



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

For Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

Attendees (16 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barb Roths, K-State Research & Extension Butler County; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Kathy Gann, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners; Kelly Price; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Mark Wirth, Butler Dads & 1st Church of the Nazarene; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sue Barrientos; BCC Early Education; Susan Duncan, BCC EduCare – **Grandparent/Guardian**; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Suzi Thien, SCARF; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Trisha Smith, South Central Mental Health Counseling Center

Introductions & Announcements:

- Kathy – Changes with KHPA, the governing body over HealthWave will be absorbed into KDHE. It won't affect the HealthWave enrollment process. Kathy provided handouts about the general requirements for children (see handout file). The State received funds from the federal government to update the computer process. KMOM is this weekend in Hutchison on Friday and Saturday at the fairground starting at 5 am – First Come First Serve.
- Marla – The State received HHS funds to get people back to work and get off TANF. This program is for individuals in Sedgwick, Butler, Cowley and Sumner Counties. If they have an interest in the medical field, they can call their local Workforce Center. The Butler County Workforce office can be reached at 321.2350.
- Audra – We received a plaque of thanks from Child Care Aware of Kansas (passed around). We begin our Incredible Years parent training class on Tuesday of next week (1/25/11) at Haverhill Christian Church. Our enrollment so far is low. Please provide information to families about the program. We are hosting "Safe Slumber" training on Saturday for child care providers in Andover on Saturday. Sue Barrientos, Jamie Downs, Audra, and an adjunct instructor at Butler (Brooke Wolf) will be trained as trainers. New regulations will require all providers of child care who serve infants to have this training.

Guest Presenter:

Marcy Cone – Child Start: Child Start is the local child care resource and referral agency. They are located in Park Lane Center in Wichita. Part of the services provided by Child start is that they provide training and hold training events in 11 counties in South Central Kansas, including Butler County. Another part of the services offered by Child Start is referrals which provide a list of names of child care providers where care is needed. Marcy provided handouts of flyers: “Finding Child Care,” “Child Care Outreach,” and “Caring for Kids Substitute Service.” (see handout file). Marcy also provided the group with copies of Crib Notes, the quarterly publication by Child Start that includes information about trainings in the area. The annual conference “Growing with Children” will be held in Wichita on March 5. Marcy also shared with us that they also work in the area of advocacy and will be part of the Early Learning Day in Topeka on February 2. (To find out more, follow the link). Marcy also talked with us about KQRIS. Smart Start of Butler County funds 28 KQRIS classrooms in Butler County and Child Start provides the coaches for that program. For more information about Child Start, Marcy can be contacted via email at mccone@childstart.org. Thanks, Marcy for presenting today!

Update on 2010 Infant/Toddler Services in Butler County – Susan Harsh

Bright Beginnings serves children ages Birth – 3 years who have disabilities in Butler County. They had a year like many others have had, with a tight budget. In 2011, they plan to have level funding. They served 161 children in 2010; the number served goes up every year. They provided 615 screenings across the county. They receive referrals from the NICU, physicians, family members, and friends. The caseload is currently at 82. They provide advocacy on *tiny-k* Day, which will be held on March 8 in Topeka. **Reminder: If you do ANY trainings or screenings, please let Susan know so we can report on the activities of the county in her semi-annual reports.** Susan can be reached via email at sharsh@rui.org.

Strategic Plan Work:

We discussed the strategic plan. The group would like to start with #1 (Community Partner Collaborations) and #3 (Leadership, Knowledge, and Advocacy). We would like to engage (or re-engage) the following partners: school districts (El Dorado is currently engaged), more parents, more child care providers, pediatrician’s office, business leaders, pregnancy care center, CDDO & Flinthills, TFI, DCCA, CASA. We will begin our work with advocacy by coming up with a card that we all can hand to our legislators with the information we share. The card will list all of our agencies and our tag line that indicates we are one group speaking with one voice for the children and families of Butler County. Audra will begin getting information together for the card and will have something for the group to approve at our next meeting.

2011 Calendar:

The calendar for 2011 has been updated to include many new speakers. If you would like to be added to the calendar, please notify Audra so you can be added. If you know of a program that would like to present to us, please notify Audra. The calendar has been added to the website.

Other

None

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on February 16 at Bradford Memorial Library (611 S. Washington; El Dorado, KS). The presenters will be Luann McFadden of Bright Beginnings and Janett Jacobs of Tri-County CASA, Inc.

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
January 19, 2011