

**Butler County
Child & Family Development Task Force
January 16, 2008**

VISION STATEMENT

The Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force, with community support, ensure quality, available, and affordable childcare, early childhood education, children's health services and family support for all children in Butler County.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees (13 total): Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRRA/WAGE\$; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Teresa Thompson, BCC EduCare; Janett Jacobs, Tri-County CASA, Inc; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Leslie Sissel, Parents As Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Kathlene Medlin, Mid-CAP Head Start; Sue Givens, USD 490; Jennifer Hecker, KACCRRRA

Introductions, Announcements, & Guest Presenter: Audra, Smart Start Coordinator, welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. Minutes from last month's meetings were available for those who needed them; this month's agenda was distributed.

Kris Nicholson from KACCRRRA gave a brief description of the WAGE\$ program and provided us with a pamphlet.

- This program provides salary supplements to child care educators working in licensed child care programs; supplements are based on the educational level of the educator and contingent upon the successful completion of a six month commitment period working directly with children. Ours is one of Six Smart Start programs in the state that have provided funding for early educators in their communities.

Calendar for 2008: Audra handed out the 2008 meeting calendar. The library will not be available in April or August. Sue Givens, Superintendent of El Dorado Schools, offered the use of the basement meeting room at the central office (124 W. Central; El Dorado) for our April Meeting. Audra will seek a location for our August meeting. We worked to assign a guest presenter to each meeting. Our March meeting will fall during Spring Break; the group decided to not have a meeting that month, unless something pressing arises and we decide in February to reschedule the March meeting rather than cancel it. A new calendar with the changes will be sent out with the minutes from this meeting. Please look over the calendar and if you would like to sign up to be a guest speaker on the dates that are open, contact Audra.

Smart Start 2007 Report: Audra provided an update on Smart Start 2007 accomplishments. KQRS – 22 classrooms. WAGE\$ - 20 participants. Provider trainings – 17.5 hours of free trainings. BCC Early Childhood Scholarships – Scholarships to 5 people for 12 classes. Start Up Funds – 8 were provided. Infant Care Supplements – 4 participants. Incredible Years Parent Training Series – we held 2 classes and 17 parents successfully completed. Mental Health Specialist – provided Developmental Screenings, Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plans, and consulted with staff of 16 different centers. Audra showed the group the “Recipes for Readiness” CDs that were created with PILLAR funds and distributed in December to every licensed and registered child care center and home.

Strategic Planning Work: We broke into two groups and did some brainstorming and work on the plan. After 30 minutes we came back to the big group and reported what we discussed. Audra will add changes to the Strategic Plan – using the new dates and identified individuals to carry out the tasks.

- **Child Care:** We addressed the activity re: centralized list of training opportunities, and discussed the Website that should be online within the next week. In addition to listing Smart Start and Child Start trainings, we will look into adding to our training list the Food Program trainings in Butler County and we will add the Day Care Orientation trainings that Jamie holds. To ensure that trainings are held at multiple locations across the county, Marcie will work with Child Start to be sure they look at having classes at Andover (and possibly Augusta) as well as Rose Hill and El Dorado. To be sure we are getting information to parents/caregivers we will utilize media releases via Rainbows and the website. Jamie informed us that there is a list of relative child care givers to whom we could be mailing our information; Audra will talk with Debra Mattingly to ask if it would be ok to do a mailing via Jamie. Brainstorming on determining what would be most beneficial to parents/caregivers (re: trainings): Put some a checklist regarding how to look for quality child care on the website, conduct a survey – EduCare students could help as volunteers for calling or mailings.
- **Advocacy and Partnerships:** To address several of the activities, it was decided that a presentation be developed in January and February 2008 that can be morphed to fit the specific needs of the groups to whom we will be presenting. Audra will discuss this matter with Rainbows Marketing to ensure that the presentation goes with the website. In March – May we will create and examine a list of individuals not currently attending Task Force meetings. We will contact them to determine their level of participation and follow up with them regarding what our task force is currently doing and how we can work with their agency/program.

Final Comments: We took up a collection for Bradford Memorial Library. We had committed to taking up the collection in December but that meeting was cancelled. Cash and checks (written to Bradford Memorial Library) were collected for a total donation of \$78.00. Audra spoke with Hollis Helmecci, Director of the Library, in December and asked her to use the funds for the purchase of items that would benefit children with hearing and/or vision impairments. A letter to Ms Helmecci accompanied the funds when they were delivered. We are in the beginning stages of the Fatherhood Initiative – if anyone knows of a father who would be interested in being part of the planning process, please get the name of that person to Audra.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20 from 11 – 1 pm at Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Guest Presenter will be Marcy Cone of Child Start.

Note: If you or someone you know would like to be added to the mailing list for the Butler County Child & Family Development Task Force, please email Audra Kenneson at akenneson@rui.org