



Meeting Objective: Revisit past discussions and further develop future workgroup efforts with a focus on 0–5-year-olds.

Attendees: Al Plummer (Minority Men’s Network), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Catherine Miller (BCECC), Adielle Ehret (Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE)), Sarah Owens (FACE), Kelly Scheuerman (City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services - Brighter Beginnings), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library), Daniel Crasnow (Central MO Community Action (CMCA)), Lindsay Massie (CMCA Head Start), Jenrose Malloy (Burrell Behavioral Health), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Verna Laboy (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Verna welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by introductions. She also mentioned appreciation for CMCA facilitating the Poverty Simulation at the Upward Mobility Community Update event.

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

a. **Boone County school districts outreach**

Verna has three superintendents in Boone County scheduled for meetings. Additional discussion of contacts were discussed, with Lindsay planning to share contacts from unreached school districts with Verna.

b. **Continued outreach and collaboration efforts**

The group would like to better understand the barriers individuals face when seeking support. Approaches to outreach and connection to resources were discussed by the workgroup, with ideas for further collaboration and novel ways to connect with families.

3. **Strategies to move forward with further collaboration**

a. **Revisit potential action steps with a focus on ages 0-5**

The group discussed the need for outreach efforts while recognizing the challenges in addressing literacy when other concerns might be overwhelming families. During discussion about connecting with families before they are in school, the opportunity to consider how individuals on waitlists for early childhood programs like Head Start might be connected to services differently was brought up. Helping teachers know what resources are available in the community since they are highly connected with families was discussed and there was some recognition that current resources are sometimes underutilized. The group also discussed the importance of using different methods to reach parents, including sharing quick and relevant information. Resources that help with this and other community resources that can be found at the Daniel Boone Regional Library were mentioned. Al



BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

September 11, 2024, 2:30PM – 4:00PM

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

encouraged everyone to give further consideration to the discussions to be able to see how to prioritize where to begin in addressing these issues further.

b. Workgroup feedback and looking ahead to 2025

A survey will be sent to all workgroups to touch base on the content and structure of Upward Mobility efforts and use the information to plan for 2025 at a meeting later this year. Anyone with specific ideas about the survey design is welcome to reach out to Gina.

4. Closing

a. Partner updates

- Boone County and the City of Columbia will be hosting a [Housing Summit](#) on October 24th, 2024 at Memorial Baptist Church.
- Reach out to Cindy if you would like to be added to the Boone County Early Childhood Coalition contact list. They are working together on updating the Kindergarten Readiness Tree.

b. Comments and Questions

Verna discussed the potential for a slight revision to the Upward Mobility definition with everyone showing support for the change while noting the work remains the same.

Next Workgroup Meeting: November 13th, 2024, at 2:30PM at CMCA (807 N. Providence Rd) or via Zoom All are encouraged to attend the full day Housing Summit.