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PRINCIPLES OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE COMMISSION

The ServeNebraska Commission functions as a state agency to serve the public with responsibilities to be accountable to the public for the federal and state resources that support commission activities. Commission members are volunteers who have responded to a “call to serve” and have accepted a gubernatorial appointment for a term of service on a state body that can make a difference. Ideally, each appointed member will approach the task with a sincere and energetic commitment to contribute what they can to advance the field of service and volunteering in the state. Some may be able to do more than others. But their collective capabilities and contributions should be able to make a demonstrable impact.

From the experience of commissions to date there are certain characteristics that effective commissions possess. They are summarized as follows:

- Possess an ambitious, expansive, but achievable vision and strategic plan.
- Develop creative strategies for collaboration and inclusion in expanding the service infrastructure in the state/territory.
- Focus on long term sustainability of the commission and its programs.
- Put a high priority on both internal and external communication.
- Develop a strong marketing/public relations strategy to promote the ethic of service.
- Engage commission members to their full potential, maximizing their interest, expertise, and connections.
- Conduct effectively staffed, well-planned meetings.
- Develop and maintain efficient working structures (committees or task forces) that produce tangible outcomes.
- Strike the appropriate balance between staff and commission member roles that enhances the effectiveness of both.