



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
February 18, 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; Barb Roths, Butler County Extension; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jackie Tanner/ Child Start KQRS Coach; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Kathy Gann, Children's Mercy; Kris Nicholson; KACCRRRA T.E.A.C.H./WAGES; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Mark Wirth, 1st Church of the Nazarene; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sandra Chavez, UniCare; Sarah Linn, Rainbows United, Inc; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood Education Director; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood Lead Instructor; Teresa Leonard, Bradford Memorial Library; Valecia Vogts-Scribner, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Teresa Thompson reminded us about Prairie Land Food. The new March menu will be out soon. They had more participants. When they reach 50 participants in El Dorado, the truck will come to El Dorado. They are still meeting the truck in Augusta to get El Dorado's food. Currently they need volunteers to help with distribution.
- Jamie Downs told us that on April 4, there will be a women's fair at the Gym at BCC. The fair will last from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Dale Tower told us that there is a Developmental Disabilities Group that is working on developing a disabilities mentoring day. Typically October is the month to do activities, but they are looking to have a pilot event on March 5. They need employers who will give about 2 hours. Jackie Vietti is the keynote speaker for that day. Get a hold of Dale for more information.
- Barb Roths reported that Walk Across Kansas is starting. Teams of five are needed. This activity promotes self health and fitness. It costs \$7.00 per person and runs from March 8 through May 2.
- Valecia Vogts-Scribnet reported that Big Brothers/Big Sisters have been notified that they will need to obtain a new office space. They need two large offices. If anyone knows where they can move to an affordable location, please let her know. Also it is time for "Bowl for Kids Sake." This activity makes up about 1/4 to 1/3 of the budget for BB/BS. The dates will span from March 8 through first weekend in April.
- Kathy Gahn reported that Children's Mercy will be hosting a free swim at the South YMCA in Wichita this Sunday from 1 to 4. The Kansas Learning for Health (in Halstead)

has educational opportunities for groups of people. If you let them know you heard about it through Children's Mercy, it will be free through December 2009. Children's Mercy can help pay for travel expenses too!

- Audra reported that March 10 is the quarterly meeting of the Wichita Child Abuse Fatalities Community Response Team. If anyone wants to participate in that group, please let Audra know and she will get that information to you. Audra also passed out Rainbows Readers for February.
- Marcy Cone reminded us that Growing with Children conference through Child Start will be March 7.

Guest Presenters:

- Jackie Tanner, KQRS Coach – Child Start: Jackie handed out information about the number of classrooms involved with KQRS through Child Start. The Kansas Quality Rating System (KQRS) is a tiered quality rating system that focuses on quality improvement in early care and education through a system that produces high-quality outcomes for children and families. Participating programs will receive a rating of 1 to 5 stars, based on a Quality Rating assessment score, followed by participation in Quality Improvement Activities with the intent to increase the star-rating and the quality of early childhood programs. Programs are assessed and coached in five key areas of program quality: Learning environment, family partnership, training and education, adult/child ratios and group size, and program accreditation. Butler County currently is funding 31 classrooms to participate in KQRS through the Smart Start grant. As the KQRS Coach, Jackie works with the participating child care providers and looks at the Quality Performance Profile to see where the providers can make improvements. If you have any questions about KQRS, you can contact Jackie at Child Start 316.682.1853 or jtanner@childstart.org.

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 forms went through the final approval process and will be posted to the web soon.

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.

Week of the Young Child:

On March 13, there will be a planning meeting for people who will be involved in this April 19 event. They plan to do a balloon launch on Monday of that week. The library will be displaying art work and have a musician come in.

Other:

Teresa Leonard, the children's librarian at Bradford Memorial Library told us that several people come to her to get information about child care, etc. We are encouraged to let the library know about events and opportunities, so they can pass that information along to their patrons.

Next Meeting: We will not have a March meeting. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15 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

Minutes written by Audra Kenneson, LMSW
March 10, 2009