



900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 653
Topeka, KS, 66612
mentor@ksde.org
(785) 368-6211

Mentor Kansas Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, March 10, 2023

Emporia Public Library
110 E. 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Sophie Archuleta, Jim Autrey, Jessica Dorsey, Donovan Karber, Tierney Kirtdoll, Sarah Palubinski, Tammy Potts

Welcome & Introductions

Review of the Mission and Vision for Mentor Kansas

Mentor Kansas Updates & Discussion

- MKAC quarterly meeting schedule
 - Tierney set the tone for the upcoming meetings: this will be advisory.
 - MKAC will convene to provide input on how Mentor Kansas follows through on tasks, especially those outlined on Kansas State Service Plan.
 - Those present agreed to have in-person meetings on a quarterly basis from 10 AM – 2 PM.
 - Meetings will be held on June 2 in Lawrence, September 15 in Council Grove, and December 8 in Wichita.
- Affiliate status
 - MENTOR and Mentor Kansas have reconciled.
 - The affiliate agreement is currently being revised but will be sent when ready.
 - MENTOR positively received the update on embedding Mentor Kansas in Kansas Volunteer Commission social media platforms and newsletter.
 - It appears that MENTOR has broadened its scope by including other types of programs in the network.
- Monthly webinar series
 - Kansas Volunteer Committee is hosting monthly webinars on civic engagement, mentoring and volunteering engagement.
 - Mentoring webinars for 2023 (July – December TBA):
 - February: Tierney Kirtdoll - Introduction to Mentor Kansas
 - March: Dr. Kelsey Dachman and Tammy Potts – The role of mentoring in school attendance
 - April: Dr. David Stevens, Tabor College – Trauma-responsive practices in mentoring

- May: Marcus Miller, First Tee - Greater Topeka – Volunteer impact
- June: Sarah Fedorston, Kidzcope (Wichita Children's Home) – Grief support through peer mentorships
- Mentor Capacity Building Mini-Grant
 - Tierney will host 2 community calls, as well as visit each program in person.
 - Grantees will be invited to participate in the monthly webinar series and submit the partnership program application.

Relaunching the Partnership Program

- Overview and current status
- What do we want to achieve?
 - Should mentoring programs acquire the silver star partnership status to be on MKAC?
 - There is value in having different perspectives and staff roles, e.g., community, school, and faith-based programs.
 - Think about the underserved student populations (different areas of need)
 - Safety is paramount. The silver star level is not so difficult to achieve. All mentoring programs should be at the silver star level, so they are adhering to basic safety principles.
 - Peer mentoring for new advisory council members.
 - Revise “volunteers” to “ongoing volunteers.”
 - Mentor Kansas should hold programs accountable but also support them as they complete the gold star assessment.
 - Gold Star was a similar process to NQMS – required to upload supporting documentation in addition to providing responses.
 - Develop a mindset that the EEPM and Gold Star are helping mentoring programs to create safe and effective programs.
 - Evaluation is a long and lengthy process and requires commitment, but ultimately it is about risk management.
 - Recommendation to reach out to MENTOR (Nikki Patanaude).
 - Ask about the NQMS process and consider it against the Gold Star program from Mentor Kansas.
 - Ask how they pitch this in new states.

Updates from Council Members

- Basehor-Linwood Mentors and CareCats
 - Tammy is planning to retire in December 2023
- Christian Association of Youth Mentoring
 - Donovan traveled to Rwanda to assist with the development of mentoring programs.
- Communities In Schools of Mid-America
 - CIS is expanding into PreK and postsecondary. Adding a student support coordinator at Pittsburg State University.

- Council Grove Community Mentoring Program
 - Developing new volunteer position descriptions for class coordinators to assist with teaching the mentoring curriculum.

Guidelines for Council Members

- Reviewed the guidelines document, which was last updated in March 2022.
 - Increase the maximum number of members from 8 to 15.
 - Add the requirements members will either work at mentoring programs at the Silver Star partner level or be current mentors.
- Recruitment for new members will start before December.
 - Consider representation from Boys Scouts, Girls Scouts, 4H, CASA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club.
 - Add a youth representative.
 - Consider the geographical locations.
 - Consider those who different industries, such as information technology, law enforcement, communications.
 - Provide training and mentoring to new members.
- Consider adding point people and or standing committees.

Strategic Planning

- Tierney reviewed the Mentor Kansas strategic plan 2020-2022, and highlighted the objectives not included in the Kansas State Service Plan 2021-2024.
 - Strategic Focus Area 1: Build the funding and staffing capacity of Mentor Kansas.
 - All objectives move forward.
 - Strategic Focus Area 2: Establish Mentor Kansas as a trusted source for mentoring training and resources.
 - The Training Corps is on hold until after the council is at full membership.
 - Strategic Focus Area 3: Build and strengthen relationships within the mentoring community.
 - Due to organizational changes at KSDE, MKAC will not pursue efforts to collaborate with the KSDE Redesign team.
 - Development of resources re: recruiting and retaining diverse mentors is on hold for further discussion.

Next meeting is Friday, June 2 in Lawrence