

Kansas Corps Planning Meeting Minutes

Topeka, February 20, 2008

Attending: Rindi Zimmerman, Diana Ohl, Chantelle Arnold, Curt Brungardt, Dan Pierron, Michael Hoffman, Laurie Sevedge-Beane, Randy Mettner, Kelli Stout, Lynda Bachelor, Mary Marston, Shelby Hoytal, Diane Hentges, Robin March, Jeffrey Bender, Christina Tippy and by phone: Lee Covington and Misty Beck

Curt Brungardt started the meeting by welcoming everyone and started the introductions around the room. He then went through the PowerPoint presentation.

An update on the Pilot Project was noted. It is April 19th in Melvern, Kansas. Kansas Corps (KC) will be joining already active volunteers on building their Hiking/Biking Trails. We hope to form teams of 8-10 students that will work on different activities. This will test the concept of KC, and also collaboration from all the different entities involved.

There was a discussion on the 2 Models, there are the two extremes. You have a highly structured model that is similar to AmeriCorps or a smaller Partnership Model. However, if we create Kansas Corps to be like AmeriCorps, will that take away from AmeriCorps? If the highly structured model is chosen, then the relationship with the school, is lessened and more with the students. The students commit to a certain number of hours.

The partnership model is less complex than the AmeriCorps model. The schools become responsible for recruiting volunteers, the schools share the funding on service projects and the individual schools choose how much they are involved in Kansas Corps. Kansas Corps' relationship is then with the schools and not personally with the individual volunteers. In the smaller schools, the higher structure program will be more difficult because of the individual volunteers. It was also mentioned that with either structure model there will be staff, and depending on which model we choose to develop, depends on how much staff and what their responsibilities are.

There was a brief discussion on the schools that we need the most in Kansas Corps, the Technical Schools, are the ones that will be in the most need of money.

There was a consensus that there is going to be a hybrid model. With the smaller schools, a high structured model will not work. However, to have an immediate response, there needs to be a flexible arm when there is a disaster, a small "Delta Force" available to pick up and go. If Kansas Corps requires a certain number of service hours and there is not a disaster to respond to, then Kansas Corps needs to offer other activities to fulfill those service hours. The hybrid model will include planned events.

There was also another discussion about should Kansas Corps have a Student Advisory Council (SAC) that would include students who belong to Kansas Corps and would come together and choose the "topic" for the next school year.

After most discussion it came to a consensus that when drafting the proposal, the model will be a hybrid leaning towards a looser structure.

Kansas Campus Compact, the Center for Civic Leadership, and the Kansas Volunteer Commission will provide the resources for Fiscal Year '09. This includes the continual planning and the implementation of several service events.

After this meeting, the Center for Civic Leadership will build the proposal and present it to the Student Advisory Council (which consists of the Board of Regents Student Body Presidents and their Legislative Affairs Directors). The Student Advisory Council will then make recommendations/changes and will present this proposal in May to the Board of Regents.