



**City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Children and Youth
Meeting Minutes- March 21, 2017**

Commissioners Present: Georg'ann Cattelona, Matt Hanauer, Amy Makice, Shawna Meyer-Niederman, Erin Predmore, Fiora Pizzo, Isadore Torry, and Julie Warren.

Regrets: Donna Bernens-Kinhead.

Guests: Beverly Calender-Anderson, Director of the City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department and Brigitt Nasby, YSB Shelter Outreach/Safe Place Coordinator

City Commission Staff Liaison: Nancy Woolery.

The meeting was called to order by Julie Warren at 5:30 pm.

The National Public Health Week Health and Wellness Fair was added to the agenda for discussion. The fair is scheduled for April 8th from 9 am-12 pm. CSCY will staff the registration table. Julie and Shawna will staff the morning shift, and Matt and Jimmie will staff the later shift.

Approval of February 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the February 21, 2017 meeting minutes by Georg'ann and seconded by Amy, unanimously approved.

Staff Liaison Report

- The commission submitted the annual report to the city council. Beverly thanked the commission for its dedication and hard work. She also informed the commission that they would be receiving a survey asking for feedback.

Building Thriving and Compassionate Communities (BTCC)

- The BTCC is moving forward with Healthiest Cities goals. The BTCC will be meeting with a technical advisor to help guide them on their metrics. Julie attend an advocacy exchange group hosted by the BTCC. Additionally, pingthepeople.org was just released to track Indiana legislation.

CSCY-Goals for 2017/2018

- Georg'ann facilitated a strategic planning process at the March 2017 meeting, guiding the commission on goal setting for the upcoming year. The commission decided to continue the SWAGGER Awards and any new initiatives (included are notes from the March strategic planning goal assessment).

Announcements

- Beverly announced that on Thursday March 23rd 6:30pm-8pm there will be an inclusion meeting led by Dr. Greenfield at the MCCSC CoLab 553 E. Miller Drive.

Motion to End Meeting

- Fiora motioned to end the meeting, Georg'ann seconded, and the commission unanimously approved. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th-Hooker Conference Room, Suite 245 at City Hall.

Notes from CSCY Strategic Planning Goal Assessment

Advocacy

Be a resource (via website or FB) for local, state, and national bills/laws/policies that affect youth (act as a clearing house).

- Monitor legislation relative to youth and advocate for local policy change if needed.
- Have bill tracker member/commissioner to alert us to act.
- Find a piece of legislation that we like/don't like and promote/oppose it.
- Select one or two legislative issues to speak out on, whether local or state.

Report

Create a report that gives us information that can be used to make things better for children and youth in our community

- Create a youth-specific report that agencies can reference or utilize for grants: or help promote a similar existing report.
- Develop a report on the status of children/youth in Bloomington: economics; education; housing; social; life expectancy; by age, race, gender. This report could be incorporated into the Bicentennial celebration.
- Gather data to provide an overview report on the status of children and youth.
- Collect existing data to summarize local childhood conditions.

Awards and Celebrations

- Offer an award or mini-grant for "kid fun day" for agencies.
- Continue (and grow) Swagger Awards and use info from nominations to find trends.
- Give annual award for agency collaboration for kids.
- Have a big BBQ party every year.
- Plan Bicentennial Family Friendly event to promote safe/healthy life style (i.e., Bicentennial walk) goal: 200 participants.
- Create award for local youth organization workers/teachers (could be part of SWAGGER Award).
- Build a skate park.
- Organize a "Youth Day" to celebrate and connect youth to opportunities in the community.
- Create Youth Worker awards.

- Expand the Swagger Award to more categories.
- Work with schools to promote Swagger Awards.

Date Information Sharing

- Have more concrete indicators of successful programs (follow up with parents who attend events).
- Create a list of all the groups, agencies, organizations that serve youth locally.
- Quarterly newsletter about upcoming events, resources to youth and families.
- Use city survey data to determine area of needs.
- Collaborate with community partners who show interests in collecting data regarding children and youth in Monroe County.
- Offer website with information links on community resources for families (daycare, health, education, and recreation).
- Conduct a forum or survey asking parents what issues youth in the community are facing.
- Use the CSCY annual report as an opportunity to provide data/recommendations to the city council and Mayor's office.
- Provide community updates on issues affecting children and youth (locally, state, and nationally).
- Analyze data from collection of youth agencies to determine what gaps are missing in the community related to youth services.

Outreach

- Find out if the born learning trail still exists and support use-feature activities there.
- Youth led initiatives in the community (i.e., Monroe County Youth Council or host call out for proposals).
- Find a way to encourage youth from lower income families/ who tend to not get involved to participate in a community initiative.
- Choose a cause to support, i.e., "Everybody week" and bring it into the schools for body positivity among youth.
- Work with partners who provide child care to advocate for quality child care services.

Legislation

- Create a new piece of legislation that we want to see in Bloomington.
- Present evidence-based practices that would improve conditions for children in school, (increased recess time).
- Present impact statement for increasing the minimum wage.
- Develop a policy brief.

Funding/Grants

- Find a grant funding source for a project in Bloomington.
- Solicit proposals and support child-centered organizations applying for grants.

Training

- Increase education for CASA volunteers, may provide an additional piece to their training or ongoing training.
- Provide free informative trainings to youth serving agencies.
- Coordinate or assist with a community wide conference/program of youth serving agencies.
- Foster/host an annual youth work forum or training/ appreciation.
- Host or promote a community wide agency meeting to encourage connections.
- Co-sponsor a Monroe County Childhood Conditions Summit and solicit swagger awards.
- Hold down walls for community to gauge their feelings about the status of children and youth.

Public Awareness

- Expose DCS for all the untrained, inexperienced, employees it has and the harm this results with the children it espouses to “help”.
- Encourage activism in teens and adults-perhaps through writing letters to Congress or trips to the statehouse.
- When necessary, use our pulpit to advocate through the H-T, etc.
- Create a “fan base” or following to be able to distribute valuable info or resources.
- Invite youth to participate in city government through shadowing-i.e., Indiana legislative page day.
- Put on a “Junior City Council” so kids can get a sense of how our city government works.
- Invite youth to serve on the commission.
- Foster relationships between older and younger youth to help encourage youth to participate.
- More visibility.
- Create or facilitate a youth work agency certification or this agency is approved by CSCY.
- Do something as a partner with Rhinos.

Workshops & Partnerships

- Connect/work with other groups in community.
- Work with other city commissions to reach underserved populations:
 - Status of Black Males
 - Sustainability
 - Bloomington Arts Commission
- Partner with one or two other commissions to work on a project.

- Partner with other commissions on possible education or outreach programs.

Partnerships

- Have a workshop for children to write ideas for the improvement of Bloomington to the Mayor.
- Host a community forum in which city children/youth can share experiences and concerns.
- Bring more people to our table from the school districts and city.
- Quarterly meeting with DCS to determine trends/needs from their perspective.
- Quarterly meeting with MCCSC to determine trends/needs from their perspective.