

Mayor's Commission for Children Minutes

December 12th, 2023 8 am

James B Anderson Conference Room

Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Dr. Kaleen Long, Brandy Harris, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Amy Chenoweth, Bria Coale,

Mike White, Chris Jarratt

Advisory Council Present: Dr. Doug McNeal, Dr. Kristen Thompson, Missy Riley, Christy Davis, Karen Kunkel, Jaimie Trussell, Jennifer McClure

The meeting was opened at 8:00 by Dr. Long. Welcome to our presenter Melanie Stinnett from Arc of the Ozarks on video. . Minutes were presented and a motion to approve minutes as written was made by Dr. Elizabeth Andrews -seconded by Mike White. Minutes approved.

Round the table announcements were made to other members of the Council and Commission. Boys and Girls Club center breaking ground in January. The Council of Churches had a huge distribution of food Dec 9th-forty percent increase in participation. Center City Counseling will be moving out of the present building and some structural changes will be taking place-Amy will keep us posted. Youth outpatient therapy groups started at Burrell (adhc) Parent groups started too. Christy updated spots in early childhood classrooms. More appropriation of funds for early childhood-1.4 million. Beth is volunteering to work with Family Connects and Mercy as start up gets close. Mike reminded us about the School Board election in April. Doug reminded us of the announced Mercy and Cox collaboration for Children's services. The community meeting will be on Wednesday evening if anyone from Commission can attend. Bria gave us an update on Easter Seals and the staffing of 7 behavioral analysts.

Melanie Stinnett gave us an overview of the planned autism center at ARC. Evaluation team for autism diagnosis, clinic will be open from 7:30-6. Direct medical care for individuals. Other therapy such as OT, PT, and Speech, along with behavioral management. Ages from infant to young adult. She also talked about some legislative victories this past session. Employment first initiative- Ticket to work expansion, Work force initiatives for individuals with disabilities, Post-partum Medicaid expansion 60 days to a year due to a rise in infant and mother mortality rates in Missouri.

Adjourned at 9 am, Next meeting will be a presentation and update from the Greene Co Health Dept on Family Connects.