

St. Louis Family and Community Partnership

Annual Report 2016

OUR MISSION

Improve policy and practice within the Child Protection System

- Supporting and affirming public and private workers who go the extra mile for the children they serve
- Providing opportunities for education and networking
- Providing opportunities for self-reflection and challenges to grow professionally

Prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families

- Raising public awareness about abuse/neglect and our shared responsibility to keep children safe
- Promoting evidence-based practices to strengthen families
- Connecting families to community resources



Stepping Up for Kids Luncheon

- ▶ Recognizing outstanding resource families and front line staff who have stepped up to make a difference in the lives of the children they serve



2016 Awardees

- ▶ Abby Bell,
Children's Permanency
Partnership
- ▶ Edna Green, Foster and
Adoptive Care Coalition
- ▶ Jennifer Lavelle,
Missouri Children's
Division
- ▶ Edward Vasquez,
St. Louis City Family Court
- ▶ Lynn Zollicoffer,
Missouri Baptist Children's
Home
- ▶ Ramona Brooks,
Resource family
- ▶ Tiffany and Robert
Slouffman,
Resource family

Two hundred and eighty individuals joined in honoring the awardees. Children's Division Director, Tim Decker, was the keynote speaker.





(From right) Emcee Debbie Monterey, St. Louis Family and Community Partnership Co-Chairs, Brenda Maly and Mike Fitzgerald, and SLFCP Coordinator, Ruth Ehresman

Terrific entertainment from the Riverview Gardens Jazz Ensemble, and soloist LaDonna Ellis



Luncheon Planning Committee

- ▶ Deva Blackman, *Good Shepherd Children and Family Services*
- ▶ Mike Fitzgerald, *Our Little Haven/Incarnate Word Foundation*
- ▶ Tijen Gassiraro, *Missouri Alliance for Children & Families*
- ▶ Karen Jones, *Children's Division*
- ▶ Brenda Maly, *Children's Permanency Partnership*
- ▶ Craig Schmid, *St. Louis City Health Department*
- ▶ Susan Shelton, *Community Volunteer*
- ▶ Nickie Steinhoff, *Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition*
- ▶ Jim Braibish, *Vision for Children at Risk*
- ▶ Ruth Ehresman, *St. Louis Family & Community Partnership/VCR*

Educational opportunities

- ▶ Improving the Mental Health of Young Children and Supporting Families, Sanaria Sulaiman, *Project LAUNCH*
- ▶ Signs of Safety and the Full Frame Initiative, Annette House, *Children's Division*
- ▶ Creating Strong, Resilient Communities, Jennifer Brinkmann and Sean Marz, *Alive and Well*
- ▶ Periodic "News you can use" updates share information on training and community resources



- ▶ 2016 Legislative Wrap-Up in partnership with the
 - Regional Early Childhood Council*
 - St. Louis Council on Child Abuse and Neglect*
 - St. Louis Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition*
 - Vision for Children At Risk*

Approximately 105 participants heard presentations by
 Traci Gleason, *Missouri Budget Project*
 Judy Dungan, *Missouri Children's Leadership Council*
 Cherisse Thibaut, *Missouri KidsFirst*
 Christine Woody, *Empower Missouri*

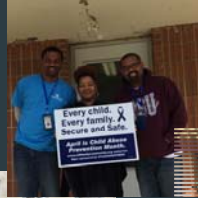


Opportunities for self-reflection and professional growth

- ▶ Self-Evaluation Work Group meets bi-monthly, convened by Barb Eshenroder, the *Children's Division*
 - Examines data for trend
 - Shares experiences of what is working and why
 - Suggests areas for further study and/or improvement
- ▶ Foster Care Recruitment, Training and Retention efforts are spearheaded by Nickie Steinhoff, the *Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition*

Raising public awareness of abuse/neglect and our responsibility as a community to keep children safe

- ▶ Key activities in April, Child Abuse Prevention Month
- ▶ 100 + Yard signs - (pictured) *Peabody Tenant Association, Shaw Avenue Children's Center, Cardinal Glennon Hospital, COMTREA, Parents as Teachers, Normandy, Lume Institute/CCA/UCCC, Children's Division*
- ▶ Social Media - daily posts with more than 5000 views



Promoting evidenced-based practices to strengthen families

- ▶ Training on the Strengthening Families Framework was provided to community groups and organizations. Done in partnership with *United 4 Children* with support from the *Children's Trust Fund*
- ▶ A two-day training by *Be Strong Families* prepared 45 individuals to host Parent Cafés. Teams were recruited by *Beyond Housing/United 4 Children, Children's Permanency Partnership, Haven of Grace, The System of Care, Temple Church of Christ, Youth in Need Head Start*
- ▶ This training was supported through a grant the *Early Childhood Comprehensive System funds Department of Health.*
The William J. Harrison Education Center partnered to provide space for the training.



Healthy Kids Day Family Resource Fair

- ▶ About 200 parents and children participated
- ▶ Thirty-four community organizations linked with families
- ▶ Free food and books for every child, activities, games and fun!



Partners and volunteers made it happen!

- ▶ Partnering organizations

*O'Fallon Park YMCA Recreation Complex
St. Louis Council on Child Abuse and Neglect
St. Louis Family and Community Partnership
The Brown School of Social Work*

- ▶ Planning Committee

*Jim Braibish
Ruth Ehresman
Chris Geden
Cole Hooley
Brenda Maly
Phyllis Miller
Melissa Jonson-Reid
Craig Schmid*

- ▶ Volunteers



In May 2016 the *St. Louis Family and Community Partnership* was honored with a What's Right with the Region Award



THANK YOU!



- ▶ To Council members and volunteers
- ▶ To the Executive Committee, Mike Fitzgerald, Brenda Maly and Pam Mitchell
- ▶ To all of our community partners
- ▶ To those who provide financial support
 - Cardinals Care*
 - The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services*
 - The Children's Trust Fund*
 - Vision for Children at Risk*
 - Table sponsors and donors who supported the Stepping Up for Kids Luncheon*
 - Individual donors*

Together we can make a difference for children!