



**BOONE COUNTY**  
UPWARD MOBILITY

## Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Agenda

September 25, 2024, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and virtually via Zoom

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**Attendees:** Alvin Cobbins (Minority Men’s Network), Jane Williams (Love Columbia), Liz Sensintaffar (Job Point), Ron Schmidt (City of Columbia – Career Awareness Related Experience (CARE) Program), Tara Shade (Woodhaven), DJ Johnson (Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development – Career Opportunity Training for Youth (COTY) Program), Lisa Driskel-Hawxby (Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI)), Daniel Crasnow (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Fontella Jackmon-Jones (Woodhaven), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Victoria Woods (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Verna Laboy (BCCSD)

**Meeting Objective:** Strategize Youth Focused Action Steps

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Al began the meeting and opened the floor for introductions

### 2. Action Step Assessment: Pipeline/Career Opportunities for youth

#### a. (Action step #9) Increase opportunities to expose youth to careers in middle and high school.

- Group members discussed what their affiliated organization offers or hopes to offer to help with job readiness for kids in middle/high school.
- Members discussed the necessity for exploration routes for students so that they are aware of all the different career options and to also know the details of those careers so that they can choose their best fit. Discussion of current and past programs and events exposing youth to different careers included an update on programs Columbia Chamber of Commerce has received funding to implement.
- The group mentioned the need of collaboration with other organizations to share information to maximize opportunities for students while not duplicating efforts. Love Columbia shared their “Career Next Steps” website which can help with these efforts. The workgroup is interested in creating a resource to share with businesses about available programs and services supports job and workforce development. Homework for the group is to email Gina information they would like to include about programs they provide, and the compiled information will be reviewed during the next workgroup meeting
- The group discussed obstacles such as transportation and how we can help break down those barriers.

Verna joined the meeting virtually towards the end and shared she is learning information while at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce trip to bring back.

The workgroup discussed if there were others focusing on youth career exploration and exposure that should be introduced to the workgroup. Everyone was encouraged to make



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connections with anyone and reach out to Boone County Community Services Department for assistance with getting more information. Tara volunteered to reach out to the person in a new role supporting jobs and workforce for youth at Columbia Public Schools.

**b. (Action step #10) Expand opportunities for high school students to earn associate degrees for all Boone County schools.**

Due to time constraints, the group was not able to discuss this action step.

**c. (Action Step #16) Identify and support youth earlier in their academic career to graduate or access alternative paths to high school graduation.**

Due to time constraints, the group was not able to discuss this action step.

### 3. Closing

**a. Partner Updates**

- Fontella Jackmon-Jones is now a Work Incentive practitioner, Cornell University School of Industrial & Labor Relations, K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment & Disability
- Love Columbia offers a Growth Mindset class each Thursday at 4:00pm which has four repeating modules so anyone can start any week.
- Job Point announced there will be an Open House on Wednesday October 2 from 2:30PM-4:30PM for Steve Smith's retirement.
- Love Columbia is hosting a job fair focused on Health Care on October 2 at 3:00PM.
- [Registration](#) is open for the Housing Summit on October 24 at Memorial Baptist Church
- Volunteers are needed for "Human Book" on October 12 at Columbia Public Library. Email [lwilliams@dbri.org](mailto:lwilliams@dbri.org) or [haid@dbri.org](mailto:haid@dbri.org) for more information.
- Local Motion is conducting a [community survey](#) on local transportation. The survey can be shared widely.

**b. Summarize next steps**

- Share information about workgroup efforts with people that might be missing from the table.
- Share efforts with the group about how to better the collaboration and information sharing among different organizations.

**c. Comments and Questions**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00PM, Boone Electric Community Building or virtually [via Zoom](#).