

## Mayor's Commission for Children

Meeting Minutes July 11, 2017

Members Present: Dr. Beth Andrews, Christy Davis, Bria Coale, Dr. Laurie Edmondson, Alexis Brown, Dr. Jennifer Baker, Dr. Kayce Morton, Linda Ramey-Greiwe, Gerry Lee, Susie Henderson

Welcome Gerry Lee called the meeting to order

Approval of Minutes Minutes from the April 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Laurie Edmondson moved to approve. Jennifer baker seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion:

Gerry Lee introduced the new executive director Brigitte Marrs. Brigitte spoke regarding the history of the Mayors Commission. In 2004 Every Kid Counts committee that was funded by a grant from the Children's Trust Fund became the Mayors commission for Children with Denise being the executive director. Our mission grew out of the city ordinance that spoke of three priorities. Early childhood education and readiness for kindergarten, children reading on grade level by third grade, and health and well-being the final component. From 2007-2009, a community driven project and strategic plan designed to benefit young children in Springfield/ Greene Co was formed. **Red Wagon Kids** was guided by the Mayor's commission. This was a well-coordinated effort to lay out a plan for early childhood in our community. In 2010, the City included Early Childhood development in their Field Guide 2030 their current city strategic plan. After failure of a tax initiative, the recommendations were taken to the Good Community focus group and a plan to develop Every Child Promise developed out of a private/public partnership. Moving forward we need to identify if this is still our focus and steps to insure more children are served with quality preschool programs.

Gerry spoke of the need to possibly gather more data on these issues and get the facts out to the stakeholders with follow-up/evaluation if we are making changes to improve in the various programs. Jennifer Baker agreed that data would show if it is working. Linda mentioned Missouri Kids count has local data for Greene county we should analyze. Beth suggested we look at whether the ordinance is still relevant 14 years later. There are other factors impacting our community and kids. Kayce says toxic stress in the family is growing and impacting kids longer. The group also mentioned evaluating existing clearinghouse of resources of non-profits and service providers in the area-are families getting the information.

By next meeting, Brigitte will send out a link to the City Field Guide, the City Ordinance outlining our charge and a link to Missouri Kids count. A copy of the Red Wagon Kids initiative should be revisited also to see if there are areas that MMC should pursue. Good discussion on our priorities today. The next meeting, we will develop the long-range goals with specific short term goals for the year.

Next meeting scheduled for August 8. The mayor, Ken McClure will be joining us.