

Empower Missouri Health/Mental Health Task Force Notes from May 12, 2017 Meeting

Present: Nancy Spargo, chair; Renee Hewitt, Nancy Ellis Ordway, Ashley Quinn, Tracy Morrow, Rachel Girdler, and Jeanette Mott Oxford (JMO).

Moving Missouri Toward Becoming Trauma-Informed

Nancy S. has spoke with leadership of two additional Empower Missouri task forces about applying a trauma-informed lens to their work and is invited to speak with a third. That would leave only two additional task forces for outreach.

Renee shared that the Children's Justice Association has been in conversation with the Jefferson City Police Department about "Handle with Care Slips." This would be a confidential note that police officers send to schools to give teachers and other school personnel a heads up that a child has gone through a traumatic incident over the weekend. This is an idea the co-chairs heard had been used in Washington, DC and West Virginia. We discussed the importance of school personnel receiving training to do this well as there could be unintended consequences otherwise.

Some schools are using a universal precautions approach. We cannot tell by looking what a child has gone through.

JMO talked about challenges our Human Rights Task Force has had in inviting police departments to dialogue about improving data collection for the Vehicle Stops Report (a tool that helps identify racial/ethnic profiling within departments). We have a sense that the amount of trauma that officers experience (including secondary trauma) makes it difficult to discuss a topic that can feel like "criticism" (whether there is profiling in departments).

Nancy S. has been invited to present on trauma at the Board of Directors' annual retreat on June 3 in Jefferson City. She will have 90 minutes early that Saturday morning. Renee is interested in co-presenting.

Renee shared that Bible studies on trauma are being prepared for communities of faith.

Tracy and Nancy S. have been working on a one-pager on trauma and fact sheets for each task force that includes trauma facts. Drafts will be sent out for feedback.

Rachel said that an "ecomap" with trauma at the center could be used to show how our task force issues connect to trauma. JMO can furnish a copy of an ecomap that Rachel prepared on a different topic.

Nancy S. has talked with Emily VonSchenkoff of Missouri Kids First about the potential of a training on trauma in 2018 for the General Assembly. Missouri Kids First would be very supportive of such a training.

Suicide Prevention

Elizabeth McCulloch of Kids Under Twenty-One is not on the call today, but Nancy has been in conversation with her about our desire to be useful to statewide momentum in suicide prevention. A zero suicide packet will be forwarded around for discussion.

Christina is not on the call today, but called out attention to the ways bullying by social media connects to suicide. We are wondering if there are PSA's on bullying that we might try to get placed on statewide media. JMO said Planet Fitness gyms have an anti-bullying campaign on their in gym television programming and perhaps on their website as well.

Renee reminded us that PSA's had been used at one time regarding safe places to drop off a baby if the adult caretaker feels unable to provide care. Nancy E-O said old PSA's may need freshening and that pop-up ads on social media are very affordable.

Nancy E-O said there are several initiatives to teach empathy. Ashley said one such initiative is recycling at a school in Springfield currently. Ashley also pointed out that GLSTEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network) has model policies on anti-bullying policies and statistics.

Renee suggested Family and Consumer Science programs may have resources. (This is the program formerly called "home economics.")

Legislative Session Update

Health care advocates defeated SB 28 (Sen. David Sater, R-Cassville) which could have led to Medicaid block grants or per capita caps, rationing or denying care.

A team of students met with legislators about reforming outdated HIV criminal laws that fail to acknowledge current science and stigmatize people living with HIV. An Interim Committee to study this may be formed this summer.

Rep. Cora Faith Walker (D-Ferguson) filed HB 847 to train teachers in trauma-informed approaches, and Rep. Bruce Franks, Jr. (D-St. Louis City) filed House Resolution 405 declaring youth violence a public health emergency. Both generated much discussion.

SB 43 (Gary Romine, R-Farmington) passed on the final day of Session and is very dangerous. It makes it harder to prove discrimination, repeals whistleblower protections, and could cause us to lose federal Fair Housing Act funds. Working for an employer that discriminates is a terrible situation, and employers need to find a remedy through the courts at times. We urge calls, letters, and emails to the governor asking for a veto. Find contact info at: <https://governor.mo.gov/get-involved/contact-the-governors-office>.

HIV Justice Coalition

Ashley gave an update on the potential retrial of Michael Johnson, the Lindenwood wrestler convicted of not disclosing his status before sexual encounters and sentenced to more than 30 years in prison. His sentence was struck down, but he may be retried.

A letter from his mother has been added to the fundraising website as a Mother's Day campaign to raise more money for Michael's legal defense.

There will be a training for advocates in August, and we especially encourage Persons Living with HIV to apply. Those trained will be making presentations in their communities to educate on changes needed in current policy.

Big Pharma: Market Failure

There will be screenings of this movie and discussion in St. Louis and in Columbia. Empower Missouri is a co-sponsor. We hope those who see the film will want to collect signatures in the CLEAN Initiative to reduce the influence of money in Missouri politics.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Friday, June 9, 1-2:30 p.m.