

Mayor's Commission for Children Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 8 am

Springfield Chamber of Commerce

James B Anderson Conference Room

Springfield, Mo 65806

Commission members present: Linda Saturno, Missy Riley, Susie Henderson, Bria Coale, Trysts Herzog
Jennifer McClure, Chris Jarratt Absent: Shara Cash and Christy Davis

Advisory Council members present: Dr. Jennifer Baker, Linda Ramey Greiwe, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews,
Alexis Brown, Carol Wooten Dr. Doug McNeal, Kimberly Shinn Brown, Dr. Kayce Morton, John Chastain,
Jan Fisk Absent: Gerry Lee, Morey Mechlin, Dr. Denis Fredrick, Mike White, Pat Gartland, Amy
Chenoweth

Jennifer McClure, chairman opened the meeting at 8:05 and welcome guests and presenters. Francine Pratt from Prosper Springfield, Sherry Coker and Jordan Schneider from OTC, Scott Warren from Jobs for Life, and Emily Denniston, Vice President, Public Affairs from Springfield Chamber.

Minutes were approved for July meeting. Bria Coale made the motion to approve and Trysta Herzog seconded the motion.

Emily gave an overview of the new program Fast Tracks just signed into law by Governor Parson. His two top priorities are workforce development and transportation. 10 million has been appropriated with a three-year sunset. It's a forgivable loan if you commit to working in Missouri. Areas of study at universities have been established.

Currently, Sherry and Jordan reported that OTC is in full swing enrolling students over 25 in the fast track program who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree. They must make less than 40,000 a year to participate. Information is online and shared with everyone who might know of a candidate willing to enter a competitive education field.

Scott Warren shared Jobs for Life program that is based out of Schweitzer United Methodist Church.

Each participant has a mentor during the eight-week session. They help folks develop a vocation plan, resume and learn valuable soft skills. 12-15 participants each session. There are three Jobs for Life programs in the area. Free transportation, childcare and a meal is provided. 117 graduates. 93 have full or part time jobs.

Francine stressed that these programs will help the underemployed. Child care and transportation still can be obstacles for better employment. Wrap around services are what they stress with their clients.

Carol Wooten talked about the upcoming documentary that the Moxie and The Mayor's Commission for Children are co-sponsoring for area groups that are interested. The Movie will be at 6 pm on Sunday October 27th. Run time is a little over an hour and we can have a brief discussion after the film. If you are interested, please RSVP to Carol at the MovieRSVP@gmail.com. This ties in with our next months presentation at the Mayor's Commission for Children program- Building Community Resilience by Dr. Kelly Wright and Dr. Kayce Morton.

Reminder that October 10th the Community Focus Report will be released at 9 am at the Art Museum.

Adjournment at 9:05.