

**Serve Idaho Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2024**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (MT)**  
**University of Idaho Water Center – Legacy Pointe Conference Room**  
**514 W. Front St., Boise, ID 83702**

**Staff Present:** Dan Cabrera, Heather Uhi, Kim Empey, Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, Renee Bade

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. MT by Charlette Kremer.

In attendance:

- ~~— Alina Rahim~~
- ~~— Amanda Gardner~~
- Amy Little - Ridenour
- April Durrant
- Becky Martin
- Cara Nielsen
- Charlette Kremer
- Chelsea Weeks
- ~~— Destinie Hart (Amy Ridenour served as Destinie Hart’s proxy).~~
- ~~— Dylan Davids~~
- Eric Anderson
- Farhana Hibbert
- Jani Revier
- Jennifer Hensley
- Julia Hopper
- Karma Metzler- Fitzgerald
- Katie Mathias
- Kevin Bailey
- Kimber Russell
- Kristi Keeler
- Mat Erpelding
- ~~— Stephanie Taylor-Thompson~~

**Motion** to approve April 18, 2024, Serve Idaho Commission agenda:

Motion: Kimber Russell

Second: Farhana Hibbert

Approved by a unanimous vote. Amy Ridenour was serving as Destinie Hart’s proxy.

**Motion** to approve January 18, 2024, Commission meeting minutes:

Motion: Farhana Hibbert

Second: April Durrant

Approved by a unanimous vote. Amy Ridenour was serving as Destinie Hart’s proxy.

**Motion** to approve AmeriCorps formula grant recommendations as presented by Program Committee:

Motion: Amy Ridenour

Second: Cara Nielsen

Approved by a unanimous vote. Eric Andersen and Farhana Hibbert abstained. Amy Ridenour served as Destinie Hart's proxy.

Discussion: Katie Mathias asked why Ampact received a recommendation for less funding. Kimberly Empey clarified that the recommendation for lower funding was related to retention rates.

Katie Mathias commented that Ampact's retention rates might vary from TFA's. TFA's members have annual contracts with the school where Ampact's members do not. It is easier for Ampact members to leave mid-year; resulting in a higher level of retention issues.

Kimberly Empey also clarified that we don't know our formula allocation yet and two of our competitive programs (PCEI and U of I) weren't funded competitively. We will have to reabsorb these two programs into our formula funding. This is why many of the programs were recommended to be funded at less funding than they requested in their applications.

Heather Uhi clarified that Ampact's applications reflected a \$300k increase in request over last year. This funding is considered "new boots on the ground" and the \$300k increase can be funded entirely from the ARP dollars. She also clarified that once Serve Idaho has their formula allocation, the goal is to fund the programs as close to their requested level as we can with the funds we have.

**Motion** to approve Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute Out of State Waiver

Motion: Karma Metzler Fitzgerald

Second: Katie Mathias

Approved by a unanimous vote. Amy Ridenour served as Destinie Hart's proxy.

Discussion: Eric Andersen commented that allowing the members to serve in Washington and Idaho provides a unique service-learning opportunity regarding how one state's policies can impact another.

## Introductions & Opening Question

AmeriCorps member moment provided by Rebecca Mallo former AmeriCorps member at The Kids Klub.

Strategic Planning Session Facilitated by Kaira Esgate on developing our state service plan for 2025-2027. Develop new and expand existing programs. Public health, particularly (mental/behavioral health) programming. High-impact tutoring and wraparound support services to address education loss/slide. Reduce barriers so that smaller and/or rural organizations can access national service resources. Providing planning grants. Increase accessibility to service members. Increased focus on members. More intentional designs for member training and professional development. Providing additional supports (living allowance, housing and transportation assistance, member emergency assistance funds (piloting this right now), increase/match the education award (some states make up the difference to get members to \$10k with their living allowance F/T members), & mental health support services). Go Fund Me search under Idaho AmeriCorps Alums this goes towards the cash match. BSU has agreed to Gear-Up participation for AmeriCorps members. Reaching out to other Idaho universities.

Increasing volunteer engagement – online volunteer engagement tool, volunteer engagement trainings for non-profits, youth service initiatives, additional senior programming initiatives) multi-generational efforts), & civic health indexes.

Service to workforce pathways – articulating professional development outcomes and pathways for AmeriCorps members, looking at connecting AmeriCorps positions to pre-apprenticeships, credentials, etc. National Governors Association (NGA) Action Lab.

Team building activity lead by Becky Martin during lunch.

State public policy agenda – establish the commission in statute (not executive order), remove state taxation from ed award/loving allowance, in-state tuition to those that serve, establish a foundation to support of the commission, state-funded corps positions, funding for youth and/or senior service initiatives.

Increase awareness of both the commission and opportunities to serve (website and social media, PSAs, digital marketing, statewide conference, awards programming).

Other considerations – agency strategic and equity action plan, ending of rescue plan, AmeriCorps as a bridge-building strategy, American Climate Corps announcement – environmental stewardship.

FY25 Appropriations reviewed. Commissioner’s sign-on letter taken to the appropriations committee. Will be receiving that from Char. You will have the opt-out option for this.

Kimber, Katie, Karma, Kristi, Eric & Char will work with Kaira Esgate on the strategic plan.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Kristi Keeler. April Durrant seconded. Meeting dismissed by Chair Charlette Kremer at 4:52 p.m. MT

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather Uhi & Kristi Keeler