

Butler County
Child & Family Development Task Force
April 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 (15 total): Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Crystal Franks, Child Start; Beverly Davis, Butler BCC Adult Education; Sarah Linn, RUI; Susan Duncan, BCC EduCare; Jamie Jellison, BCC EduCare; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sue Sommers Barrientos, BCC EduCare; Sue Givens, USD 490; Leslie Sissel, Rose Hill Parents as Teachers; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Jamie Trisha Smith, South Central Mental Health; Debbie Mai, RUI; Tim Wyer, Mid-CAP Head Start;

Introductions & Announcements: Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves. Sue Givens, Superintendent for El Dorado Schools, stated that \$30,000 in matching funds for the Parents as Teachers Program were not awarded as expected; the school district needs an agency that can partner with them to provide the funds to match that of the district. If there is an agency that can help, please contact Sue Givens at USD 490's Central Office at 316.322.4800.

Guest Presenter: Marla Canfield, Program Consultant with ECAAP's Apprenticeship Program, gave a brief description of the program and its history; she also provided several handouts of information. ECAAP offers a registered apprenticeship program to promote education in early childhood educators. It provides on the job training; stipends to pay for college credits, books, and the CDA Assessment; and at the end of the two year program, the participating educator will have earned a CDA and Credentials for Apprenticeship. Employers of the apprentice have standards to which they must abide. The participating mentor must have two years of experience and 20 hours of college credit. The mentor receives \$200 per year to meet with the apprentice 15 hours per week and complete logs that focus on the 8 core competencies. ECAAP is located at 150 N. Main, Suite 100 in Wichita. Marla can be reached at 316.771.6830 or mcanfield@kansascommerce.com.

B-K Alliance (Vioneering) Update: Debbie Mai reported on the Birth – K Alliance. Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner Counties are part of the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area. Grant money from the Children's Cabinet was used to develop an Early Childhood Strategic System for the MSA. Each county needed a Strategic Plan, which then would become part of the larger plan for the MSA. Overall recurring themes were Child Care (affordability and availability), community partnership, advocacy, social emotional mental health, parenting education, etc. There were three "Overarching" themes of Child Care, Parent Education, and Mental Health. They are now working on identifying individuals from area businesses to be partners in helping to carry the early childhood message. We spent time as a group identifying individuals from various towns in Butler County who might be possible business partners. Audra will work more closely with Debbie on this task.

Kansas Action for Children – Kids Count Data: Audra handed out information that was posted on www.kac.org. Butler County is considered Semi-Urban, according to this report. We looked at the information regarding Butler County and also information that grouped all Semi-Urban counties together. The actual report can be found at <http://www.kac.org/kac.aspx?pgID=886>.

Fatherhood Summit: In April, Audra attended the Kansas Fatherhood Summit, which was held in Kansas City. Provided at the Summit was a “Resource Guide for Fathers and Service Providers.” This guide contains information about child development, activities for fathers to do with their children, and information about existing Fatherhood Coalitions in Kansas. This guide is offered free from Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC). Audra can order guides for any agency that would like to have some for their workers and/or parents. Let Audra know by the end of April if you would like add to her order.

Group Work & Discussion on Strategic Plan:

Audra handed out an updated version of our Strategic Plan. Audra will add the updated copy to the website.

- **Logo:** Three possible logo graphics were created by RUI Marketing. They were distributed around the table and each person present was asked to vote for the logo he/she liked best. The third choice was chosen. Audra will contact RUI to ensure that the logo is utilized on items printed in the future.
- **Executive Summary Card:** The information card that was utilized last year needs to be updated. Agencies to add to the list of partners were identified. Audra will work with RUI in updating the card. The new Task Force logo will be added to it.
- **Power Point:** We discussed as part of our Strategic Plan the creation of a power point presentation that can be utilized when presenting to various groups and identified partners across the county. The power point should be short, and should have sections that also tie us into the Wichita MSA. This presentation will be given by several different members of the Task Force. Audra will work with Debbie in creating something for the viewing pleasure of those in attendance at May’s Task Force meeting.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 from 11 – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. We will have two guest presenters. Susan Harsh will discuss Infant/Toddler Services, part of the *tiny-k* network. Kathy Gann will discuss Children’s Mercy.

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