

Community Engagement Report

August 2021

Visitors - 1

Volunteers - 2

The Community Learning Center (CLC) was open for activities until Tuesday, August 10th. The decision was made to close at this time for the health and safety of the CLC staff and visitors due to a continuing rise of positive and active COVID-19 cases in the area. Until closing, visitors participated in crafts on Tuesdays and Bingo on Friday. Each class was limited to 15 participants (staff included) with required registration. Open times had to be scheduled as an appointment to ensure the building was not overcrowded and space was available. Once the CLC closed activities were offered online via Zoom.

Three Mandt certification classes were held in August. Melissa recertified 11 area Direct Support Professionals and certified six new. Both recertification and new classes have been scheduled for September.

Melissa has continued to work on the website by adding landing pages for the “Meet Our Board” page (will be published once profiles have been collected for each board member), the new AmbassaDDAIRs Volunteer Network, and added resources to the resource page. A new funding landing page is also in the process of being developed with the hopes of adding options for direct donations and a link to the Adair County DD Link AmazonSmile site.

Several tasks were accomplished in August despite the CLC being closed. A job posting was made for a new part-time CLC staff to assist Melissa with the day-to-day operations of the CLC and to assist visitors with their needs as the CLC reopens and moves towards a more regular operating schedule. Applications will be accepted through Friday, September 10, 2021 with interviews beginning as applications are submitted. The CLC coordinated back-to-school event participation with several area schools during the month of August. Due to overlapping dates, several SB40 staff participated in distributing information to area families at these events. Information about services offered through SB40 and the new AmbassaDDAIRs program was shared at these events. Melissa began working with professors, students, and organizations at Truman State University to coordinate activities that will provide learning and growth for visitors of the CLC and TSU students alike. One collaboration involved two Neurodivers students at TSU and employees of an area work support provider to begin planning for the new young adult employment group. All offered ideas, advice, and pertinent information that will be used to move this project forward. Melissa appeared on the KIRX Area Scene show on Tuesday, August 23rd. She shared information about the

new AmbassaDDAIRs group along with the new job posting and the music therapy group starting at the CLC.

Additionally, a round table Coffee Chat with representatives from the Federal, State, and City government was held on August 17th at the CLC. During the discussion information was shared about the services provided by SB40 and future programming.

Finally on August 31st, Music Moves Music Therapy Group Sessions began meeting via Zoom link. Kaelie Gerber met with three people during the first session. Each person reported enjoying the new activity and Melissa is continually reaching out to others to get them involved in addition to setting up outdoor possibilities for September if the CLC remains closed due to area COVID-19 numbers.