

Mayor's Commission for Children September Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting September 8, 2020

Members present: Brandy Harris, Chris Jarratt, Jennifer McClure, Dr. Elizabeth Andrews, Susie Henderson, Christy Davis, Missy Riley, Monica Horton,

Members absent Linda Saturno

Advisory Council present: Dr. Kayce Morton, Kimberly Shinn Brown, Gerry Lee, Dr. Denise Fredrick, John Chastain, Alexis Brown, Jan Fisk, Amy Chenowith, Christian Mechlin, Mike White, Rinda Davis, Dr. Doug McNeal,

Advisory Council absent: Carol Wooten, Dr. Jennifer Baker, Dr. Nicole Holt

Guest and Speaker: Lincoln Hough

Meeting was brought to order by Brigitte Marrs and a motion was made by Chris Jarratt to accept minutes as presented. Missy Riley seconded that motion. Minutes were approved as written by the Commission.

Brigitte introduced State Senator Lincoln Hough and thanked him for his support of his amendment for early childhood education. This legislative session was the most productive on this topic. The commission has been supported of this effort for eight years.

Lincoln thanked the group for their dedication to this topic and gave us a background on the strategy of gaining collation to support the enabling legislation for our municipality. Senator Hough was frustrated that the process requires that local government must mount an effort to get something they need in their communities. His suggestion would be to put a cap on taxes to municipalities and avoid every time you need to ask the voters for a tax that you have the laborious legislative process to go through for approval to ask your local voters.

Much discussion regarding the Hammersmidt violation, the outcome of the November 2020 turning over eleven seats out of 24 in the senate. Whether or not we get the traction with new people for this effort will be determined. His suggestion is to have SPS, City and Chamber all working together to push this topic with our local legislators. He is willing to offer it again and will be looking at house rep to sponsor too.

Announcements from group- that this is National Suicide Awareness Month. 1 out of 10 children have thoughts of Suicide. Center City Clinic is taking appts for Counseling Services. Head start writing for a large grant birth to 3. Letter of Support will be coming from Mayor's Commission for Children.

Chairman and Chairman elect will be meeting to plan for vacancy in November to submit to Council and Mayor.