



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
November 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 (19 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barb Roths, Butler County Extension; Brandi Smith, SCMHCC Preschool; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Kathlene Maness, Mid-CAP Head Start; Ken Grochowsky, SRS; Leslie Sissel, Parents-As-Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Mark Wirth, First Church of the Nazarene (Butler Dads); Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sandra Chavez, UniCare; Teresa Leonard, Bradford Memorial Library; Valecia Vogts-Scribner, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Susan Gardiner, Bethlehem House.

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group.

- Mark –
 - Ministerial Alliance is having the annual Thanksgiving dinner this Saturday (November 21) from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the 4-H Building. The Christian Church is overseeing it with help from other churches. There is no cost to participants.
 - The meals by the alliance continue
 - Mondays 5:30 to 6:30
 - Tuesdays at Noon
 - Thursdays 5:30 – 6:30
 - Fridays at Noon
 - Butler Homeless Initiative needs letters of support to the initiative to help them in their work. They are looking at a home on South Taylor. Neighbors within 200 feet have to sign off on allowing it in the neighborhood before they can move forward. They could use positive support, prayers, and letters.

For more information on any of the above items, you can reach Mark by email at mark.wirth@att.net
- Jamie – December 1 is World AIDS day and there is an event at the college where they will be discussing Meth and AIDS. Free CEUs for Nurses and Social Workers. Call the Health Department to sign up. 321.3400.

- Darla – The Safehouse received a Mary Kay Grant to offer their Kids Safe program for children in 4/5 grade – 8/9 grade. They will start after the 1st of the year. They will have a lunch-time information meeting on December 10. Call the Safehouse if you would like to attend, or if you know of an agency that can refer children to the program. 321.7104.
- Valecia – Big Brothers Big Sisters received the Safe and Drug Free School grant. They currently need male mentors. For more information, contact Valecia at 321.7763 or vscribner@ksbbbs.org
- Marla – EduCare started a new person in the apprenticeship program! For more information about apprenticeship, you can reach Marla via email at mcanfield@kansascommerce.com
- Ken – SRS is collecting quilts for kids in foster care. You can find out more by talking with Marla Cutsinger at SRS. 321.4200.
- Audra – The women’s fair (held on Saturday, April 10) has a December 1 deadline for getting a booth registered. There is no cost for non-profits. Partners who had booths last year include: Safehouse, Health Department, Smart Start, UniCare, and Butler County Extension.
- Jamie – In October, Jamie went through training and became a Certified Breast Feeding Educator. Jamie can be reached at the Health Department 321.3400.

Guest Presenters:

- Susan Gardiner, Bethlehem House: Bethlehem House opened in 1992. It is on Towanda in El Dorado. They serve 4 – 5 residential clients in a year. When their outreach program is running, they reach about 15 clients each year with that program. They are licensed to serve pregnant girls ages 10 – 21 at any state of pregnancy through 6 weeks after the baby is born. They provide an individualized comprehensive program that addresses the physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological needs of the clients. They have a case worker who works on short and long term goals with the clients. Clients receive job skills, life skills, physical exercise, etc. They provide services in 3 phases: Regrouping, Refocusing, and Redirecting. They are a non-profit agency and this is a lean year for them. The funds for their outreach program have been cut. They recently lost a key staff person to retirement. They are funded by donations from individuals, businesses and churches. For more information, you can reach Susan at Bethlehem House 322.7233 or by email bethlehemhouse@cox.net.
- Barb Roths, Butler County Extension: There are four extension agents in the office: Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent, Horticulture Agent, 4-H Youth and Development Agent, and the Family Consumer Science Agent. Barb is the Family and Consumer Science Agent (Family and Consumer Science use to be called “Home Economics.”) Barb showed us her displays and let us know that we could set them up at any of our functions, she could come to talk to any group, and she is available to help us with information. November is National Diabetes month. Barb encourages us to check out the

website www.ksre.ksu.edu. To reach Barb, you can either call 321.9660 or email broths@ksu.edu.

Smart Start Grant Information:

We have not received the RFP from the Children's Cabinet, but when we get it, we will submit the grant for Smart Start. We have begun working on it and talking with the community to see what they would like to see happen? What does this group want? They would like to cover the same items as it has in the past. If there are extra funds, the group would like to see it go toward additional parenting classes and training for providers.

A Look at the New Year:

Dale would like to see us celebrate that this is the 10th year of the Task Force. Perhaps we could celebrate the week of the young child with proclamations and recognition awards.

Other

There was no other business to discuss.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 16 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Guest presenter will be Sue Barrientos – providing us with an update about the BEST Team.

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
November 18, 2009