



NEMCSA
Foster Grandparent &
Senior Companion
Volunteer Programs



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

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FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group

Meeting Highlights

Monday, May 16, 2022

The combined FGP and SCP Advisory Group met in person on Monday, May 16, 2022. FGP members Karon Bragg, Janet Callan, Mary Ford, Barb Selesky; SCP members Helen Johnson, Donna Richey, Pat Rondeau; and staff Heidi Powers, Wanda Gougeon, and Leslie Atkinson were in attendance.

Highlights from the February 14, 2022, meeting were reviewed.

Membership Update: Senior Companion member Marge Stein retired from the program, and thus the Advisory Group.

Follow Up Items

- The volunteers in attendance provided positive feedback to the newly designed name tags with the new AmeriCorps Seniors logo. The name tags were distributed at the April In-Service meeting. Project Director, Heidi Powers, provided a preview of clothing (uniform) options for the volunteers. The clothing will carry the AmeriCorps Seniors logo and will also designate the volunteer as either a Foster Grandparent or a Senior Companion volunteer. The choices/options will be presented at the June In-Service meeting for further comment and suggestions.
- The 2022 Recognition will be a combined Drive-thru event again this year. Drive-thru Recognitions will be held at two locations on the following dates: June 21st at Alpena Senior Center and June 23rd at the West Branch Senior Center. Both locations have been confirmed.
- Heidi shared the decision not to purchase computer tablets for volunteer use, and instead focus staff and financial resources on volunteer recruitment efforts which will include a direct mail campaign. Through the discussion, it was stressed to keep an open mind about purchasing tablets for volunteer use as opportunities present themselves. Member Barb Selesky emphasized the importance of assisting older adults with both the purchase and learning the use of technology in order to help older adults remain current accessing resources and information.

New Items

- Heidi presented the group with the new Volunteer Leave Policy which will change the Annual Leave from a lump sum of 80 hours issued at the beginning of each program year to an accrual system. The accrual rate will be eight percent (8%) of total volunteer service hours submitted on the bi-weekly Time and Mileage Report forms—which will include paid leave hours. This change is necessary to align the process with program regulations. A new leave category of “Mixed Time” will include a lump sum of 20 hours beginning July 1st. Mixed Time will create a bridge of available time off until an accrued balance of annual leave is earned. Sick Leave will become a lump sum of 80 hours. Unused mixed and sick leave balances will not pay out at year end. These changes will be effective July 1, 2022.



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Program Status

- Effective July 1st the volunteer stipend will permanently increase to \$3.15 per service hour. Mileage was increased temporarily to \$0.585 effective April 17th and will end June 30th, Consideration is being given to extend this rate for an additional 3 months.
- FGP - All but one school returned to in-person status which negatively affected two volunteers.
- SCP - All stations returned to service with the last station returning to service on April 18th.
- The Temporary Disaster Allowance ended 4/30/2022 with two volunteers affected.

Director's Report

- Current Volunteer Census - Volunteer Numbers
FGP - 25 enrolled, however; 2 or 3 are questionable as to returning in the fall.
SCP - 25 enrolled, however; 2 are questionable about returning from medical leave.
- Enrollment / Disenrollment
FGP - 2 disenrollments, one for poor performance and one unable to contact.
SCP - 1 returning enrollment, and 5 disenrollments: 2 due to aging/medical, 2 did not re-engage following the pandemic, and 1 disenrolled for non-compliance.
- In-home placements - Positive discussion with our Care Management/Waiver partners continues, but nothing has come to fruition. This continues to be a work in progress.
- Grant Renewals: Both the FGP and SCP renewals are submitted and pending award. The funder feedback and need for clarification was minimal.

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

Next Meeting: August 8, 2022. Note: this is a correction from what was indicated on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted.

Heidi Powers, FGP/SCP Project Director