



**Meeting Objective:** Structure 2025 Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Efforts.

**Attendees:** Al Plummer (Facilitator, Minority Men’s Network), Kristine Smith (Columbia Public Schools - Parents as Teachers), Kelly Scheuerman (City of Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services - Brighter Beginnings), Lara Wakefield (Smarter Steps), Phil Peters (Grade A Plus), Adielle Ehret (Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE of Boone County)), Catherine Miller (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition), Verna Laboy (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Al welcomed everyone and opened the floor for everyone to provide introductions.

**2. Follow up from last meeting**

The links and materials provided to the workgroup were briefly mentioned with no additional questions brought up. It was noted that the group was asked to further consider what direction this workgroup will take in 2025 in preparation for this meeting.

**3. Decisions on 2025 workgroup content and structure**

Those in attendance shared their perspectives on areas where they felt the workgroup had already showed interest in addressing and opportunities to collaborate in the next year. The workgroup discussed some perceptions about accessibility of resources with some barriers presenting challenges to those accessing services and community resources.

**a. What will the workgroup focus on?**

Through discussion, the workgroup identified four overarching areas that the workgroup would like to concentrate on in 2025 noting that further discussion and planning would be necessary to identify the actionable items that would happen. The areas of focus and priority for 2025 that the workgroup supported moving forward on are:

- Literacy Interventions
- Waitlist Challenges
- Screenings
- Technology access support

**b. When will the workgroup meet?**

The workgroup discussed that meetings should continue to be hybrid at the same time on the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings will be scheduled for the first quarter of 2025 and the workgroup plans to discuss future meeting scheduling as the more actionable plans are developed. The group chose to keep the same physical location for the meetings.

**4. Next Steps**

- Send out an email about what was discussed today to the other group members who were not present.



## Early Grade Literacy Workgroup Minutes

December 11, 2024, 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia, MO 65203) and virtually

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- Workgroup members will be prepared to plan the action steps and tasks for the topics that the group discussed working on during the next workgroup meeting.

### 5. Closing

#### a. Partner updates

Catherine invited everyone to attend the Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC) meeting on Monday and shared that BCECC is working on the development of an updated kindergarten readiness tree.

#### b. Comments and questions

Gina mentioned her involvement in Upward Mobility and the Early Grade Literacy workgroup will likely decrease in 2025 as her time allocated to different job duties may shift.

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** January 8, 2025, at 2:30 PM at CMCA (807 N. Providence Rd) and via [Zoom](#)