



**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 8, 2021**

The combined FGP and SCP Advisory Group meeting was held via Zoom Monday, February 8, 2021. FGP members Janet Callan, Mary Ford, Madeline Hibner, Lori Clark; SCP members Annie Hepburn, Donna Richey; and staff Heidi Powers, Leslie Atkinson, and Dorothy Pintar joined the meeting.

### **Leadership and Board Representation:**

Pat Rondeau was unable to attend the meeting but previously indicated to Heidi Powers via phone she would be willing to take on the responsibility of Chairperson for the FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group. No other nominations were received. Pat Rondeau was unanimously elected to be the FGP/SCP Community Advisory Group Chairperson. Following a request for nominations for FGP and SCP representation to the NEMCSA Board of Directors Pat Rondeau was unanimously elected to continue to represent the Senior Companion Program and Madeline Hibner to represent the Foster Grandparent Program.

### **Discussion Items:**

The Temporary (stipend) Pay Allowance previously expected to expire 1/31/2021 has been extended to 3/31/2021 with a very large emphasis on seeking alternative forms of service beyond the new expiration date. This is very challenging for our project because of the extensive service area involved and need to be approached on a case-by-case basis.

Alpena Public Schools have agreed to bring the Foster Grandparents back to the classroom. We are working on a training protocol for return to service with a focus on keeping our volunteer's safe. The training will be implemented for both programs and will be done on a one-to-one basis before a volunteer can return to in-person service.

### **Director's Report:**

Our current volunteer census includes 38 Foster Grandparents, down from 41 reported in November. The decrease represents retirements following the 2019 – 2020 school year. When it comes to retirements, there is usually a three-month lag from when they notify us to when we officially close out their participation. This allows us more flexibility if they change their mind at the start of the new school year which often happens.

The pandemic is taking a huge toll on our Foster Grandparent program in that we are not able to backfill normal retirements with new recruits. We will need to embark upon a very aggressive recruiting campaign once the pandemic is less of a hinderance.



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Senior Companions reduced their numbers by one from 40 to 39 due to retirement. Current enrollment numbers are holding steady. The temporary stipend allowance is effective in maintaining their ranks.

NEMCSA board representative Madeline Hibner provided the Advisory Group with updates from the NEMCSA Board of Directors meetings.

Round table discussion followed with all members participating.

**Next meeting:**

Monday, May 10, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – FGP/SCP Combined Advisory Group (Zoom or Teams).

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Powers, FGP/SCP Project Director