

Aspire Johnson County
February 22, 2017

Jeff Owen welcomed everyone and held a round robin role call.

Eric Vermilion gave an update on the work of FCFCU, the meeting sponsor.

Jeff thanked David Pfeiffer for hosting us at the museum. David gave an update on some upcoming programs.

Melissa Parramore Franklin School Study Connection. 11 years in operation. Offer homework and mentoring help. Partnered with the school foundation to support academic programs in the Franklin schools. The goal is to connect the schools with community resources, one way is the study buddies. These volunteers spend 1 hour a week with a student to support and assist with homework and reaching out for assistance in social and positive skills, providing a positive role model. Received award for excellence from the state of Indiana for their work with students. One strong community partner has been NSK. Many of the volunteers meet during school hours but can also meet after school hours. This year the program has been expanded into Franklin Middle school, previously it was only the elementary and intermediate school. There is a new program starting with the National Guard Armory in which students are taken there for an hour and paired with a soldier for homework help. The program is always taking new volunteers so there are opportunities for volunteer participation. They are also seeking off campus sites at businesses and companies to help students learn about future careers and receive help with homework and life skills.

Tim Kitchener Sportsworld: Tim is partnering with Nancy Voris from Tobacco Free Johnson County to reach students with a message relating to drug, alcohol and tobacco free. This program has been in existence for 38 years. Indiana currently leads the nation in teen attempted suicides. The founder of the program wanted to find a way to reach these students and found that they listened to messages of help from NFL players. They looked up to these players and would listen to them. The program is no cost to schools and the goal is to bring in these players to speak to students about drugs and alcohol awareness. This program has been held in Johnson County at Indian Creek last year. Through this program, students can be identified and connected to an adult volunteer to reach them and provide assistance and support. The program brings an athlete in for three days of outreach through the schools, boys and girls club, detention centers, churches etc. Tobacco Free Johnson County is working to bring Steve Grant to the county for a three-day outreach in the county. They need volunteers to assist with travel in the county for Steve, reaching out to students, and funding by adopting a school if you are a business. This will take place in April 18-20.

Mike Quaranta, Allison Naum, Bea Northcott, Central 9 work ethic certification: Program will be implemented in Central 9 for next year then the following year implement this program in all 9 sending schools. This program will focus not only on technical skills but also the soft skills and communication skills. The state of Indiana has created the program with certain skills and requirements as part of this. The program can be customized for the county as long as these basic requirements are included. The goal for the county is to have these standards followed in all the school districts in the county. The top five traits this program will focus on in addition to the state requirements are work ethic teamwork, integrity, professionalism, and following directions. These will be narrowed and defined to be more specific and related specifically to employer needs in the county as the program continues to be created.

Team updates:

Placemaking: working on coloring book for the county

Talent: focus is on the career fair and work ethic certification

Growth and planning: trails plans are progressing.

Next meeting will be annual meeting with JCDC. March 15 at 11:30 at Compass Park in Franklin.