



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
January 21, 2009**

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 (17 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Gayle Shelton, Bright Beginnings/Smart Start; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Kathy Gann, Children's Mercy; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone (person for her), Child Start; Mark Wirth, 1st Church of the Nazarene; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Melissa Baumgartel, Butler County Special Education Coop; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood Education Director; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood Lead Instructor; Trisha Smith, SCMHC CBS Director; Valecia Vogts-Scribnet, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Jeff Weir, guest student with Butler County Administration.

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Teresa Thompson reminded us about Prairie Land Food. The program is ongoing. More community people are doing it, they have about 27 – 29 prairie packs each month. If they can get up to 50 orders each month, the truck will come to El Dorado. Currently, the EduCare people go to meet the truck in Augusta to get the food. This program promotes volunteerism, etc. Please pass the word along.
- Jamie let us know they still have flu mist available. They need to give them out by the end of January.
- Audra let the class know that the first Incredible Years class has started. It is at EduCare on Monday nights and has an enrollment of sixteen adults.
- Kathy Gann reminded us that they do a mileage reimbursement. Please keep it in mind and remind any of our clients that Children's Mercy has this program. Only about 4% of the members use it.

Guest Presenters:

- Trisha Smith, CBS Director at South Central Mental Health Counseling Center –There are lots of changes going on at SCMHC. They are trying to raise funds to build a new El Dorado Office, they are “busting at the seams.” CBS currently has fit rhythm group, a social/emotional skills program based out of the Augusta office. They are planning their Odyssey Summer camp for ages 3 through 15 – where kids learn team building, anger management, and social skills. They rotate the kids through groups where they do crafts, environmental classes, physical activity classes, etc. Last year, they held it at the

Methodist Church in Augusta. This program is free to kids who are SED. CBS programs also include Social Stars, which is a therapeutic preschool program, located in Augusta, Leon and El Dorado. 316.775.5491 ext. 6 or trishasmith@scmhcc.kscoxmail.com.

2008 Review of Smart Start Grant :

- Children's cabinet approved us for \$357,152 – which is a 3.6% cut from the level funding we requested (\$370,490). The main impact on our budget is that we will cut one of the three Incredible Years classes for the year.

Early Childhood Block Grant :

- Mental Health Specialist
 - Audra is in the process of interviewing for this position.
- Scholarships and Supplements
 - 3 Infant Supplement Grants
 - 3 Special Needs Supplement Grants
 - 20 Early Childhood Scholarship Grants
 - The Advisory Committee is currently going in the approval process for the application documents. When they receive final approval, Audra will post online and let everyone know so we can start encouraging people to apply.

Smart Start Grant Update:

Parenting Coalition Update – Sue Barrientos

Sue was late to the meeting, so Audra provided this update. The Parenting Coalition will do four, two-hour trainings for parents. The instructors will be paid a stipend of \$50. The students will be charged \$5 unless they are a C-CAMPIS Grant parent, then they receive the funds for free. C-CAMPIS will provide free child care. Kathy Gann said that she can come and tell about their services and provide further information. We can also have a table of information about services throughout the county at the meetings. Sue will schedule the dates of the meetings and Audra will arrange for instructors.

2009 Schedule, Where can YOU help?:

We have several openings for speakers in 2009. Please look at the schedule and see if you can help out. If you have something to share, sign up for a time. If you know of someone with information that the group would find interesting and helpful, please let Audra know.

Next Meeting: Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Cathy Gray from Kansas Healthy Kids will be joining us to present information about her program.

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