

**Kansas Corps Focus Group
Topeka Location, January 17, 2008**

Attending: Chantelle Arnold, Diana Ohl, Mary Marston, Steve Godecke, Lynda Bachelor, Shelby Hoytel, Nancy Klostermeyer, Kiley Moody, and Curt Brungardt.

The focus group meeting began with a welcome from Dr. Curt Brungardt and introductions of the attendees. Following the introductions, Chantelle Arnold covered the agenda and began the general information presentation. She explained the concept, the focus of Kansas Corps and the goals. Chantelle then discussed the planning process for the concept: where it had been and where it was going. She also talked about the upcoming pilot project.

Curt then opened the meeting for discussion.

The discussion started out with an issue of what Kansas Corps has. Issue 1 is on the ground- where students volunteer. Can we place volunteers in the right places? Second issue is does it work on campus? Can we recruit students to volunteer in Kansas Corps? Or schools?

A discussion on training came about. How training is essential and we need to get the opportunity to students you have to have schools involved. The challenge is bringing them to the event and then making sure they have training. With the Pilot Project in April, are we going to have mandatory training in place?

Another idea is that only 3% of volunteer centers are connected with schools (KSU, Kansas Wesleyan, and Hutchinson CC). However, there is no model for college and university students to go to volunteer centers. The comment was mentioned that its not just to bring college students from that town but to bring them from all other areas. For example, take Salina... its not just Kansas Wesleyan students but also students from KSU, KU, Beloit Tech, etc. However, Volunteer Centers know the issues and go beyond the city limits.

The concern of not getting the 'normal' college student is a problem. It's a good theory on campus, but not enough students volunteer. Focus groups with students need to be conducted. Going beyond SGA is necessary because the scope is different. The SGA Presidents will lead this cause. They would select the issue that Kansas Corps might focus on, for example Habitat for Humanity for a year, then the next year Greensburg, literacy, etc. This was a concern for a couple members. This option would limit Kansas Corps, because a student may not want to help with the selected topic for the year, then we will lose that student.

One member of the meeting stressed that we need to have training be one of the three prongs. Then there was a discussion about the three prongs. What are the three prongs? Are they Issue-based, Disaster (if there is one), Community Development?

There was a brief discussion about types of things student volunteers have done. In Onega, they built a playground, Stafford they renovated the Theatre Guild; these were all successful until they ran out of funding.

This idea of planned events or having the model of Kansas Corps include a section of having planned events in it was considered a good idea by the majority of the attendees.

What about having Alumni or High School students come on these planned event days? High school students have thought of this idea also. But Kansas Corps wouldn't be able to do this, at least at the beginning due to liability issues.

What kind of staff and resources does Kansas Corps need in place? A single person or multiple persons? The consensus is to have at least 2 full time positions. Possibly one person for coordination and resources, and one for training coordination with different entities. Would Vistas be able to help Kansas Corps? Vistas are low cost; they could help develop programs at schools without current volunteer centers.

One member mentioned that the only way to get this project on the road is to have 1-2-3 projects, to get the word out and to get more publicity.

Curt mentioned another option we need to have is how we are going to reimburse the schools. Is it going to be 50% or 100%? Do we get matches from the community or Kansas Corps or the Schools? Maybe we can get resources from Corporations that we would work with. If we worked with Habitat with Humanity, maybe Home Depot will make a contribution to Kansas Corps.

The Pilot Project is going to be in April, we are looking at the 19th in the Topeka Area. Any ideas on projects or whom we need to contact? It was suggested to move to a small community outside Topeka and do an outdoor type project.

We would love to have the SGA Presidents attend the Pilot Project, for testimonials for when they present this program to the Board of Regents.

The meeting concluded with Curt inviting everyone to the planning committee meeting on February 20 in Topeka, Kansas.