

White House Summit on Child Care and Paid Leave: Supporting America's Working Families South Court Auditorium – The White House



Missoula delegation: Mark Roberts (Missoula Early Learning Center), Todd Schaper (Cushing Terrell), Kim Latrielle (Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce)

It was an honor for Missoula, MT to be chosen as one of a few communities across the United States to share our child care models and the process to get business connected to the conversation around an important workforce need.

As the three of us attending prepared a report back to the Chamber Board and community, we found ourselves asking: Why were only a select few communities chosen? Why us? Why Missoula? Are we really doing something different? This is not rocket science that we are accomplishing in Missoula. Or is it?

Our conclusions centered around the fact that Missoula, as a community, with the Missoula Chamber leading the way, is making critical business connections. It is pioneering better business models to enable both child care providers and small businesses to thrive and meet community family needs.

The Missoula Chamber and its members are leading with passion, experience and expertise to improve the availability of child care across the full spectrum of arrangements. Today, more than ever, the Chamber is demonstrating collaboration to serve the better good. Our commitment when we formed a group to spur discussions around child care, was to do so without expecting direct compensation or control – truly putting community first – with the belief that when our community is healthy, so is the Chamber.





Key points:

- Partnerships/Collaboration/Connections
 - Leveraging relationships, sharing successes
 - Connecting child care experts to business and business to child care experts
- Recognized for Innovation – Missoula garners the spotlight locally, statewide and nationally for child care models
 - Governors Office on Child Care panel presentation
 - Zero to Five panel presentation
 - Montana Department of Labor
 - Federal Reserve – Featured article on Missoula
 - Invitation to local, state, regional and national forums and panels
 - Chambers in Montana
 - Chambers across the United States
 - U.S. Chamber
 - Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives
 - White House Child Care Summit
- Bolstering Missoula’s Economy – finding solutions to child care will have a direct and positive impact on our economy. Strengthening workforce, business and families.
 - Advocacy will play a critical role as we continue focusing on workforce and child care.
- Leading the way with collaboration, partnerships and expertise:
 - Child care constructed in vacant local school building: A special thank you and recognition to our Missoula County Public Schools Superintendent and School Board for their collaboration and approval of Missoula Early Learning Center to be located in a vacant school. The Cold Springs lease has been signed, contractors are being selected and a new model for communities across the United States has been accomplished.

PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: January 15, 2020

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Cold Springs Elementary School

Speaking: Jason Rice (Chair of the Chamber Board), Will Johnson (Past Chair of the Chamber Board), Rob Watson (MCPS Superintendent), Mark Roberts (Missoula Early Learning Center), Todd Schaper (Cushing Terrell).

Invited to attend:

YMCA, Headwaters, United Way, Federal Reserve, Montana Department of Labor, Governor’s Child Care Leadership Team, Montana Congressional Delegation, City of Missoula, Missoula County, Missoula Economic Partnership, Chamber Board of Directors, Key Chamber Committees.

