



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
April 15, 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 (19 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Kathlene Brown, Mid-CAP Head Start; Kathy Gann, Children's Mercy; Ken Grochowsky, SRS; Kris Nicholson; KACCRRRA T.E.A.C.H./WAGES; Leslie Sissel, Parents-As-Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sandra Chavez, UniCare; Sarah Linn, Rainbows United, Inc; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood Lead Instructor; Teresa Leonard, Bradford Memorial Library; Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Susan Harsh announced that her staff was awarded one of the three best practice awards.
- Teresa Thompson said that there is an early childhood student group with 17 members that meets one time per month. They are mostly non traditional students working in the field. They may send a representative to come to our meeting.
- Kathy Gann reminded us about their program to help cover cost of programs that want to go to Halstead to the Kansas Learning for Health program. They also will do Body Venture next year in schools.
- Audra passed out the rainbows reader.
- Teresa Thompson reminded us about Prairie Land Food. Last month had the biggest number of participants so far. They are still trying to reach 50 participants.
- Teresa Leonard told us of the website the library is working on and if any of us want to have a link on their page, please let her know.
- Jodi told us that the YMCA has their Andover open house on May 2. The child care center will open on August 3. They will serve 98 total children. They will have summer camps for K – 12 years this summer in Andover.

Guest Presenters:

- Cathy Gray – Kansas Healthy Kids Director at KACCRRRA: Cathy passed out an information sheet, her business card, Kansas Child magazines, and a brochure. She provided us with the Healthy Kansas Kids Project report. Child obesity is an epidemic – the US is overfed and undernourished. We are more inactive than we were in the past.

Obesity carries with it healthy risks. There was a study of activity among children in child care homes and centers, the results shows that children were inactive. They have implemented a self-care workshop for child care providers. Their grant will end in June. If you have any questions, you can contact Cathy 877.678.2548 or cathy@kaccrra.org.

Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grant Update:

- Cash Match - \$4,345.40 from Flint Hills CDDO reserve funds (need approximately \$10,000 more)
 - Thank Dale for helping us come up with that money. We still need to find more to meet the requirement.
- Mental Health Specialist
 - Audra introduced Kathy Van Zelfden who was hired with funds from the block grant to provide mental health services. Kathy thanked us for working on the grant that enabled us to hire her.
- Scholarships and Supplements
 - We have begun giving out the scholarships and have more to give out. Please tell everyone about what we have to offer!

2009 Schedule, Where can YOU help?

We are still working on filling out the schedule, but we are getting it complete. It was recommended that maybe we could have Sue Barrientos report on what the BEST Team is doing.

Fatherhood Initiative:

Mark was unable to attend, so Audra reported for him. Saturday, June 20 in El Dorado and Augusta there will be an activity at the libraries that focus on children and their dad (granddad, uncle, etc).

Other:

Audra told the group that she had a Smart Start booth at the Women's Health Fair at Butler Community College. We have Dental Clinics scheduled for early in June.

Debbie Mai reported on the B – K Alliance. The Chamber contracted with the Self Help organization and that contract has ended. They will no longer be facilitating those meetings. The group will continue to meet.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Guest presenters will be Dee Ziegert and Mary Jo Mason from Children's Mercy.

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