

**Butler County
Child & Family Development Task Force
June 18, 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 (14 total): Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jamie Jellison, BCC EduCare; Sue Sommers-Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood Program; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Connie Hamilton, BCC EduCare; Trisha Smith, South Central Mental Health Center; Tim Wyer, Mid-CAP; Luann McFadden, Bright Beinnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United, Inc.; Valecia Vogts-Scribnet, Big Brogthers/Big Sisters; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Christy Thomas, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (Guest).

Introductions & Announcements:

- Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.
- Jamie Downs brought copies of the cookbook created by the Health Department; they are free to WIC recipients, anyone can purchase one for \$3.00. The recipes in the book utilize fruits and vegetables. Anyone can purchase the book for \$3.00. Jamie also announced that on Friday, June 27th, the Heath Department is doing free HIV screenings from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- Tim Wyer announced that a new Parent Talk class will start on July 7. For more information, contact Tim at 316.775.3000 ext. 122. He also announced that Mid-CAP will be providing an auto-care clinic in August. It will be at Ace Automotive in El Dorado. For more information, contact Tim at 316.775.3000 ext. 122. Tim reported that Mission El Dorado was a success. They had 25 projects and raised \$15,000. All workers were volunteers. They are looking for licensed contractors to finish some of the jobs. For more information contact Barbara at 316.775.3000 ext. 101.
- Audra announced for Sue Choens that an Adult Education Orientation will be held July 2 & 3. Students need to sign up and complete the intake process prior to June 27. For more information contact 316.321.4030 ext. 100 or visit their website at www.butlercc.edu/abe_ged.
- Trisha Smith announced that the Odyssey Program, a summer program for kids, started in July. She also reported that the Mental Health Center is filling positions.
- Audra passed copies of articles in the El Dorado Times and the Augusta Gazette. The articles were announcing the website, www.butlerkids.org. Audra also passed out post cards that are being mailed this week that announce the website.

Guest Presenters:

- Jamie Jellison – Butler Community College Early Childhood Program & EduCare: Jamie Jellison shared information about the Early Childhood Program. Students have options which

include a one year certificate, a CDA, the apprenticeship program, and an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood. Scholarships are utilized by students: They work five hours a week in EduCare and receive \$400 toward their tuition/books, or they work 10 hours a week to receive \$900. Smart Start also provides Early Childhood Scholarships to students. T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships were offered, but the funding for that program was terminated. EduCare is a nationally accredited, 5-star center. They serve children of faculty, staff, and community members. They are currently serving 111 children and are in need of early childhood workers. There is currently a waiting list of 6 to 8 months after the baby is born, which underlines the county-wide need for infant care. For more information about the Early Education Program, contact Sue Barrientos at 316.322.3182 or ssommers@butlercc.edu. For more information about EduCare, contact Jamie Jellison or Susan Duncan at 316.322.3182.

- Christy Thomas – The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society provides services to patients and families with blood cancer diagnoses. 75% of the money they raise goes into research. They are located in Wichita. The number one request is for financial aid. Everyone qualifies for \$500; they gave \$75,000 in Kansas last year. Other services offered include: family support groups, a co-pay assistance program, patient education, links to community resources, and a “Back to School” program. Free booklets and pamphlets can be ordered online at www.lls.org. They are sponsoring Light of the Night Walk, which will be held Saturday, September 20 at Exploration Place in Wichita. For more information about services, contact Christy Thomas at 316.226.4050 or Christy.Thomas@LLS.org.

Birth – K Alliance for Visioneering Wichita - MSA: Debbie Mai reported that \$11.1 million went into the Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund and is designated for early childhood. The RFP has not been released, and we do not know what the RFP will include. The Wichita MSA (of which we are a part) is considering submitting a proposal to utilize some of the grant funds. The Wichita MSA includes Harvey, Butler, Sumner, and Sedgwick Counties. The four counties in the MSA serve 1/3 of the population. When the RFP is released, our task force will meet to make decisions regarding our participation in the grant. Debbie will provide information to Audra who will forward the information to task force members. We will call a meeting when it is time to come together to make decisions. Audra will send out information prior to the meeting and ask for feedback from individuals who will be unable to attend.

Upcoming Trainings in Butler County (all listed on the website):

- Tuesday, June 24 – Health Department training – Beans, Beans the Musical Fruit.
- Saturday, June 8 – Smart Start training at BCC – Literacy in the Classroom.
- Saturday, July 26 – Smart Start training at First Baptist Church, Augusta – Conscious Discipline
- Saturday, August 23 – Smart Start training at Head Start, Augusta – Behavior Supports
- Child Start will wrap up a three part training at EduCare on 6/16/08

Other:

- Sue Barrientos attended the Child Care Licensing System Improvement meeting. They are looking at changing regulations. The committees have been asked to have their work submitted by August. They did some “quick fixes” that were released earlier this year. The main concern now is the lack of training and our state's low rating because registered

homes do not have visits; registered homes may possibly have an initial visit in the future. Another concern is keeping in mind the cost of the changes (on all parties) as they move forward.

- Audra has heard from a number of members who are having difficulty getting to our meetings, because of busy summer schedules. The decision was made to cancel the July 16 and August 20 meetings. However, we will be calling a meeting to discuss participating with the Wichita MSA in the submission of the RFP mentioned previously in these minutes. Audra will contact members when that time arises.

Next Meeting: Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 from 11 – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Leslie Sissel will provide us with information about Parents as Teachers and Valecia Vogts-Scribner will provide information about Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Butler County.

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

Minutes written by Audra Kenneson, LMSW
June 18, 2008