

Mayor's Commission for Children Minutes

July 9th 8 am 2024

Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Members attending: Dr. Kaleen Long, Dr. Beth Andrews, Dr. Christy Davis, Chris Jarratt, Bria Coale,

Members absent: Brandy Harris, Dr. Tom Masterson, Mike White, Amy Chenoweth

Advisory Council Present: Dr. Kristen Thompson, Rinda Davis, Missy Riley, Dr. Doug McNeal, Dr. Jennifer Baker

Dr. Kaleen Long started the meeting at 8:00. Members were asked to review the minutes. Dr. Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Chris Jarratt second that motion. The minutes were approved by the members.

Announcements around the house. Dr. Andrews has accepted a part-time job with HeadStart as their Medical Director. Dr. Thompson will be leaving Burrell and starting at MSU in the Psychology department. Good Dads were awarded more funding-up to one and half times on what they were expecting!

The group began finalizing the 3-year strategic plan. Emphasis on Subsidy increase to families and providers necessary statewide. Pay increase to get childcare worker at a livable rate. Karen Kunkle to reach out to Amanda Coleman and see if she can give us an update on Kids Win initiatives and CPO and others involvement locally trying to advocate for needed change and money at this issue.

Compulsory Attendance law for school age children is seven in Missouri. The Mayors Commission will work with a letter of support to Rep. Mackey out of St. Louis in support of lower the age to 5 or 6.

Trauma informed care in Greene County-how do we encourage our health care systems to document. Health Living Alliance may still have this as a priority.

Gun Violence and Suicide. Rates in Southwest Mo (suicides) are higher than state and national average. Surgeon General warning it is at a crisis level. Brigitte to reach out to Francine Pratt and Clay Goddard new task force. Amy continues to serve on CPO committee on Gun violence and Suicide Prevention. Other relatable factors include social media screen time, bullying, and loneliness among the ages of 10-17.

Should mayors commission manage a Youth Cabinet to meet with Mayor and City Leaders to share what they are seeing and experiencing in Springfield. (Note-that may be a component of the citywide task force by Pratt and Goddard)

No meeting in August. Social at the ballpark Sunday night July 28. 8 people will represent our group August 1 at Good Morning Springfield to hear Dr. Lathan's address at the State of the Schools address.

September meeting, we will have Courtney Martin, Director of Homeless services at SPS to give us the numbers of students in the 24-25 SPS category as homeless without permanent housing.

Also, we will see if Amanda Coleman can give us an overview of statewide initiative on childcare crisis.