

**Butler County  
Child & Family Development Task Force  
August 20, 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 (22 total):** Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Cayla Wasson, Connecting Point; Jamie Jellison, BCC EduCare; Sue Sommers-Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood Program; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Marcy Cone, Child Start; James Garrett, Rainbows United, Inc.; Sue Givens, USD 490; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood Program; Penny Blanchet, Headstart; Jane Eby, Rainbows United, Inc.; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRRA; Marla Canfield, ECCAP; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Gayle Shelton, Smart Start; Susan Duncan, BCC EduCare; Loraine Dold, Rainbows United, Inc.; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Valecia Vogts-Scribnet, Big Brogthers/Big Sisters; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Ken Grochowsky, SRS; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United, Inc.

**Introductions :**

Audra welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Block Grant Discussion:**

Jim Garrett will be writing the grant for the Wichita MSA Birth – K Alliance. We will apply for the grant in a joint application with Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner counties. If / when the grant is awarded, Connecting Point would administer the grant and Rainbows United has volunteered to be the Fiscal Agent for no charge. Sue Barrientos and Debbie Mai represent Butler County at the B-K Alliance meetings.

After looking at the strategic plans for all four counties, three recurring themes were seen: Mental Health, Children/Family Support, and Infant Slots/Child Care. The attendees were asked to brainstorm where we might use funds in our county to address these or other early childhood and infant/toddler concerns.

- Brainstorming Topics:
  - Parents As Teachers – El Dorado & Augusta do not have this service at this time and need it. Circle and Andover contract through Clearwater.
  - Sliding Scale Child Care – tied to quality
    - Parenting Education Commitment
      - Great Beginnings (El Dorado)
      - Birth Care Center (Augusta)
      - Smart Start (Various Locations in Butler County) – could add classes. Currently do two 12-week sessions per week, but could add more.

- Role Models
  - Supplement for Families for Child Care – tied to parenting education
- Mental Health
  - Additional person
  - Support Group for Parents in Butler County
  - Play Groups for children with behaviors
  - Need to train staff in centers to work with children in their behaviors
- Oral Health
  - There is only one dentist in the county that will see children who have a medical card.
- Special Needs Supplement (like Infant Care Supplement) for child care providers who choose to take a child with special needs.
- Few centers or homes that have any kind of accreditation in Butler County.
- Cost of registered child care going to licensed child care.
- Very small communities have nothing in the way of services in Butler County.
- All counties in MSA need to have T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ - Package Deal KQRS – Add education piece.

When asked to name the top four choices:

1. Explore Parents As Teachers
2. Mental Health Specialist
  - a. Personnel
  - b. Support Groups & Play Groups
3. Sliding Scale Supplement Families
  - a. Tied to training
  - b. Expand existing parenting classes
4. Additional Supplements to Providers to take Additional Children
  - a. Infants
  - b. Special Needs
  - c. Medical Cards

If anyone has questions, concerns, or additional information to add, please send an email to Audra and she will forward the information. Audra, Jane, and Debbie will be working on the Butler County part of the grant and will get the information to Jim. If Audra needs information from any agency (budget information, etc) she will contact the agency. Thank you in advance for your help!

**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](mailto:akenneson@rui.org)*

Minutes written by Audra Kenneson, LMSW  
August 20, 2008