

CO CHAIRS

Mayor David Berger
City of Lima

Tammie Colon
Mental Health Recovery
Services Board of Allen,
Auglaize, and Hardin
Counties

Phil Hayne
United Way of Greater
Lima

PARTNER AGENCIES

**Allen County Court
of Common Pleas Juvenile
Division**

Big Brothers / Big Sisters

Boy Scouts of America

**Bradfield Community
Center**

City of Lima

Crime Victim Services

**Girl Scouts of
Western Ohio**

**Lima Central Catholic
High School**

Lima City Schools

Lima Family YMCA

**Mental Health
Recovery Services Board**

**Northwest Ohio
Literacy Council**

**Ohio Means Jobs -
Allen County**

**St. Gerard Elementary
School**

The Salvation Army

United Way of Greater Lima

**West Ohio Community
Action Partnership**

West Ohio Food Bank

Youth Commission



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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Release

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Youth Commission Announced

Initiative to Begin Offering Afterschool Programming in Fall 2019

Lima— January 18, 2019 —Today Lima Mayor David Berger, United Way of Greater Lima Community Impact Director Amber Martin, and Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties Associate Executive Director, Tammie Colon announced a major initiative to close opportunity gaps and increase social, academic, and community support for area children.

The bold initiative will be governed by a newly formed public-private partnership, entitled the Youth Commission (Commission).

The service delivery model will focus on afterschool programming involving academic enrichment, recreation, the arts, and 21st Century skills and include behavioral health services, transportation, food services, and family engagement and support services.

Joined by Allen County Court of Common Pleas- Juvenile Division, Lima City Schools, Lima Catholic Schools and a host of local non-profit social service agencies with a focus of providing services to children, the group plans to offer a pilot after-school program to area students at two host schools - North Middle School and St. Gerard Elementary School as early as the Fall of 2019.

"Providing out-of-school programs is a shared priority by all of the partners", said United Way Community Engagement Director, Amber Martin. "Education is a priority of United Way. Providing our children with educational enrichment opportunities, is an investment in the long term economic vitality of our community."

This is a major step in our community's continued effort to invest in the future of our children," said Mayor Berger. "It will take all of us –public, private, and non-profit partners working together to ensure all of our children have the best opportunity to succeed."

"We hope that these programs will enrich the lives of our students inside and outside the classroom and also lead to better school attendance, improved classroom behavior and academic performance," said Natalie Schnoover, Principal at St. Gerard's Elementary School.

"We are delighted to celebrate this progress toward our shared goals of a community-wide system for kids and families," said Jill Ackerman, Lima City Schools Superintendent. "We are committed to this effort because our children deserve it."

"Our agency currently offers behavioral health services within the schools", added Tammie Colon. "We accepted the invitation to join this effort because behavioral health is a major issue that affects many children and their families."

This collaboration between the City of Lima, the United Way, and the Mental Health Recovery Services Board sets a great example of how we continue to invest in our children in the classroom and in the community, said Mayor Berger.

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