

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

September 18, 2025, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Feed More, 8020 Villa Park Dr., Richmond, VA 23228

Board Members Present: Mark Creason, Christine Harris, Joel Morgan, Joy Parker, Victoria Proffitt, Clovia Lawrence, Dominick Rascona, Carl Street, Clifford Yee, Sam Parham

Board Members Absent: Jason Ascher, Aaron McClung, Kimberly Luckabaugh, Debra Rapone, Kimberley Martin, Jonathan Stallings, Shane Roberts-Thomas, Amanda Gannon, Linda Malone-Colon, Veronica Evans

Ex-Officio Members Present: Carol Ayars

Virginia Service Foundation Members Present: Julie Strandlie, Sheila Williamson-Branch, Kevin Quigley, Clifford Yee, Vanessa Diamond (virtually), and Jennifer Williamson (virtually)

Serve Virginia Staff Present: Kathy Spangler, Analise Gammel, Alexander Vanik, Jae-Young Choe

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Board Chair Joy Parker. The Chair announced that Jonathan Stallings was recently appointed to the student seat on the Board.

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Joy Parker called for the adoption of minutes from the May 22, 2025 meeting. The motion to adopt the minutes was made by Carl Street, Clifford Yee seconded, and all were in favor. The minutes from May 22, 2025 were adopted. The Chair called for the approval of the agenda. Joel Morgan motioned to adopt the agenda, Clifford Yee seconded, and all were in favor.

Election of Officers

Chair Joy Parker reported that the candidates for the 2025-2026 Chair and Vice Chair were Joel Morgan and Kimberly Luckabaugh respectively. The Chair entertained any additional nominations for Chair or Vice Chair. Hearing none, the Chair entertained a motion to elect Joel Morgan as Chair and Kimberly Luckabaugh to continue as Vice Chair. The motion was made by Carl Street, Clifford Yee seconded, and all were in favor. Joy Parker turned the meeting over to newly elected Chair Joel Morgan.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Joel Morgan thanked Joy Parker for her past leadership of the Board and also thanked Kim Luckabaugh for serving another year as Vice Chair. The Chair shared his background with the Board and encouraged the Board to find ways to see the intersections of Serve Virginia's work and their own leadership in the communities where they live.

Serve Virginia Update

Serve Virginia Director Kathy Spangler shared insights from the National Service Summit which took place in Washington, D.C. on September 17, 2025. Service and volunteerism are in a unique position to have meaningful impact in the current times, particularly among younger

generations. Some major opportunities that service and volunteerism can provide include character building and career pathing, which are two areas severely lacking among youth these days. The Board and the Foundation are in a unique position to advocate that service and volunteerism can be part of the solution. Outreach and collaboration with other partners in telling the AmeriCorps story and raising awareness of the Segal Education award were emphasized.

There have been some changes among the Serve Virginia Staff. The Fiscal Officer position is currently open—Christina Dumas left Serve Virginia during the summer to pursue a managerial position at another state agency. Samantha Lukasiewicz has been leading the recruitment effort to fill this vacancy. Sarah Lawson, the Statewide Communications and Outreach Officer, has completed advanced studies and received an opportunity to pursue her career path in counseling. Analise Gammel has begun the process to fill this role. In other news, Serve Virginia's VISTA Leader, Mackenzie Vuotto, competed for and was offered the new Youth Mental Health Corps Coordinator position, which officially begins next week.

This past year was a challenging one with the AmeriCorps program terminations and FY25 administrative funding award delays. Funding and other national program grants were delayed at the Federal Office of Management and Budget until recently. Serve Virginia finally received the notice of grant award for the Commission Investment Fund grant that essentially pays 100% of the salary for two staff positions.

Volunteer River Counties

Through the partnership between Virginia Service Foundation and Serve Virginia, a new volunteer center has been developed and launched in the rural river counties region of Virginia. A grant from the Robert B. Lantz Foundation awarded the first year of a two-year grant in support of building a stronger culture of service and volunteerism across the river counties. With the support of VISTA member, Elizabeth Richardson, the original goals for the project have been exceeded. Almost 60 organizations have joined the online volunteer center HUB which allows residents to find volunteer opportunities in their community.

Volunteer River Counties was officially launched on September 1st and has already had over 2,000 visits to the HUB. The first grant year has focused on marketing and promotion, and the second year will be focused on building a youth strategy for service and volunteering. The success of this project is being recognized by others, including organizations in southwest Virginia who have expressed interest in replicating this project there. Serve Virginia is also exploring how the work can be leveraged to strengthen the connections between all the volunteer centers statewide, particularly those using the same platform as that of Volunteer River Counties. More can be learned at: VolunteerRiverCounties.org.

AmeriCorps Portfolio

Kathy Spangler reported on behalf of AmeriCorps Manager Samantha Lukasiewicz. The 2025–2026 program year kicked off on Monday September 1, 2025. The portfolio includes 18 AmeriCorps State programs, with a total of 455 members slated to serve across the Commonwealth. Four of these organizations will have Youth Mental Health Corps Members. Additionally, there are 12 AmeriCorps VISTA Host-sites, with 14 AmeriCorps VISTA Members to start service between October 2025–August 2026.

AmeriCorps Reinstatements

On July 15, 2025, Serve Virginia was notified from the federal agency that all AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA, and AmeriCorps Seniors grants that were terminated on April 25, 2025 were eligible to be reinstated if grantees/sponsors chose to do so. By that point, contracts for the affected programs had already been terminated. After the notice of reinstatement, Serve Virginia worked with VDSS Procurement to create a process to reinstate contracts for interested programs. Out of the 16 programs that were terminated, 6 organizations were interested in reinstatement. This was a mix of operational and planning grants.

Because of the timing of the notifications, it was too late in the year to bring members back into service to finish their terms; however, there was and is an opportunity to submit expense reports from the date of termination to the end of the contract for items such as back-pay for affected members, and additional staff time eligible to be billed to the award. The contracts will be retroactive to April 26, 2025 and be finalized on October 10, 2025.

AmeriCorps Portfolio

The new AmeriCorps portfolio includes 2 planning and 15 operational grants. Among these grants are 2 formula fixed awards, 14 formula cost-reimbursement awards, and 1 competitive cost-reimbursement award. 4 of the AmeriCorps programs have Youth Mental Health Corps members in addition to their other members. The majority of the programs' focus area is in Education; however, the portfolio overall has programs representing each of the AmeriCorps focus areas of Education, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, Environmental Stewardship, and Disaster Services. The portfolio spans across the North, Central, Eastern Shore, Southside, and Southwest regions of Virginia. Four of the six new operational programs were planning grants in the 2024-2025 program year, and two of those are also operating in other states (considered national programs).

The operational programs for the 2025-26 program year are as follows: Family Scholar House, Great Oaks Foundation, Teach for America (fixed), United Way of Henry County and Martinsville, Virginia Learns, UVA Advise VA (competitive), William and Mary, International Rescue Committee, Edu Futuro, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Conservation Legacy (fixed), Greater Richmond Fit4Kids, Reading & Math/Recovery Corps, Blue Ridge Health Center, and the City of Richmond. The two planning grantees are The Corps Network and UVA – The Center for Community Partnerships.

Youth Mental Health Corps

There are currently 6 organizations participating in the first year of Youth Mental Health Corps, which offers opportunities for young adults aged 18-24 to earn credentials. YMHC also offers organizations opportunities to expand youth mental health programming. Among these organizations are 4 AmeriCorps programs and 2 academic programs that already run internship programs. Virginia is one of 11 states nationwide to implement Youth Mental Health Corps.

The original goal for the first year was to have 75 members; however, after the AmeriCorps grant terminations occurred in April, the Shultz Foundation allowed Commissions to lower the requirement to 25 members. Nonetheless, the Serve Virginia team has worked toward a projected total of around 70 members within programs that represent each of the 3 pathways: school-based mental health, community-based mental health, and peer recovery. Youth Mental Health Corps provides training and support for members to earn credentials in these pathways.

In addition to the virtual launch event on October 9 to swear in AmeriCorps members, a launch

event for Youth Mental Health Corps is planned to be in-person on October 10 in Richmond, Virginia. Among those who will be in attendance at the YMHC Launch are program leaders and members, First Lady Youngkin, Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera, and Secretary of Health Janet Kelly. A 'save the date' email was sent to the Board, and invitations will be sent soon.

VISTA

The AmeriCorps VISTA project (Volunteers in Service to America), which was one of the terminated programs, was also reinstated and renewed for another year. A total of 11 partners who had originally applied to be host-sites in March/April are currently on board, with a total of 13 members and 1 VISTA Leader for the 2025-2026 program year. Seven of these organizations are new to the VISTA program. The Serve Virginia office currently has two members serving: VISTA Leader Mackenzie Voutto and VISTA Member Elizabeth Richardson. All positions are in the process of recruitment with a tentative start date of 10/27/25, pending a VISTA Member Orientation calendar from AmeriCorps. VISTA members work on capacity building projects, serving behind the scenes with an organization, in contrast to AmeriCorps State members who do direct service.

Outreach and Communications

Serve Virginia Statewide Engagement Officer Analise Gammel reported that the staff has been actively engaged in growing the network and building relationships across the Commonwealth and beyond. Such activities include presenting about the SERVE Framework (of VCEI), networking at the Points of Light Conference, convening Youth Mental Health Corps partners, training the new portfolio of AmeriCorps programs, social gatherings with AmeriCorps alumni, and a radio interview about Volunteer River Counties.

Virginia Community Engagement Index (VCEI)

The preliminary report of the VCEI was shared and published in May. The final report is planned to launch in October. Serve Virginia plans to not only amplify the findings, but to also use the data and the framework to build towards strategic change in communities across the Commonwealth.

The three goals for the VCEI this fall are: Engage with the Data, Build Partnerships, and Create Best Practices. A schedule will soon be released of in-person and virtual events engaging people in the insights and action within the key strategic pillars of the framework.

Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards

Working with the Virginia Service Foundation, the Governor's Awards program has honored Virginians since the 1980's, recognizing outstanding contributions through volunteer service. This year 135 nominations were scored, marking a remarkable increase from years past. With the assistance of the Governor's Advisory Board and the Virginia Service Foundation, nominations were reviewed over the summer. The Governor's Office is currently reviewing the recommendations, and a date for the awards ceremony will soon be announced as well as the final list of honorees. Forthcoming is a save-the-date notification for the awards event which will take place at the Executive Mansion this fall, most likely during the month of November.

9/11 Mini Grants

9/11 is recognized each year with a proclamation by the Governor, recognizing the day as an intentional time to honor the memory of those lost and come together in service to their

communities. This year 71 applications for the 9/11 Day of Service Mini Grants were submitted. The Governor's Advisory Board and Virginia Service Foundation scored applications, and 18 mini grants were awarded to fund service projects around the state. Another opportunity to review and score applications will arrive with the next round of Day of Service Mini Grants, which begins in early October and ends October 30 for MLK Day in 2026. The Board was asked to help spread the word to potential awardee candidates.

Outreach & Communications

Analise Gammel announced that various activities are underway to strengthen the Virginia volunteerism network. Throughout this month of September are events related to the launch of Volunteer River Counties. Additionally, site visits with Delegate Laufer and other elected officials are being planned—details and a schedule will be shared via email. Information on webinars and other events will also be shared.

Serve Virginia continues to share its work and opportunities at various partner events, such as the Strong ACC Symposium in Southwestern Virginia where staff joined other exhibitors earlier this month. Serve Virginia will also exhibit at the Virginia School Counselor Association Conference next month, and Analise Gammel will present at the Independent Sector Conference along with Vanessa Diamond of the Points of Light.

As mentioned earlier, the Communications Officer position is currently vacant. Serve Virginia welcomes any recommendations for potential candidates.

Partner Updates

ASC (America's Service Commissions)

Vanessa Diamond joined the meeting virtually to share insights from the Leadership Summit and board meeting that ASC hosted on September 17, 2025. A main theme at the summit focused on the shifting climate of national service and a need to strategize in the areas of volunteerism and funding amongst increased uncertainty of federal assistance. ASC has been working with other countries that have a national-based volunteerism strategy. ASC is also working with other organizations to bring forth a national service plan.

Virginia Service Foundation

VSF Chair Julie Strandlie reported that the Foundation continues to advance the State Service Plan and serve as the fiscal agent for the Youth Mental Health Corps grant and the Volunteer River Counties grant. The Virginia Service Foundation also serves as the fiscal agent for the annual Virginia Volunteerism Summit as well as the mini-grant and award programs.

The complexity of the Foundation's fiscal position has grown dramatically since serving as the fiscal agent for American Rescue Plan funded projects. As such, new policies have been adopted, services of an accounting management firm have been secured, and a switch to a different bank took place due to a former account being hacked.

The Foundation is also working to advance the policy agenda of the State Service Plan and will need the Board's assistance to be successful. As preparations are underway for a new administration and a new General Assembly, the team will be working on transition packages that can be used to educate and inform newly elected officials.

The Foundation continues to support ASC and their efforts to ensure the federal AmeriCorps budgets are sustained. Julie Strandlie encouraged the Board to share any personal relationships they may have with members of the Congressional delegation. VSF is also working on a new agreement with VDSS in order to continue serving as a fiscal agent for Serve Virginia in addition to enabling Serve Virginia to continue providing administrative support for the Foundation.

Public Comment, Final Remarks, and Adjournment

Chair Joel Morgan opened the floor for public comments.

Jennifer Williamson of the Virginia Service Foundation joined the meeting virtually to introduce herself as the new Vice Chair for the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Paula Fynboh of Aspire, an AmeriCorps subgrantee, joined the meeting virtually to provide an update on the Elev8 Baltimore law suit against the Trump administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The Chair invited the Board to attend the official launch of the Youth Mental Health Corps in Richmond on October 10, which will feature a swearing-in ceremony with First Lady Youngkin for new YMHC members. Email notifications on the AmeriCorps Member Launch (October 9), YMHC Launch (October 10), Governor's Awards event, and a Board Work Session are forthcoming.

The Chair notified the Board to contact Jae-Young Choe within 30 days if requesting a travel reimbursement to the board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Prepared by Jae-Young Choe
Submitted by Kathy Spangler