



## Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

January 8, 2025, 2:30PM – 4:00PM

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

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**Meeting Objective:** Develop a timeline for 2025 Early Grade Literacy Workgroup areas of focus and priority.

**Attendees:** Al Plummer (Facilitator, Minority Men’s Network), Celina Castleman (True North), Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library), Cindy Reese (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Kristine Smith (Columbia Public Schools – Parents as Teachers), Gay Litteken (First Chance for Children), Jenrose Malloy (Burell Behavioral Health), Kelly Scheuerman (City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services - Brighter Beginnings), Phil Peters (Grade A Plus), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Joanne Nelson (BCCSD)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Al welcomed the group and opened the floor for introductions. The group welcomed Celina Castleman, who is a new attendee of the Early Grade Literacy Workgroup. Celina is the Children’s Program Coordinator at True North.

### 2. Follow up from last meeting

The workgroup reviewed decisions made in the previous meeting to continue to meet on the second Wednesdays of each month from 2:30pm to 4:00pm at Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) for the first quarter of 2025 and focus on four main priority areas to work on in 2025.

### 3. 2025 workgroup plan

The workgroup discussed the 2025 workgroup plan overview sheet which includes the four priority areas (Literacy Interventions, Waitlist Challenges, Screenings, and Technology Access Support), to determine where to start additional planning. Individuals shared different perspectives on where the workgroup could initially focus, noting things learned during previous workgroup meetings and efforts currently taking place.

The workgroup agreed to start with coordinating efforts around Literacy Interventions. Ideas for collaboration were shared, including information about previous community efforts, with the workgroup leaving the meeting intending to coordinate a community-wide literacy campaign. The workgroup aims to center this on early grade literacy with the understanding that engaging all ages in reading also benefits those learning to read.

Collaboration included noting additional planning would be necessary, with a timeline for the tasks and persons/organizations that are responsible for working towards that task still under development. The workgroup discussed available funding from Cradle to Career could be considered for the literacy campaign.

### 4. Next Steps

- Group members will brainstorm ideas for activities and events for the literacy campaign, both collaborative and within their own organizations.



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- Ideas related to the literacy campaign can be emailed to [upward@boonecountymo.org](mailto:upward@boonecountymo.org) if you are unable to attend the next meeting.
- A suggestion was made for individuals to share something new or exciting about supporting early grade literacy efforts within their role/organization. The workgroup expressed interest in adding this and plans for everyone to be prepared to briefly share something during the introductions at the start of each workgroup meeting.

### 5. Closing

#### a. Partner updates

No partner updates were shared.

#### b. Comments and questions

The next meeting will not be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month due to a holiday, so the meeting has been moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month (February 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** February 19, 2025, at 2:30 PM at CMCA (807 N. Providence Rd) and via [Zoom](#)