



**Butler County Child & Family Development  
Task Force  
November 19, 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; Barb Roths, Butler County Extension; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Marla Canfield; ECAAP; Leslie Sissel, Parents As Teachers Rose Hill; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRRA; Ken Grochowsky; SRS Community Outreach Liaison; Melissa Baumgartel, Butler County Sp. Ed. Cooperative Early Childhood Teacher Facilitator; Amanda Dorey, South Central Mental Health Center CBS Support; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United, Inc.; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO.

**Introductions & Announcements:**

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Two new individuals joining the group: Amanda Dorey (will be attending when Trisha Smith cannot) and Melissa Baumgartel.
- Audra passed out Rainbows Readers.
- Jamie Downs reminded everyone that it is time to get flu shots.
- Jamie Downs reported that December 1 is World AIDS day. 10 – Noon Katherine Theisen will be speaking at BCC campus. Free nursing CEUs can be obtained. 1:00 a young man living with AIDS will speak. Attendees are encouraged to call the Butler County Health Department 321.3400 for more information or to RSVP.

**Guest Presenters:**

- Kathlene Medlin was scheduled to speak about Head Start. She was unable to attend the meeting.
- It was mistakenly reported that Jamie Downs was scheduled to speak about the Butler County Health Department this month. Jamie is instead scheduled to speak at December's meeting.

**Update on Early Childhood Grant:**

Debbie Mai and Audra (Butler County representatives on the Wichita MSA grant) reported the following information. The MSA received word that the grant was approved for \$1.1 Million for the group. The Children's Cabinet reported that they would fund initiatives pertaining to Infant/Toddler Child Care and Early Childhood Mental Health. The Butler County supplements and Scholarships and the addition of a Mental Health Specialist will receive funding. There were

some programs (Incredible Years and Parents as Teachers) which will not receive funding. The Alliance Leadership will meet the next three Mondays to work out the details. Audra, Sue Barrientos, and Debbie continue to represent Butler County and will attend the planning meetings. We will report back to the group at the December meeting about what we have learned.

### **2009 Smart Start Grant:**

In 2008 we offered the following through the Smart Start Grant.

- 1.5 Mental Health Specialists
- 2 Incredible Years Classes
- 5 Start-Up Grants
- 7 Infant Supplement Grants
- 33 KQRS Classrooms
- 20 WAGES\$ Participants
- Provider Trainings
- EC Scholarships to BC Students
- Fatherhood Initiative

This year's grant will not be competitive and will remain at level funding. The RFP will be out soon. We will report more at the December Meeting. *(note: The RFP for the 2009 Smart Start Grant was released the afternoon after the Task Force meeting and the grant will be completed and turned in by December 15.)*

**Next Meeting:** Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 from 11 – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Jamie Downs will provide us with information about the Butler County Health Department. We will take up a voluntary collection to donate to the Bradford Memorial Library and ask them to purchase items for young children and/or children with special needs.

*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)*