

FoS Committee Meeting-20251003_100941-Meeting Recording

October 3, 2025, 3:09PM

48m 37s

● **Anthony Bennett** started transcription

JS **Jim Snell** 0:03

And so this document includes the staff recommendations.

We've also, since the August meeting, had some additional public input sessions, and so this document includes that as well.

So.

The discussion point for you all today is to just kind of take a look at some of this stuff and you know, give your input that will then take to the full Commission retreat.

To start winnowing out things that that we think aren't necessary to include in the plan and that the things that we do want to include in the plan.

Have you know that they're awarded the the way that you all wanted?

Want them to be worded?

D **Destiny** 0:50

Thank you all so much for putting the time into writing us, your thoughts and your inputs.

I'm curious on when I'm reading like what's highlighted currently individuals number of individuals volunteer more than one time.

Are you all able to, from my standpoint, the input that I need from staff is more like the data 'cause we don't.

For me, I don't really know logistics of the numbers like to me, I might think having 20-5 more individuals.

Bonds year per year is realistic and you all may see in a data site like every year we're only having two, so 25 might be a stretch.

And and that's more of what the information I would appreciate and value your input on as a staff member is like what is the data that can support it? Because I think having more volunteers, you know something we said previously and I love that. But I just Don.

Know Explicitly explicitly what number should be included or what percentage should be.

JS Jim Snell 1:47

Yeah, yeah. And that that number of. And so I I also just for for additional context. The Commission at the August meeting agreed on the outcomes for each focus area and for this for this specific focus area, the Commission actually developed those outputs that are at at the top, those that are said that are under the proposed. 8825 outputs.

Those are ones that the Commission developed and then the staff did a little bit of work on them, but the, the and Anthony can talk a little bit more about this, the.

D Destiny 2:24

Mm-hmm.

JS Jim Snell 2:30

Using the the Tennessee serves platform to try and figure out how many people volunteer more than once a year is a little more difficult than what we thought it might be.

It's it's not as simple and straightforward thing.

So and in terms of the?

The other stuff that's there so.

The the.

Sub Portal holder license holders.

Collect slightly different data on their volunteers so.

Anyway.

Anthony, do you wanna say a little bit more about the data because that that that note there that the part that's highlighted that that's a note that Anthony added in to to that document.

AB Anthony Bennett 3:24

To the comment section point, it's kind of hard to collect the real data that we're looking for. A lot of our sub license holders collect different data. For example, age, some they collected, some may not.

So we wanted to say how many volunteers were in this age group.

We would only get skewed data, so because again, some agencies are doing it, we could, I think we're going to look into ways that we can make sure the data that we collect is kind of what we want.

So we can change that in the future, but.

It may take awhile to get that data.

Leveled out to where it needs to be to get a baseline, but we can collect this data here like repeat volunteers.

How many volunteers who are responding to different opportunities?

Age distribution. Again, that would be something that we'll have to kind of work on with our partners to make sure that they're collecting it. And then.

Rural counties, we can do a good job at pretty much getting that.

However, again it it will be skewed a little bit until we make sure that all our sub license holders are collecting that info.

 **Destiny** 4:40

Yeah, that's really helpful.

Thanks for that update from the both of you. And so even though we may not have specific data from your expertise, do you have an idea of what's realistic truly what I'm saying and the simplest form is I don't want to create a plan without staff input because.

 **LaShan Dixon** 4:44

Mm-hmm.

 **Destiny** 4:58

We are not the ones who execute the work, and so I just want to make sure before we give an unrealistic number y'all are like this is this is actually realistic and you guys are the experts in the room.

 **Jim Snell** 5:06

Yeah.

Yeah. And I I I think I think we should be able to.

 **Destiny** 5:08

For this.



LaShan Dixon 5:09

Mm-hmm.



Jim Snell 5:14

I mean, the plan is for the staff to be able to provide some provide as best we can the data that's that you're talking about right here up for the retreat.



Destiny 5:25

Mm-hmm.



Jim Snell 5:26

We just don't have it yet, but I think we will have like at least some baseline stuff, even if it's not perfect data, we can at least say here's based on.



Destiny 5:33

Yeah.



Jim Snell 5:36

The information that we're currently collecting here are the numbers.

For example, the AIDS distribution and you know, keeping in mind that that data is skewed because not everybody's collecting it.

But here's what it is right now.



Destiny 5:48

Mm-hmm.



Jim Snell 5:50

So we'll we'll have that for you for the retreat.

So I think at that point then it will be.

The the Commission members will be able to look at that data and say, OK, well based on the data that we have.

We think that these numbers going forward are.

You know either.

A stretch, but achievable.

And we wanna do a bit of a stretch, but we wanna make sure it's realistic.

 **Destiny** 6:17
Mm-hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 6:20
You know, we don't wanna have stuff that just isn't achievable.

 **Destiny** 6:20
Mm-hmm.

 **Jim Snell** 6:24
So you know you all will be able to give your input on that once we get to the retreat. And of course the staff will all be at the retreat too.
So if if the Commission is suggesting things that staff don't think is realistic, then we, you know, folks will say so. At that time. I think. I don't know if destiny, I don't know if that answers your question, but I I think we'll have the stuff that you.

 **Destiny** 6:45
Yeah.

 **Jim Snell** 6:46
Need.

 **Destiny** 6:47
Yeah. This that's really helpful. Again, I think our app August meeting at least for our committee, we were all down and set with what was already put out there.
We like where we're going.

 **LaShan Dixon** 6:56
Mm-hmm.

 **Destiny** 6:56
We just for me, I just wanted to plug and play information to go in.

I'm like, we know we want in visual increase.

We know we want this, but what do we want to increase it by or increase it to?

And so that's what I was looking for from you all, yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 7:07

Yeah, yeah, yeah, sure. Yeah, sure. And and this again, this one that we're looking at right now is the is the most developed of any of the focus areas because the Commission actually did develop some proposed outputs that are there at the top.

 **LaShan Dixon** 7:09

Mm-hmm.

D **Destiny** 7:17

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 7:26

And the way this document is structured so.

The Commission proposed outputs are at the top, then, based on the staff work the staff developed some additional outputs out for each focus area.

Area so you can see that second one or that second underlined section there proposed output staff.

And that was related specifically to the corporate social purpose network.

Then the section under that is stuff that we got through the public listening sessions.

So input from the public on possible outputs and then the sample outputs, which is the last underlying section.

Those are.

Those are outputs that we the Commission, has used in previous plans, just as a comparison to see, you know, are we straying really far from what we've done in the past, which is fine.

I mean, the Commission can decide to go in a different direction, is totally fine, but just as a comparison.

So the I think the the thing for you all to do now and and again the Commission will pick it back up at the retreat is to think about, OK out of those.

Staff suggested output in the public.

Suggested outputs. Are there any that you want to add in and essentially bring up to the next level to say, yeah, we think these should be taught more at the retreat. Or and or are there ones that you? This committee thinks we just we should delete these completely.

I.

I don't think you don't have to worry about. So for example that.

You know that that staff suggested output where it says number of volunteers activate.

We don't need to worry about the actual number at this point.

Like we, we can figure out the number later, but do you all as a committee feel like that's something that should be included in the list of things that the Commission discusses at the retreat?

That that will be helpful input, and then we'll combine all of the committee work.

And the committee suggested edits, or inclusions and exclusions for the retreat. And then.

As a group and then also also in committees.

You all will discuss it a little bit more.

I don't if that makes sense.

D **Destiny** 10:02

Yes, that makes sense and.

For my awareness, we'd be doing all this on the very first day, correct?

We start this first, OK?

JS **Jim Snell** 10:09

Yeah. Yeah, right. Yeah, yeah.

D **Destiny** 10:11

Sorry, just for my attendance purposes.

That was a selfish question.

JS **Jim Snell** 10:14

Yeah. Yeah, right.

D **Destiny** 10:14

Sorry lashanna, I've been talking this whole time.
Did you have something to add?



LaShan Dixon 10:19

Absolutely fine, you have said.

A few things that I was just going to mention.

Too seeing the Staffs input and also the public's outputs that they have here as well, I think that there is.

Trying to find words this morning.

Recognizing the work in which the staff does and also the public and what they're doing and providing this information, I I do suggest that we do take into consideration their what what they're saying 'cause. If not, then it's kind of like, why are we even asking for their?

Input if we're not going to do any of the things listed on here.

So from a board perspective, of course, when we meet, we can talk more in detail about that, but.

And some of these things maybe, you know, achievable some of these things, maybe you know a long term goal that we're that we're looking to do but just want to keep it out out in the front so that we can once again continue to build upon the REL.

And the trust that they're instilling in us that we're listening to what they're saying.

To be incorporated within the plan.



Destiny 11:25

I definitely.

I definitely agree with that, and even I have a question if it doesn't make it quote UN quote in the plan. Those could though then be our.

I don't have better words in this tactics that we use to help increase engagement, right?



Jim Snell 11:40

Mm-hmm.



LaShan Dixon 11:42

Mm-hmm.

D Destiny 11:42
Like we may not put connect like money volunteers together, right?

JS Jim Snell 11:43
Yeah.

D Destiny 11:48
But it could be an output that we don't mention.
But I'm just asking those questions right, like, OK.

JS Jim Snell 11:53
Yeah, yeah, no, it could be a strategy to lead to some other output or outcome for sure, yeah.

D Destiny 11:58
OK.

JS Jim Snell 12:01
Yeah.

D Destiny 12:02
Now, do you want those decisions made today?
I am asking because I know there's just lessanna and I on this group and so there are not on the group on this meeting from the group and so that we might want other input before we go forward.

JS Jim Snell 12:16
Yeah, well, yeah.
Well, so the other committees are gonna do the same thing.
So I I wouldn't.
I wouldn't worry too much about the fact that there's only two of you on the meeting today.

D Destiny 12:26
OK.

JS Jim Snell 12:27
I would say for for the two of you I and and you can.
You can approach it however you want, but you could.
You could do like just a simple up or down vote.
Yes, let's include it.
Or no, let's not.
Let's not include it and just kind of zip through each one.

D Destiny 12:39
OK.

JS Jim Snell 12:41
I I will point out one thing that might be.
Of particular interest to this committee?
Because it's deals with youth and youth service that first.
Public input.
The the kind of the suggestion was to have like different levels of recognizing
different levels of volunteerism so that you might have like a like a Girl Scout badge
system or something like that for, you know, like, so for a volunteer who.

D Destiny 13:13
Mm-hmm.

JS Jim Snell 13:18
Who volunteers for multiple agencies.
They get some sort of badge, a volunteer who volunteers over a certain number of
hours.
We get a badge etc.
So that you try to almost gamify.

 **Destiny** 13:33
Mm-h.

 **Jim Snell** 13:33
The volunteering for for the the individual volunteers anyway.
That's that, I thought was something that might be of interest to this committee. And again, that doesn't have to be one that could be a a one of the.
The the strategies and not necessarily an output or an outcome itself.
Kind of like what you were saying earlier, destiny.
So it doesn't have to be included in the actual written text of the plan. It could be part of the committee's.
Work towards achieving one of the one of the outputs or outcomes.

 **Destiny** 14:10
Yeah, and.
How would this differentiate?
I think this is a swell idea.
I just don't want to encroach on what we do with the word of excellence and so I want to ensure that what we do, because I again, I think it's great that we are supporting the ward of excellence and not overshadowing the award of excellence like I Don.
Want someone to say oh, this is enough for me.

 **Jim Snell** 14:33
Yeah.
Yeah, yeah, sure. No.

 **LaShan Dixon** 14:36
So maybe there's any good Jim, sorry.

 **Jim Snell** 14:41
No listening.
Go ahead.
Yeah.



LaShan Dixon 14:43

I was going to say maybe this is another path to have some alignment. So once again, if you're getting 1*2*3*, whatever it is that we decide to name it, that is something they can put in their application and say that, hey, we are.

A three star organization, or we have a volunteers that are three stars, because that's going to give them more cloud because we know what those numbers are and what the branches. And so therefore maybe it's complimenting it versus going against it. But that's something, of course, we'll need to talk to the committee about to see if that's something we can include in there.

But I think that is another way to help promote and market it to say, OK.

Hey, not only do we have, you know, these levels of volunteers, you can also apply for rewards based off of your level of volunteers and maybe we have a level, you know, one star volunteer or two star volunteer award that's presented as well.



Destiny 15:32

OK.

And we do.

More of organizations with AOE and less of individuals correct.



Jim Snell 15:41

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. So yeah.



Destiny 15:42

OK.



Jim Snell 15:43

So I think what Lashan was saying is a great idea.



Destiny 15:45

Yeah.



Jim Snell 15:47

So the the, the, the one that we're on right now is focused on individuals.

So we're talking about at the individual level, an individual volunteer. Are there

different badges or whatever? Whatever you wanna do to encourage individuals to do different things as volunteers.

D **Destiny** 15:59
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 16:08
The next section, the next focus area is focus on organization.
And that's where the AOE falls into place.
But I think Lashan's suggestion of like that could be part of the AOE application.

D **Destiny** 16:15
Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 16:18
Like how many of your students have met the whatever three star level of volunteerism or what.

D **Destiny** 16:23
Yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 16:25
Whatever that thing might be, that could certainly be included as part of that AOE application for the individual schools.

D **Destiny** 16:27
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 16:34
But this one really is more about the volunteers themselves.

D **Destiny** 16:38
OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 16:38

So I I don't think there's any.
I don't there's any tension in or or any conflict with having.
A tiered system for volunteers.
Because I do think it could tie into to the organizational part.
That that you'll look at next.

D **Destiny** 16:56

Honestly, I love this brainstorming session.
I know that wasn't what this was supposed to be, but would that be? With that being said, Anthony, let's go ahead and thumbs that one up.

JS **Jim Snell** 17:00

No, this is great. This is good.

D **Destiny** 17:06

That we think that that one should be put into an output, and I think both of what Lashan and Jim said could really foster that for people who don't have an organization, they still get recognized. And then for people who are a part of organization that can assist.
Them in their AOE and draw attention to the AOE.

JS **Jim Snell** 17:27

Yeah. And just a technical note, Anthony, I I think if you highlight that in green that that that'll like we'll we'll do green for go.
Yo yellow for you're not sure.
And red for delete it.
We we won't actually delete it from the document. We'll just highlight it in red if if the committee thinks it should be something that shouldn't be included.

D **Destiny** 17:41

OK.

AB **Anthony Bennett** 18:01

Do we want to revisit these as well or go down?



Destiny 18:05

Oh, I forgot.

We have some above. I thought we were doing something here.

We can go revisit.



Jim Snell 18:12

No you didn't.

Well, yeah. Well, again, the so back, back.

Anthony, if you'll scroll back up to the top, the the ones that are there at the very top, those are the ones that the Commission.



Destiny 18:25

Already agreed upon.



Jim Snell 18:25

Kinda already agreed on at the August meeting.



Destiny 18:28

OK.



Jim Snell 18:28

I I mean it's that doesn't mean that it's set in stone by any means.

So if you have input on that, you can certainly do it now.



Destiny 18:32

No.

I don't think we need to go back and unravel anything we've already done.

That's just my opinion though, Leshan, I'm open to.

Hearing further.

OK.

I think lashan's good too.



LaShan Dixon 18:51

Yes, I am sorry. I was trying to get off mute.

D **Destiny** 18:52

OK.

No, you're fine.

You're fine, OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 19:03

And and for the second one. So the the first one was the only focus area where the Commission actually decided on outputs.

So all the rest of them are just gonna be either staff suggested.

Outputs public suggested outputs or outputs that we've used in previous plans.

D **Destiny** 19:24

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 19:25

So it's it's more of an open field.

D **Destiny** 19:27

OK, now.

Do sometimes I get confused on what we have done in FOS because I know we may be doing a little bit further, but in our committee have we've already created outputs that we thought fit in there in our last couple meetings or do we only do what's under?

Two under the Vol. Volunteer placement grant.

T.

JS **Jim Snell** 19:51

Hold on just a second.

Let me.

Let me open up your your previous document.

D **Destiny** 19:58

OK.

And I only ask because I want to make sure everyone's voice on the committee is represented.

JS **Jim Snell** 20:05

Yeah, sure, yeah.

So I'm I'm opening up the like an earlier version of this and I sorry I don't see.

D **Destiny** 20:39

And OK.

That's OK.

I just don't wanna.

JS **Jim Snell** 20:42

Why? No, no, it's it's, it's in here.

It it's in here.

I just I I can't.

I'm having trouble.

Identifying quickly the Anthony if you don't.

You'll switch switch screens with me.

So this is the previous.

Combined committee. Sorry. And again I can't find the foundations of service specific.

D **Destiny** 21:08

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 21:09

But it was it was.

It was broader.

Type work so.

D **Destiny** 21:15

Mm-hmm.

JS Jim Snell 21:17

Mainly looking at kind of the needs and.

D Destiny 21:17

OK.

JS Jim Snell 21:23

You know, again, some some of this is pretty, pretty broad.

Of ideas of things that should be included as needed.

So then there's, you know, there's some other stuff.

Here I think what we what we did is.

We we kind of combined.

Sorry, let me stop sharing my screen.

I I think the the document that we had at the August meeting.

Included.

Kind of.

All of that input.

From the from the various committees and then.

We took that the staff took that and kinda narrowed it down a bit.

Let me open that one.

Instead, because I think it might.

It's it's a little bit closer to the format of the document you were just looking at.

D Destiny 22:30

OK. And Jim, hear me out.

The reason why I was asking that is again because I don't lashanna to make all the decisions for the committee which I trust us, and I think that they trust us, but I also want people's voices to be heard.

JS Jim Snell 22:32

Yeah.

Yeah, sure.

D Destiny 22:41

So I'm just curious on if we can send this recording of this meeting out to the committee so they can be prepped. So when we meet, they have already highlighted the ones that they wanna keep and what they wanna get rid of.

'Cause, I don't wanna spend so much time when we get to the.

Retreat focus solely on us saying bumping yes or no if they've already had time to look at it.

And I know you sent it out to us.

I'm not saying you didn't, but hearing it vocalize makes more sense on what you want from us.

JS **Jim Snell** 23:10

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sure. Yeah. Yeah. And and and so the so the document that I have up now, this is what what the Commission looked at at the August meeting. And so it includes all the different committees, individual input from earlier on. And so for this one foundation, Tennessee serves partic.

D **Destiny** 23:21

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 23:31

So what we did for the document you were just looking at is like that all of this committee input was kind of convinced down into.

D **Destiny** 23:32

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 23:42

Things that weren't.

You know this document is, you know, 7 pages long.

So we kind of it condenses stuff a good bit and so it includes things.

You know, like this Tennessee service participation is included in some of the suggested outputs as as specifics instead of just participation.

D **Destiny** 23:57

Yeah.

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:06

It's like we'll have X number of volunteers. We'll have age-related distribution, we'll have, et cetera, et cetera.

D **Destiny** 24:10

Yes.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:14

So yeah, it it's it's included in there but it's.

D **Destiny** 24:14

OK.

But we're still looking for the specifics now.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:20

Yeah. Now, now we're kinda looking at what what gets included, what doesn't in terms of.

D **Destiny** 24:22

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:27

Just again broadly.

The specific numbers.

Sorry Anthony, you can.

You can put that the sheet that you have back up. I think in terms of the numbers, if you all have suggestions for numbers, we can certainly talk about numbers at this point. But I think that is also something that the Commission can tackle at the retreat.

D **Destiny** 24:49

OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 24:49

So, for example, that that first one number of trainings provided by Volunteer Tennessee sub grantees.

Will increase by a certain percentage.

That that, that's something that the Commission I think, will need to if you all have suggestions for that, you can add it in, but that's something I think the Commission will need to work out at the retreat.

D **Destiny** 25:15

Yeah. Thank you.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:17

Yeah.

D **Destiny** 25:17

And for me, again, that still goes.

I'm always gonna send it back to specific numbers.

What is realistic for you all to accomplish? 'cause you are the ones out there doing that work.

So for me, I feel good with that output, but then I and then I would turn back to you and say, OK, what numbers realistic for your team to get done.

What percentage is realistic for this to happen?

Because at the end of day, you know we're we don't execute the work.

We only get to govern.

So I don't wanna tell you all to do something that's not realistic for where we currently are in this economy.

JS **Jim Snell** 25:46

Mm-hmm.

Sure, sure.

D **Destiny** 25:55

And so Leshan, I don't know if you have anything else to add or if you feel any kind of different and I'm not trying to add extra work to staff, but.

I guess it is actually work in the front, but I whether you all put that input in now and then get this back and be like what the heck.

JS **Jim Snell** 26:08

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

And again, we'll, we'll have so for example, that that one, the number of counties participating like that's an easy well, we can tell you last year that we can tell you how many have said they're gonna participate for the current year. But but we don't know how many.

D **Destiny** 26:26

Mm-hmm.

JS **Jim Snell** 26:28

Will actually come through.

So that that kind of thing, I mean we can provide those numbers for you at the retreat?

D **Destiny** 26:34

Absolutely, yeah.

JS **Jim Snell** 26:34

And and you know, but the percentage increase that's there.

When will need some input from the Commission to say.

Like, what's a reasonable expectation for?

Not just not only just the staff, but also through the work of the Commission, can we increase the number of counties that participate, either on an annual basis or on the aggregate, over the three years?

Is there some percentage of increase that the Commission would like to see it just as an example again, I yeah.

D **Destiny** 27:05

Yeah.

Yeah, that's really helpful. OK.

Thank you, Jim, for going through all that.

I know we're over on the agenda, so I'm sorry if it's Jim, if that's OK. Like again, if we can send this recording, let everyone else put their input color green.

JS **Jim Snell** 27:24
Yeah, sure.

D **Destiny** 27:25
Yellow, red. Those colors. I followed up with the committee just to make sure that they have it.

JS **Jim Snell** 27:28
Yeah.

D **Destiny** 27:31
And Lashanna and I can also take the time to review it.
'Cause, I know that we can't spend this whole meeting walking through this.
This is why you sent it to us in advance, but I also hadn't had time to review it.
So if that works OK.

JS **Jim Snell** 27:45
Yeah, we can certainly do that.
Yeah, as long as, as as long as you all can provide the input so.
We'll need a a little bit of time to kinda collate.
The the stuff.

D **Destiny** 27:59
I was thinking honestly if we can provide this back to you by end of business on Monday since you did give it to us.

JS **Jim Snell** 28:03
Oh, yeah. No. Yeah, yeah, that would.

D **Destiny** 28:05
Lashanne, I don't want to take your weekend, so I don't know if that's a possibility for

you, but I just figured before everybody went on fall break next week, it would be helpful.

JS Jim Snell 28:05

Yeah, that's that would be.

Yeah, that's more than enough time for us to put stuff together. 'cause. What what we'll do is we'll we'll take all of the committee input and the committees are meeting at different times over the next couple weeks.

We'll take all of the committee input and combine it into another document that's similar to the one that's on the screen now.

And send that out a week before the retreat. So that'll go out on October the 30th.

So if if you all have have.

Your input back to us next week.

That would give us plenty of time.

D Destiny 28:46

OK, perfect. Anthony, would you mind to send this out after?

Maybe what's OK with some written instructions? And then the video attached to tell them to watch the video for more clarification.

AB Anthony Bennett 28:52

Yeah, I can do.

Yeah, sounds good.

D Destiny 29:01

Alright, thank you so much.

I appreciate that. Hey, Candace. Sorry.

CT Candace Taylor 29:07

No, it's OK. Hey, destiny.

D Destiny 29:10

How are you? I'm well.

CT Candace Taylor 29:10

How are you? I'm well.
I'm well, that's good.
How is school?
Everything's going well.

 **Destiny** 29:16

It's fantastic.
Honestly, Rockin and Rollin, you want to know any history about the Hebrew Bible? I got you.

 **Candace Taylor** 29:19

That's fabulous.
Oh wow. OK.
Well, I will definitely keep that in mind.
And hello to you too, lashan.
And of course Jim and Anthony, but hello.

 **Jim Snell** 29:31

And I'm going to jump back over to my other meeting if you all need me to come back. Just Anthony, just shoot me a team message and I'll. I'll hop back over.



LaShan Dixon 29:32

Hello, Candace.

 **Anthony Bennett** 29:40

Thank you very much.

 **Destiny** 29:41

Thanks Jim.
Appreciate you being here.

 **Jim Snell** 29:42

Yeah. Thanks everybody.

D **Destiny** 29:46
Sorry all again. Yeah, I'm sorry. I I tried to.

CT **Candace Taylor** 29:46
Jim and I are in the same meeting. No, you're OK.

D **Destiny** 29:51
But I had questions y'all know me.

CT **Candace Taylor** 29:55
It actually worked out perfect.

D **Destiny** 30:05
OK.
Candace, this is.

CT **Candace Taylor** 30:07
Uh.

D **Destiny** 30:09
Helpful time. This is all you is all I'm saying. This next all you we just want to know the updates. What you got for us.

CT **Candace Taylor** 30:12
OK.

D **Destiny** 30:14
What do you need from us, etcetera, etcetera.

CT **Candace Taylor** 30:14
OK. OK. OK.
Anthony, don't take this down.
Just it. OK, so as far as the conference, I met with the executive committee.
Basically, say that the conference will continue to be this year, well 2026 rather.

It'll be at the Franklin Marriott has, as it's always been, and the executive committee. Just sort of committed to taking the extra time to make the necessary changes and the improvements for 2027. They felt that if we move things right now that it just might be something short of a logistical nightmare.

I don't want to speak for them, but you know, just as synopsis. So. So we'll still be continuing the conference as it's been in the past years and with the hopes of 2027 being reimaged.

So before I move to the role of foundations and service, any questions that's in here. We good?



LaShan Dixon 31:28

Nomin.



Candace Taylor 31:31

So what role does the foundations of service play this year?

One of the other things that was decided in the meeting was we were also going to hold off on the student track, which was typically where the foundations of service came into play with.

With the student scholarships that we were talking about in the past years, year or so.

Thinking about larger scale.

Larger scale sponsors.

Ships that help sponsor the student track and just a more thoughtful input on what that looks like, not just with our student track, but also with the audience that we really want to reach with the conference as a whole in general.

They took a hard look at just the numbers of how things were broken down for the conference, like how many AmeriCorps members staff that we have coming to the conference, nonprofit Professionals.

Corporate professionals just really taking a look at everything across the board.

To make that decision of what is our audience and just being intentional with the build up from now until 2027, how do we increase the outreach?

How do we include the road shows?

So just the conversations like that to really expand on the brand and just the marketing and the vision of what?

The conference Governors Volunteer Stars Awards in any other. Any other events

that could support these marquee events?

What that looks like?

So they're just going to take a little bit of time to to do that so that they're able to get input from the remaining the remaining board members who sorry, Commission members.

Take time.

Do surveys, whatever that looks like, Nason.

Is a part of.

I don't want to misquote, but I'm believe he's chairing.

In that committee to to do, you know, she's chairing that committee. They're also thinking about what a rainy day fund looks like in case in case we run into a situation that's similar to this year to try to not repeat.

The trying our best not to repeat this year, which was out of our control, absolutely.

But what can we do as a, as a volunteer, Tennessee as Commission, just to make sure that we are supporting.

The vision and the missions that we have, so as far as foundations of services role right now, it's award of excellence and then the things that come with the conference, right, so.

Being a part of the meeting, volunteering with the GVSA, possibly the conference, just to for right now, that's what I have.

And I'm still imagining what role.

I could have for all 25 Commissioners and you know as well as foundations of service.

So right now it's award of excellence and just making sure that we make it as successful as possible.

I'll stop before I kind of get deep into a word of excellence. Any questions?

 **Destiny** 34:47

I think you're gonna talk about what next?

 **LaShan Dixon** 34:47

No, ma'am.

 **Destiny** 34:48

What I have a question about, so you're good.

CT Candace Taylor 34:51

OK. OK. OK.

So let's just go ahead and move on into the award of excellence. So as far as the.

Let's just start from the beginning.

OK, so the application review process Outreaching community engagement.

Would in essence be the next step to reach out.

To anybody that would be interested in applying for the award of excellence right now, we have 3 applicants.

They haven't finished their application, but they have started the application, so there's that. I've sent out just the emails to those that have previously been a part of award of Excellence and then as well as our social media.

And our newsletter.

Are the only ways that I have promoted the conference GBSA Award of excellence everything so all of those things are just sort of in the in the queue?

So that what I will believe will be just sort of the next step as you have here.

Like, what does that look like?

For for getting the information out to our Board of Excellence, possible honorees, let's see.

So the sponsorship and scholarship opportunities is more tied to the student track, which will be postponing until 2027.

So for right now, there aren't any talks about sponsorship and scholarship opportunities for.

Award of excellence because it's just the award.

And for me?

Since we will be not have Tuesday as a day for the conference, the Award of Excellence will be moved.

In collaboration.

With the governor's Volunteer Stars Awards and all the other awards that we do, it just sort of made sense to just go ahead and put them all together that way.

We are not compromising the students, missing school staff, missing school.

It's on a Sunday.

There's time to travel time for parents to come, so they're not missing work.

So it just made to me it just makes a little bit more sense to have the award of excellence honored with the other volunteers that are being honored.

Across the state, so there aren't necessarily any opportunities for this year, but I do think that now is the time to imagine what that looks like.

So that by the time we're done with the conference next year in 2026, we can go ahead and get out the hay.

Would you be interested in being a part of it instead of waiting until the fiscal year turns?

Because we at least want to be on their plate, right?

Even if it's.

A.

No, that's fine.

But we at least want them to know like.

Like a we want to be considered for sponsorships. We would love to be considered, you know, to be a part of your giving, but I don't know what those places look like as far as supporting volunteerism for children.

So that's just going to require a little bit more.

Just a little bit more research on who.

Has that as their you know as a pillar for their, I just don't know who who that is just to be quite honest, I I don't know.

Thank you, Anthony.

That's what I wanted to say.

Create a list of potential sponsors so that when the time comes around, we're able to hit the ball rolling even before then. How do we how do we start that relationship with these places?

You know, so it's just not a a random e-mail that comes across like how do we how do we get in there.

So I do think that that could be a conversation that at this point is not rushed. We can take some time and be.

Intentional.

About what we're doing.

So I'll stop right there.

Yeah, because we have about 10:00-ish minutes.

I don't know if I answered your question destiny, but.

Are there any questions?

 **Destiny** 39:00

Leshan do you have anything first 'cause? I've been talking first all time.

 **LaShan Dixon** 39:05

You are fine, destiny.

Just a comment.

No questions really.

 **Candace Taylor** 39:09

Yeah, sure.

 **LaShan Dixon** 39:11

Or yeah, just comment more so with the awards of excellence we I think another organizational part of too.

We're having those same constraints or barriers when it comes to trying to get people engaged in the space because really want to recognize the work in which they're doing.

But to your point, we can have some offline conversations or even talk more at the upcoming retreat.

About ways in order to start to build how we build on building trust and also building those relationships so that it becomes something that people want to apply for. Not that we're having to go out, but we're actually having to push people away from applying for it and.

So we, the organization I'm doing this with right now are brainstorming.

So I will definitely bring some of those same ideas and concepts that we think about. To the table.

Because I I see the value and benefit of and I and I truly think that is more so that people are unaware and so is the lack of knowing that this exists.

And I know that with the staff that you all have, you know, you all can only do so much. But I think that's where the board definitely is going to have to come in to help support you all in this space and sharing it with our networks and.

Within our our different departments, divisions and offices.

 **Candace Taylor** 40:32

Absolutely. And thank you for sharing.

I appreciate your your input. If I could add to that one wishlist item that I would love to see.

Is.

What other value and benefits can we add to our award of excellence, winners and honorees?

It started when I first got here.

It started as a certificate and we've kind of moved up to, of course you guys know the banner that they're able to hang.

In their office for that visual presence, when people walk in.

But I would love to to start brainstorming.

What are some other things that we can do?

I know that this was a strong suit of Miss Betty before she went over to be the vice chair, but how?

What else can we offer? You know is is. I'm just throwing it out there.

I'm not saying that we should do this, but a scholarship opportunities, any additional help, you know, do we just stay at the the letter from the governor and the?

The banner that they have, and that's fine if that's, that's the route that we would like to go. But just really thinking about what other, what other benefits are out there for, for our honorees that are that, have that have won for our years? Go ahead, Destin.

D **Destiny** 41:47

I was thinking another benefit.

I know we're gonna have a government change, so I don't know. But lunch with the governor is what I was thinking.

CT **Candace Taylor** 41:59

Can you get them some exposure?

D **Destiny** 42:00

I'm so sorry.

You're breaking up. I'm sorry.

Say that one more time.

CT Candace Taylor 42:05

I said that's a great idea.

D Destiny 42:06

OK so.

I know we're in tight.

I'm on a tight time schedule, so I'm gonna speak this quickly.

I think that would be something that's realistic to do.

So after they won.

Scheduling a lunch where he's present, but like how we do it for.

Those who win in the state like employees when we do the Governor Excellence and Service award for employees.

He's one of many people, so we have other people from the cabinet and administration who sit at.

Tables to have conversations with individuals and that works out really well and we can just build off of that coordination that we already use that is like chef's kits.

We have that SOP process to the fullest, so just throwing that out there, depending on who the new governor is and how they feel about that, that could be a good opportunity.

That could just be had in the supreme like in the capital.

We don't have to pay for anything when it comes related to renting or anything like that.

CT Candace Taylor 43:05

I agree. I think that's an excellent idea.

D Destiny 43:09

And then honestly, can motivate people.

Maybe even more to to come.

OK.

CT Candace Taylor 43:17

I would agree.

And actually, now that you've mentioned that another light bulb has gone off in my

head because you're absolutely right.

The by the time we have this award ceremony, the governor will be different.

So the things that we had for Governor Lee with the letter with the you know, he was him and Maria Lee were so awesome to do recorded videos that I can send out so that they're able to promote themselves and be a part of that ceremony.

I did not think about that, but that is a potential barrier. I'm not anxious at all.

You know my, but that is a potential barrier and I it it didn't even dawn on me that that would be something to to think about so.

D **Destiny** 44:03

No.

Yeah. So that goes into to the strategic partnership. Besides, I think I stress this every time.

CT **Candace Taylor** 44:05

So.

Yeah.

D **Destiny** 44:12

What is the value that we add as value?

Volunteer Tennessee and why do we need to be around?

We need to really be able to articulate what we do and that's why this data that I'm also requesting of you all when it comes to the strategic plan is pulled out, because if we don't understand the value we bring, we're not going to be able to tell.

The next administration, what value we bring?

So please let's work on that. Let's.

Get the strategic plan worked out.

Because we're not new administration changes, we also need to be there for the strategic partnership so they can understand how they can support us in this role because we also don't know who the first lady, our first man with their priorities are going to be.

CT **Candace Taylor** 44:54

Absolutely. Absolutely. And thank you for for mentioning that destiny.

I really do appreciate it.

D **Destiny** 45:02

And then my last question.

I'm so sorry that I really did have for you. First was a comment.

CT **Candace Taylor** 45:04

Yeah, go ahead.

D **Destiny** 45:07

Thank you all for putting this work and taking your time to explain this to us. If there's a group when we get that potential list or the list that you already have, I would love for you to tell us like, do you need us to send?

Personal emails or approve you to send a personal e-mail on our behalf and I can send you what I mean is I'm a part of another organization when they need donors or sponsorships, they craft an e-mail.

They say hey, please review this.

Tell us anything you want to add and we'll send this on your behalf.

Give me your signature and we'll sign it. And that really helps.

A lot. So if that's something that we can help you with, please loop us in in advance.

We can give you.

Maybe even a list of potentials that can come from you and then we can follow up with a supporting e-mail.

CT **Candace Taylor** 45:52

That works. I think that that's a two-part e-mail. The first would be just promoting, I think if we're splitting things sort of down the middle 5050.

I would love you guys help with just getting award of excellence out there first. Like any avenues that you have?

For to get the information to schools with the little one pager that we did that really kind of goes into a word of excellence.

So that would be something that could be a goal.

For the month of October, just whenever any of the foundation of service members have time just to let your constituents know.

That we have the award of excellence and that we would love to recognize their school for all of the great work that they that they're doing.

And then on the flip side, as we're as we're getting into sponsorships to your example.

That would be something that that I would love for everybody to to to get behind because I don't.

I would not want the student portion.

Of this to fail just because we're we don't have money to support it or, you know, one way or the other.

So it it it will take some thought process but I do think that initially just getting the information about award of excellence out there.

And then how can we move it to step forward as we're preparing for 2027?

So I think that all of these action items are totally doable, and if you guys don't mind me or Anthony.

Sending things out on your behalf. Then we can absolutely do that.

Or if you feel that you would like to send it out on your own, that's fine.

As well, whatever the particular Commissioners preference is, where I think we'll be able to to support it.

 **Destiny** 47:38

Alright, thank you so much.

I'll be honest, I have to jump off umm because I have to be out of my house by 11:00 and that's on me.

I'm sorry for over booking, but thank you all so much. If there's anything you need from me to do after this, please let me know.

Lishan thanks for showing up and for those who watch the video, thank you for watching it.

 **Candace Taylor** 47:56

Thank you guys.

 **Destiny** 47:57

Y'all can keep going.

I just have to jump off.

 **LaShan Dixon** 47:58

Thank you.

 **Destiny** 47:59
I'm so sorry.

 **Candace Taylor** 48:00
No, no, no, you're fine.
I actually have.

 **Anthony Bennett** 48:00
Thanks guys.
Appreciate you.

 **Candace Taylor** 48:01
I'm gonna hop back over to my meeting. I just.
I pulled over to to make sure that I was present and and had answered any questions.
So but next, the next meeting, we can go a little bit deeper into the analyzing.
Well, not analyzing, but actually looking at the at the award of excellence in the what's the word I'm looking for.
The review process.

 **Destiny** 48:25
Sounds great.

 **LaShan Dixon** 48:25
Perfect. Thank you, Candice.

 **Destiny** 48:26
Thank you all.

 **Candace Taylor** 48:26
OK.

 **Anthony Bennett** 48:27
Good everyone. It'd be great. We can thank you.



LaShan Dixon 48:28

Thank you, Anthony.



Candace Taylor 48:28

All right.

Thank you, leshan.



LaShan Dixon 48:29

Thank you, destiny.



Candace Taylor 48:29

Bye, destiny.



LaShan Dixon 48:30

We can.



Candace Taylor 48:30

Bye, Anthony.

Anthony, did you need me to open?



Anthony Bennett stopped transcription