



NEMCSA
Foster Grandparent &
Senior Companion
Volunteer Programs



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

2375 Gordon Road
Alpena, MI 49707
P: 1-877-222-9043 | F: 989-354-7693
WEBSITE: WWW.NEMCSA.ORG

FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group Meeting Highlights Monday, February 14, 2022

The combined FGP and SCP Advisory Group meeting was held in person Monday, February 14, 2022. FGP members Janet Callen, Karon Bragg, Mary Ford; SCP members Annie Hepburn, Donna Richey, Pat Rondeau, Helen Johnson; and staff Heidi Powers, Wanda Gougeon, and Leslie Atkinson joined the meeting.

Highlights from the November 15, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

Membership Update: Lori Clark representing NEMCSA's Head Start program submitted her registration. She has recommended a replacement to be introduced during the May 16th meeting.

Follow Up Items

- A vendor and design with the new AmeriCorps Seniors logo has been identified and new name tags for the volunteers will be distributed during the March In-Service meeting. Branded apparel is still being considered.
- Combined 2022 FGP/SCP drive-through recognition events will be held the week of June 20th.
- Combined monthly in-service meetings will continue to be held in Alpena until sufficient enrollments justify resuming meetings in a second location.

Program Status

- FGP - All but one school returned to in-person status affecting 3 volunteers due to the pandemic. The suspension of volunteer service is still considered to be temporary.
- SCP - One station remains temporarily inaccessible, another very close to resuming service affecting 7 volunteers related to the pandemic. All volunteers are expected to return to service once specific pandemic recovery matrix are met.
- The 10 combined volunteers referenced above are benefitting from a Temporary Disaster Allowance scheduled to expire February 19th. There may be an opportunity to extend the allowance an additional 10 weeks thereafter.
- Current pandemic challenges effecting volunteer service include station PPE requirements. Stations requiring respirator type face masks which are more difficult for volunteers with respiratory ailments to withstand are creating reduction of service hours and resulting in the retirement of some volunteers. FGP/SCP Programs are in full support of all pandemic mitigation requirements to keep volunteers, clients, and students safe, the reduction in hours and early retirements are an unfortunate consequence of the pandemic.

Director's Report

- Current Volunteer Census stands at 28 Foster Grandparents and 29 Senior Companions. Disenrollment includes five due to health concerns, four for new interests (transfers between FGP, SCP, RSVP programs, and employment), and one due to dissatisfaction).
- Recruitment



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- Iosco County COA has renewed their commitment in placing Senior Companions in the homes of residents in need of a little extra help to remain independent.
- Both programs are up for grant renewals with applications due in March for AmeriCorps and a new Multiyear grant for state funding.

Handouts included an updated membership roster, 2022 meeting dates, and 2022 income guidelines.

NEMCSA Board representative Pat Rondeau provided the group with updates from the Board of Director's meetings.

Round table discussions/updates were provided by all members present.

Next meeting: May 16, 2022, tentatively scheduled to be held in person at the Alpena Office.