



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes
May 15, 2024, 2:30PM
Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203)

Meeting Objective: Discuss current efforts and opportunities to increase social/emotional/behavioral supports for children.

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

Attendees: Al Plummer (Facilitator/Minority Men's Network), Adielle Ehret (FACE of Boone County), Lara Wakefield (Smarter Steps), Katie Bowes (Burrell Behavioral Health), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Catherine Miller (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Daniel Crasnow (Central MO Community Action (CMCA)), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD), Verna Laboy (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Al Plummer opened the meeting with introductions, introduced Daniel Crasnow, CMCA's Community Organizer who is new to the workgroup.
2. **Outreach to Boone County School Districts:**
 - a. Al shared that despite the scheduling challenges with wrapping up the school year, Columbia Public Schools (CPS) Superintendent Dr. Yearwood and two members of his leadership team, Elizabeth McCracken, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Kerry Townsend, Library Media Programs Coordinator, were able to meet with our Early Grade Literacy team on May 2nd at the Aslin Building. CPS is receptive to working/collaborating with our Early Grade Literacy Workgroup.
 - b. Verna will continue to reach out to rural communities with Boone County superintendents to introduce the Upward Mobility Early Grade Literacy workgroup. With the end of the school year approaching and no responses from the other five superintendents, extending the strategy beyond email communication will take place.
3. **Addressing action steps beyond special services within the Strategy: Increase social/emotional/behavioral supports for children.**
 - a. Coordinated/increase screenings (#7)

Cindy shared an overview of screenings they conduct and shared the definition of screening versus monitoring using existing information she compiled in a document for review. Information from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [website](#) was shared, noting they provide a couple of different screenings, all voluntary, with the identified emotional/social development needs referred out. Various approaches to outreach (ie: Food Bank, Compass Health, WIC Program, and other community events/resources were discussed by the workgroup.

Workgroup members shared about known screenings in the community, such as CPS Parents as Teachers and that FACE provides screenings on a needs-based scenario, providing



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a screening checklist, and follow up with families. Discussion about approaches in sharing FACE checklist results with parents varying by districts took place, with an example of how some parents with children in CPS have had frustration with the process.

- i. What efforts do you see in your organization/programs that further this action step?

Catherine shared an example of success using relatable and friendly language/communication with a parent to better understand the value of screenings deemed necessary for his child.

- b. Help families feel comfortable seeking support (#4)

- i. What barriers and/or stigma do you see when providing these services and connections?

Lara shared an update on information received from CPS about Reading Success Plans indicating 2259 students have Reading Success Plans. Lara said 561 students on Reading Success Plans have Individual Educational Plans (IEPs), noting those with an IEP for a for learning disability in reading are not eligible for Reading Success Plans because they are already receiving the highest level of intervention. Additional information was also shared on the number and percent of students with a Reading Success Plan by building and race. There was discussion about the correlation with COVID learning loss and children learning to read during pandemic versus what a normalized baseline would be.

- ii. What efforts do you see in your organization/programs that further this action step?

The workgroup discussed they might possibly see the need for increased screening campaigns. Cindy Reese mentioned that DESE already has a screening campaign, she will check with her sources to get more information.

4. Closing

- a. Joanne confirmed that CPS parents have access to the FACE checklist and plans to follow up to address the concerns mentioned earlier in the meeting.
- b. No other comments, questions, or partner updates were shared.

Next Workgroup Meeting: June 12, 2024, at 2:30PM at CMCA (807 N. Providence Rd)



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