



**Butler County Child & Family Development  
Task Force  
July 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 (17 total):**

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Ken Grochowsky, SRS; Jackie Tanner, Child Start; Mark Wirth, First Church of the Nazarene; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sandra Chavez, UniCare; Sarah Linn, Rainbows United; Suzi Thien, SCARF; Teresa Leonard, Bradford Memorial Library; Valecia Vogts-Scribner, Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Stefani Brand, Marriage for Keeps; Bianca Montagnino-Simmons, Marriage for Keeps; Marta Curry, Waddell & Reed (Guest); Carson Bond, Waddell & Reed (Guest).

**Introductions & Announcements:**

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Marla – 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Child Care and Preschool in El Dorado has been approved to be an ECAAP Partner. Participants in the apprenticeship program get 20 hours of early childhood credits, books, tuition and fees are paid and they get a certificate of apprenticeship for Early Childhood. EduCare is also a partner. Wee Rockets have been in talks with Marla for the program as well. For information about the Apprenticeship program contact Marla at [mcanfield@kansascommerce.com](mailto:mcanfield@kansascommerce.com).
- Mark – The Ministerial Alliance is working on the Community Assistance Network (CAN) which keeps track of what church provides what service and who utilizes the services. CAN is based out of the Trinity United Methodist Church on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm. People requesting services from any church will be asked to go to Trinity to fill out a form of what they need, and then they will go to the church that offers the service they need. This will increase communication among the churches for better coordination of services. For more information about CAN, contact Mark at [mark.wirth@att.net](mailto:mark.wirth@att.net).
- Ken – Wednesday, September 9 is Get To Know Your SRS in El Dorado from 10 am to noon. The Regional Director will be there to answer any questions. There will be cookies. You can reach Ken at [ken.grochowsky@srs.ks.gov](mailto:ken.grochowsky@srs.ks.gov).
- Jodi – The Y in Andover will be having their open house on July 30 from 4 pm to 8 pm. There will be cookies. The child care recently received a truck load of supplies that were

on order. They are preparing to start serving children soon. For more information about child care at the YMCA in Andover, you can reach Jodi at [jodi@wichitaymca.org](mailto:jodi@wichitaymca.org)

- Valecia – Big Brothers/Big Sisters are needing “Little Sisters” county wide. BB/BS serve children 5 to 17 years old. Also, they recently moved 1 block west of where they were. Their new office is at 116 W. Central. For more information, you can contact Valecia at [vscribner@ksbbbs.org](mailto:vscribner@ksbbbs.org).
- Jamie D. – WIC is going through major changes. They are re-doing the whole program in a positive way. For more information about the changes, you can reach Jamie at [jdowns@bucoks.com](mailto:jdowns@bucoks.com).
- Dale – Flinthills just completed their strategic plan. Transition is one of the goals – including transition from early childhood into case management services. For more information, you can reach Dale at [dtower@flinthills.kscoxmail.com](mailto:dtower@flinthills.kscoxmail.com).
- Sandra – Celebrate Your Children, Celebrate You will be August 8 from 11 to 2 at the Boys and Girls Club in Wichita. They will be partnering with others to provide physicals and immunizations for school. For more information, you can reach Sandra at [Sandra.chavez2@wellpoint.com](mailto:Sandra.chavez2@wellpoint.com).
- Teresa – The summer reading program at Bradford Memorial Library (El Dorado) is going well. So far they have had 403 children read over 7,000 books! For more information, you can reach Teresa at [tleonard@eldoks.com](mailto:tleonard@eldoks.com).

#### **Guest Presenters:**

- Stefani Brand – Catholic Charities – Marriage for Keeps: Bianca Montagnio-Simmons joined Stefani in updating us on the Marriage for Keeps program. They brought handouts, folders, pens and Chap Stick. The website has been revamped and they encourage us to take a look – [www.marriageforkeeps-ks.org](http://www.marriageforkeeps-ks.org). Research on the project ends in December, but class will continue through June of 2010. They are currently looking for ways the program might continue after the research grant period ends. Classes have been full and the retention rate is high (80%). They generally start with 10 couples per group. The classes last for 12 weekly sessions, after the classes end, the couples work with their Family Support Specialists and do extra activities – all at no cost. We are encouraged to continue to refer families, or provide families with the phone number and they can refer themselves. For more information the program, contact Stefani at [sbrand@catholiccharities.org](mailto:sbrand@catholiccharities.org).
- Marta Curry – Financial Advisor, Waddell & Reed: Carson Brand joined Marta in providing her presentation. Marta teaches classes for child care providers through Child Start, in her past she was a home child care provider for 10 years. Marta provides information on Financial Wellness in the work place – they have a program that they can do for employees of companies and non-profit agencies. She spoke on how money and emotion are tied together and the need for financial planning. Knowledge + Action = Power. For more information, you can reach Marta at [mcurry@wradvisors.com](mailto:mcurry@wradvisors.com).

**Butler Dads (Fatherhood Initiative) – Mark Wirth:**

“Our Time: Dad and Me” was on June 20 and was a success. Two events – one in El Dorado and one in Augusta – were held at the libraries. El Dorado had nine fathers/grandfathers and nineteen children attend. Augusta had eleven fathers/grandfathers and fifteen children attend. We are planning on looking at a Camp Dads-type event, like they do in Wichita. We will also look at having a couple of events that are educational meetings for dads/granddads.

**Early Head Start:**

The grant was submitted last week – a big THANK YOU to all of our partners who sent in letters of support and agreement. We will hear in October who will receive the grant funding – and we hope we hear positive news!

**Smart Start Quarterly Report:**

The Second Quarter of the grant year was over in June and Audra submitted the quarterly report early this month. We are on target with everything and have some good plans for the last two quarters. We do have some grant funding still available for child care providers and for child care scholarships for families. Please consider referring people who could utilize these services.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Guest presenters will be Lynn Shannon, from the Butler Homeless Initiative and Sandra Chavez from UniCare.

*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  
July 17, 2009