**3/01/2024 – 10:00 AM CST to 2:00 PM CST**

**Location: Youth Horizons**

**Mentor Kansas Advisory Council Meeting:**

**Facilitator**: Jessica Dorsey

**Attendees**: Jennifer Haley, Heather Shue, Carrie, Meg Pearson, Sophie Archuleta, Kat Seeley

**Not in Attendance: Jim Autrey, Sarah Oltvedt, Amanda Otto**

**Jessica:** Updates on initiatives launched this year. Discussed orientation for new members. received 9 applications for mini grant that have all been funded and 24 partnership programs. 3 have been grandfathered into the gold star, 13 silver level, 8 bronze level. 1 pending application, 2 that have no been placed due to not meeting requirements. Different incentives to try and acquire new gold star members. 5th edition training.

Officially have 8 mentor council members, looking to recruit up to 15 members.

Brief history of the commission.

**Sophie:** SparkWheel **–** identified a 3-year plan for expansion – discussed feeder patters – multiple schools within the same district. Secured partnership in St. louis – will have staff in schools next year. Partnerships with post-secondary institutions expansion. Is looking to connect with Haskel College.

**Heather:** Basehor-Linwood Mentor and CareCats – Talking with middle school phycologist to find mentors to meet the needs of the student. Working at the school level with careers and community partnership to restore aircraft and rebuild aircraft with youth. Offering background check training – schools are informing us that they don’t think they have the funding for background checks.

**Jennifer:** Foster Grandparents- focusing on recruitment. Having issues since covid with recruitment. Covers 4 counties – Some counties feel like having “grandparents” could be a liability. Volunteers must serve 5-15 hours a week, if you complete more hours, you receive more benefits.

**Carrie:** Youth Horizons-Preparing for Easter Sun Run March 29thand it is there 30th anniversary. Have been able to provide mentors (5) for the girls at the Ren House as well as (8 mentors) at the boys home. Challenges with recruitment.

**Meg:** United Way: Days of service improvement, would like to be on the panel for days of service. Funding development, professional development, board training. Looking to partner with small businesses and corporations. Making connections in the fields to encourage new mentors.

**Other Items: Meeting topics –** Continue conversations from last meeting at the beginning of the next meeting. Schedule topics in basecamp – expected deadline for topics. Topics that revolve around the calendar year. Kansas Commission Network basecamp. Finding resources and best practices and sharing this information with the public to support strong programs. Benefit for members – access to basecamp and toolkits based on strong initiatives. Offering ways to support and guild programs. Safety training, providing background checks every 3 years. Character reference. Recommendation from mentorship programs for council members. Invite partner programs to become mentors.

**Meeting Spaces for Next Council Meetings:**

**June 07: Sunflower Bike Shop – Lawrence per Meg. ?**

**Sept. 06: SparkWheel,**

**Dec. 06: Zoom**