



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

February 14, 2024

Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203)

Meeting Attendees:

Al Plummer (Facilitator, Minority Men's Network), Adielle Ehret (FACE of Boone County), Phil Peters (Grade A Plus), Lara Wakefield (Smarter Steps), Lindsay Massie, (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Kelly Scheuerman (City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services - Brighter Beginnings), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library), Paige Williams (Brighter Beginnings), Katie Bowes (Burrell Behavioral Health), Catherine Miller (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Verna Laboy (BCCSD), Lenna Peterson (BCCSD)

Meeting Objective: Review status of workgroup progress on action steps.

Results Statement: All children in Boone County learn to read and write and see themselves as readers and writers.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Verna opened the meeting welcoming all attendees and with their introductions.

2. Debrief from 1.31.24 planning meeting

Verna provided an overview of the discussion that occurred during the 1/31/24 planning meeting with a small subgroup of the Early Grade Literacy Workgroup. This discussion included:

- The next steps in addressing the request for special services across Boone County. This aligns with a couple action steps within the Early Grade Literacy Strategies: helping families feel comfortable seeking support and coordinated/increased screenings (autism, social/emotional, etc.) with providers and schools.
- This small group determined that the first step should be to introduce the Boone County Upward Mobility/Early Grade Literacy to the Boone County Superintendents in Columbia, Centralia, Hallsville, Harrisburg, Southern Boone, and Sturgeon. Verna Laboy reached out to Sarah Owens (Director of School Based Services for FACE) for guidance and introductions to the Boone County superintendents because she has regular meetings with the Boone County Superintendents.
- After the initial introductions, Verna could ask for guidance from the superintendents to have them explain their district's processes for special services request from families. The target population would be early childhood through third grade. This would also be a great opportunity for the superintendents to celebrate what is working in their districts and then share the challenges. The superintendents could also provide advice on who to connect with within their districts: Early Childhood Special Education Coordinators, School Resource Officers, Parents as Teachers, Counselors, etc.



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3. Review summary of workgroup efforts towards action steps

a. Reviewed recent developments.

Discussion began with a review of the 2024 Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Roadmap document shared with the group which summarizes what has happened and plans for what is next within the workgroup. The Early Grade Literacy Workgroup had a lengthy discussion about the information shared and expressed their concerns about childcare providers (home childcare, childcare centers) in the community that weren't aware of screening opportunities in the community. The workgroup felt that early childhood providers could benefit from additional efforts to reach providers that may not be currently aware of services and discussed some examples of how this is done locally and in other areas. The workgroup discussed how state laws relate to screening, with differences in approach existing from birth to three compared to once a child turns three. Child Find, the state policy which outlines the responsibility for special education screening starting at age three was mentioned. The group discussed support for parents in navigating the system includes recognizing their level of understanding and the approach may vary.

b. Discussed outreach to Boone County school districts.

Verna Laboy will follow up with Sarah Owens to help with the process of introductions to the Boone County Superintendents to begin moving forward with further connection to schools in Boone County

c. Discussed status of infographic.

The group chose to pause this action step until we are clear about each school district's processes for initiating special services in their respective districts.

4. Closing (~ 15 minutes)

a. Comments and questions:

i. Additional comments and information was shared by Lara Wakefield related to Child Find and evaluation requests.

ii. There was discussion in the group regarding the extra tutoring that is happening now in districts paid for by funds which will be ending next summer. Questions included: What will happen to the tutoring when the money is gone? Is there a plan to continue this additional educational support?

iii. How many students are on reading success plans? It was mentioned that districts should be reporting this information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by February 15.

iv. Teacher training methods shifting over time was brought up.

b. Summary of next steps

i. Next Workgroup Meeting will be March 13, 2024, at 2:30PM at CMCA



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