



**BOONE COUNTY**  
UPWARD MOBILITY

Early Grade Literacy Workgroup  
March 11, 2026 3:00pm – 4:30pm  
Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence, Columbia, MO) via Zoom

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**Meeting Objective:** Make progress on Raising Readers for Spring 2026 launch

**Attendees:** Sarah Howard (Daniel Boone Regional Library (DBRL)), Cindy Resse (Boone County Early Childhood Coalition (BCECC)), Kelly Scheuerman (Brighter Beginnings), Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes), Enola-Riann White (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Michelle Thompson (BCCSD), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD)

1. Welcome

- a. Enola opened the meeting by introducing Michelle Thompson of the Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD). Michelle manages BCCSD's social media pages and will be providing social media support for Raising Readers
- b. Partner Updates
  - i. Sarah Howard (DBRL) shared they are in the process of hiring a new assistant manager, and summer reading plans are in progress.
  - ii. Cindy Resse (BCECC) provided an update that the kindergarten readiness tree is being finalized. They are working to make it more dynamic and user friendly.
  - iii. Kelly (Brighter Beginnings) shared National Home Visiting week is April 20-24, 2025. Brighter Beginnings will hold a mayor proclamation on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00pm at the health department. In May they will host the third annual Boone County Home Visiting Summit.
  - iv. Gina Jenkins (BCCSD) shared March is National Social Work month. A proclamation will be read on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Boone County Commission Chambers.
  - v. Aaron Fox (Aaron Fox Writes) shared he is exploring a project about coordinating literacy and book drive efforts in the community. He is seeking input from anyone who has run or is running book drives, partners can reach out to Aaron to share their experiences. He may pitch the project at the Missouri Startup weekend.

2. Follow up from last meeting

- a. Sarah provided an update on Dolly Parton Imagination Library's fundings status at the state level. Funding is in jeopardy. The workgroup discussed the impact of the loss of funding for local communities and the transition process if funding is cut. The importance of the library's online system for book distribution and challenges of transitioning to a new system were highlighted

3. Timeline review and progress tracker

- a. Welcome Packet
  - i. The workgroup discussed the Raising Readers intake survey and welcome packet. Discussion included structure of the survey, including splitting the survey into two: one for basic contact information the other for detailed participation information. Discussion then moved to logistics of distribution materials, including the possibly of allowing organizations to order materials as needed. Additional ideas included allowing organizations to print materials themselves to save costs.
- b. Launch Event

**Upward Mobility is an initiative of the Boone County Community Services Department  
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- i. Sarah Howard shared the details for the May 5<sup>th</sup> event including the need to have volunteers manage entrances and exits. Volunteer details will be discussed and finalized at the April meeting
  - c. Press Release
    - i. Enola shared the draft press release for review by the workgroup. Minor edits were made including the capitalization of AL.
4. Next Steps
  - a. At the next meeting the workgroup will review the intake surveys, finalize welcome packet and materials logistics, finalize details for the April NET meeting, and outline volunteer logistics for the launch event.
5. Closing
  - a. Enola closed the meeting, thanking the workgroup for their time and efforts.

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** April 8, 2026, via Zoom or in person at Central Missouri Community Action (807 N. Providence Rd, Columbia, MO)