augusta, GA, and Mayor Michael Nutter and First Lady Lisa Nutter in Philadelphia. The Board discussed the importance of helping the field to understand where they will fit in the proposed focus areas, and the importance of engaging in outreach to elected officials at all levels, veterans and military families, unemployed individuals and young people who could benefit from using service as a pathway to employment, and key stakeholders. The Board discussed the impact of the economy on the federal, state, and local level, and on large and small nonprofits. The Board thanked the State Office staff for their help in setting up and staffing the listening sessions.

Mr. Soloway noted the importance of helping to grow the capacity of organizations in order to expand opportunities to serve in new communities and increase participation in AmeriCorps, and making this part of the Strategic Plan. The Board discussed the significance of communicating the unique value national service can offer a community.

Mr. Soloway noted that a summary of the feedback received on the Strategic Plan is available on the website, including feedback on the challenge of measuring impact on the community and on the participant. There will be more opportunities for input in the future. The Corporation has launched an evaluation on the AmeriCorps pilot measures.

Public Comment

Jason Patnosh, Associate Vice President of the National Association for Community Health Centers and National Director of Community Health Corps, offered commentary on the importance of community health centers, and healthy future

programs in general, and how health programs connect to other national service priorities. (See Attachment).

Michelle Heinz, of Civic Ventures and the Encore Careers Campaign, offered commentary on the value of encore service in leveraging the talent and experience of people 55 and older for national service programs, and encouraged the Corporation to make Encore Service a priority for AmeriCorps, to open up a dialogue across streams of service about how AmeriCorps and Encore Service can add value to the current national service portfolio, to promote and explain Encore Service to the field, to encourage innovation in programming in order to achieve the goal in the law of having 10% of AmeriCorps programs be Encore programs, and to develop technical assistance for supporting emerging Encore programs. Mr. Gearan noted the value of multigenerational teams engaging in service.

Adjournment

Chairman Mark Gearan adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Attachment.