

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE



FEBRUARY 16, 2022

RENÉE P. BEAMAN
DIVISION DIRECTOR

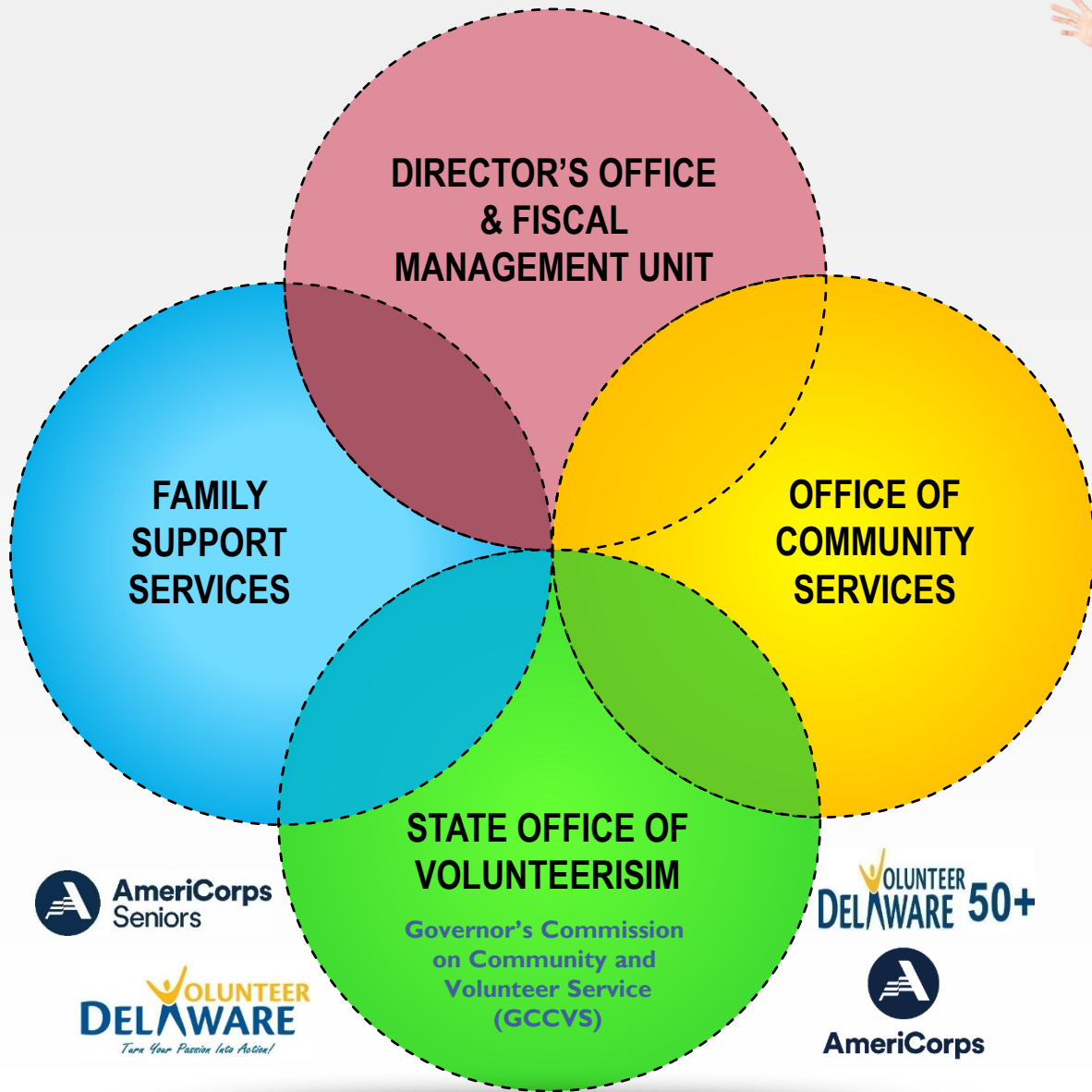
PAUL CALISTRO
CHAIR

Division of State Service Centers
Department of Health and Social Services

The Governor's Commission on Community and Volunteer Service
Division of State Service Centers
Department of Health and Social Services

Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS)

Division of State Service Centers (DSSC)



**The mission of the
Division of State
Service Centers is to
provide convenient
access to human
services, assist
vulnerable populations,
support communities
and promote volunteer
and service
opportunities.**

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE (GCCVS)

- Established in 2004 by Executive Order
- Matches talents of state residents with volunteer organizations
- Duties prescribed by, but not limited to, the National Community Service Trust Act of 1993

MISSION OF THE GCCVS (29 DE Code § 7914A)

“The Governor’s Commission on Community and Volunteer Services is established and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Administrator of the State Office of Volunteerism and shall consider matters relating to volunteer services in this State and such other matters as may be referred to it by the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services, the Director of the Division of State Service centers or the Administrator of the State Office of Volunteerism.”



COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW

There are currently **10 voting members** appointed by the Governor. Applications are under review by the Governor's Office to fill vacancies.

Paul Calistro, Jr. Chair	Executive Director at West End Neighborhood House
Lossie Freeman	Director of Corporate Partnerships at Zip Code Wilmington
Susan Haberstroh	Director, School Support Services at Delaware Dept. of Education
Margarita Rodriguez-Duffy, Vice Chair of Volunteerism	Director, Visitor & Volunteer Services, Christiana Care
Timothy Sheldon	Councilman, District 9, New Castle County
Marilyn Siebold	Professor, Psychology Department at Wilmington University
Charles Vincent, Treasurer	Executive Director of Spur Impact
Enid Wallace-Simms	Delmarva Power Region Public Affairs Manager
Molly Williams	Sales & Patron Experience Manager, The Freeman Stage
Valarie Wright	Program Manager at First State Community Action Agency

COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW (*CONTINUED*)

Our commissioners bring with them decades of experience in the delivery of human, educational, environmental, health, and public safety services to communities and persons. They are active and involved with agencies operating to provide services for disadvantaged and at-risk youth, seniors, the homeless, and other vulnerable populations.

The State Office of Volunteerism supports commissioners by:

- Providing a comprehensive onboarding process for new commissioners.
- Making them aware of trainings and improvement opportunities provided by American Services Commission and AmeriCorps.



COMMISSIONER DUTIES

Duties of the Commission are prescribed in the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and should include but shall not be limited to:

- Developing a comprehensive State Service Plan for national and community service.
- Selecting applicants for National Service Program funding.
- Developing a solid infrastructure in Delaware, which facilitates and supports high-quality national service programs.
- Maintaining and reviewing financial management systems and progress reports on national service programs.
- Overseeing and monitoring funded programs in Delaware.



COMMISSIONER DUTIES (*CONTINUED*)

- Providing technical assistance to local nonprofits and other entities in planning programs, applying for funds and implementing high-quality programs.
- Providing program development assistance and training to funded National Service Programs in the State.
- Increasing the level of Volunteerism in Delaware.
- Developing and recruiting mechanisms for local service programs in the State.
- Building volunteer and service infrastructure and capacity.
- Developing, implementing, and disseminating information on volunteer opportunities in the State.
- Collecting, maintaining, and sharing information on private initiatives, community partnerships, and creative solutions.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- From 2016 to present, we have more than doubled the AmeriCorps portfolio including doubling the competitively funded grants. We also implemented planning grants, increased representation in Sussex County, as well as increased programming for veterans and military families.
- In 2017, the Commission worked with Governor Carney's Office to encourage universities and colleges throughout the State to add the Segal Award Matching Program scholarship for AmeriCorps Members.
 - In 2018, through Commission and staff ongoing efforts, we expanded the Segal Education Award (a partnership as established with Wilmington University and AmeriCorps Delaware). Wilmington University offers \$1,000 scholarships to any AmeriCorps Alumni taking undergraduate or graduate classes.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS (*CONTINUED*)

- In 2021, during the Governor's declared State of Emergency, the Commission with support from the SOV staff created the Volunteer Delaware Reserve Corps, a program that recruits volunteers to be ready at a moment's notice for emergencies and disasters. This is one of the efforts that addresses COVID-19 and deepens partnerships with Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and Delaware Volunteers Organized Against Disaster (DEVOAD).
- In 2021, the Volunteer Firefighters Recruitment & Retention Taskforce collaborated to submit an AmeriCorps grant application to establish an AmeriCorps program at the Delaware Fire School.
- In 2020, the Commission redesigned and relaunched the State of Delaware Volunteer website to make it more user-friendly, up-to-date and more inclusive to all parts of the State.



FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pleased with the recommendation to continue Commission
- Appreciate Commission accomplishments being recognized in report
- Planned response to identified areas for improvement:
 - Updating bylaws
 - Clarification of FOIA and public meeting policies
 - Restructuring of standing committees
 - Commission Website updates to improve visitor experience

We look forward to working with the JLOSC on these changes.



The Commission and the State Office of Volunteerism are grateful for the collaborative assessment, detailed review process, time, effort, and diligence that went into developing this report and recommendations.

We take the insights, recommendations, and findings seriously and will work in partnership with JLOSC staff, Commission members, State Office of Volunteerism staff, and community stakeholders where applicable to enable the Governor's Commission on Community and Volunteer Service to function in the best possible manner.

THANK YOU

