



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

August 14, 2024, 2:30PM – 4:00PM

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

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

Attendees: Al Plummer (Minority Men’s Network), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Gay Litteken (First Chance for Children), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library), Daniel Crasnow (Central MO Community Action (CMCA), Katie Bowes (Burrell Behavioral Health), Jenrose Malloy (Burrell Behavioral Health), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Verna Laboy (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD),

1. Welcome and Introductions

Al Plummer welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by introductions

2. Action Step Update: Help families feel comfortable seeking support

a. Boone County school districts outreach

Al shared he and Verna had a successful meeting introduction with Southern Boone District Superintendent, Tim Ross and Asst Superintendent Jake Watson. Jake will follow up with scheduling/connecting us with their School Improvement Coordinator/Curriculum Director and Literacy coach. Verna has reached out to all Boone County Superintendents for meetings and follow up meetings for those we have already met with.

b. Continued outreach and collaboration efforts

The group thought of Head Start locations as a source for outreach, which includes locations in Centralia and Columbia. Jenrose offered connections into Centralia and Sturgeon areas.

3. Evaluate potential action steps with a focus on ages 0-5

a. With our new focus, who is missing from the table and how do we reach them?

Jenrose proposed that licensed childcare providers could open the conversation to unlicensed childcare providers. Community messaging and campaigns could be an effective way to touch base with those groups.

Verna mentioned that the Boone Co Community Health Workers are in the community completing health assessments all over Boone County and could be a great referral source. Jay-Dee Bush is their supervisor and would be a good contact to coordinate and collaborate with them. It was proposed to see what, if any, literacy questions are on assessments.

b. Gay suggested looking at former programs, such as the “Play, Hug, Read” program, and see about revamping them with parent input.

4. Closing

a. Partner updates

Jenrose is the new Youth Behavioral Health Liaison (YBHL) for 5 counties including Boone, for Burrell Health.



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Lara Wakefield, Smarter Steps Program, is offering scholarships to 3 EGL members interested in attending the Virtual Science of Reading webinar Thursday, 9/26/24, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. Interested members should reach out to Lara. Open to parents/guardians/professionals. The webinar explores what the Science of Reading is, how it is taught, and why it is vital to teaching students to read. It will also explore how to effectively advocate and collaborate with schools to ensure a student receives the support and resources they need to thrive in school and beyond.

Next Workgroup Meeting: September 11, 2024, at 2:30PM at CMCA (807 N. Providence Rd) or via [Zoom](#)

Ground Rules (*Adapted from University of Michigan Guidelines for Discussing Difficult or High Stakes Topics*)

- Listen respectfully.
- Listen actively and with an ear to ‘understanding others’ views.
- Discuss ideas.
- Commit to learning, not debating. Comment to share information, not to persuade.
- Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
- Allow everyone the chance to speak if they choose to do so.
- Avoid assumptions about any member of a social group. Do not ask individuals to speak for their (perceived) social group.



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