



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, October 19, 2011

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

Attendees (24 total):

Amanda Dorey, SCMHCC Social Stars; Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Becky Hadicke, SRS; Darcy McCoy, First Baptist Day Care; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United; Jamie Jellison, BCC EduCare; Jim Garrett, Child Start; Jodi Evans, Andover YMCA; Juanita Newberry, CDI Head Start; Kathy Gann, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners; Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Kris Nicholson, Child Care Aware of Kansas; Leslie Sissel, Parents as Teachers; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Marla Canfield, ECAAP Dept of Commerce; Miles Harvey, Butler County Special Ed Coop; Nijah Fudge, El Dorado City Hall; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood & EduCare; Susan Duncan, BCC EduCare; Suzi Thien, Sunlight Children's Advocacy and Rights Foundation; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood; Traci Pohlenz, UniCare;

Introductions & Announcements:

- Kathy G. – Last Saturday they had the Wichita Community baby shower and it was well attended. Kathy wonders if Butler County is interested in having one. The Health Department usually has one – Kathy will get a hold of Jamie Downs to see what we do in Butler.
- Kris – Child Care Aware of Kansas has new publications located on their ks.childcareaware.org website. Each county has a profile, Core Competencies are listed, Career Directory, etc.
- Audra – At the KAEYC conference on October 1, Audra had the honor of presenting the Outstanding Extended Service Award to Teresa Thompson (BCC Lead Faculty) for her great work and partnership in Butler County. Thanks, Teresa, for all of your hard work!

Guest Presenter:

Darla Carter – Family Life Center Safehouse: Darla showed a video about the Safehouse and the programs it offers. The safehouse is open 24/7 and has nine employees. It offers: shelter, a 24 hour hotline, client advocacy, a court advocate, a police response advocate, a sexual assault advocate, the OARS Program, a support group (which deal with narcotic and alcohol

addictions), the Kids Safe program, financial management classes, and community education. The Kids Safe program is not only for kids who have resided in the shelter, but also for children in the community who have been victims of domestic violence, child abuse, or sexual assault. The Safehouse can shelter up to 12 women and children; if they have the need for more space, they can find additional shelter (hotel rooms) for short term stays. The Safehouse receives funding through grants from the Attorney General's office, United Way of El Dorado, Government Grants, and donations. Darla provided us with several handouts (see handouts PDF). For more information, or if you need services from the Safehouse, call 321.7105. Darla's email is safe.house@flc.kscoxmail.com.

Head Start Grant – Child Start – Jim Garrett

Child Start has submitted the Head Start grant. There were a “nice group of letters of support” that were sent to Child Start by members of our Task Force and others in the county. Child Start appreciated our support. They do not know when the award announcement will be made, though they hope it will be before the end of December so they will know what the new grant year will bring. The regulations say that whoever gets the award must be fully operational within 30 days of notification. Jim provided us with a handout regarding what they put in the grant (see handouts PDF). For more information, you can contact Jim Garrett at 316.680.7141 or garrettj@childstart.org

Butler Community College Association of Early Childhood Educators (BCCAEECE) Update – Teresa Thompson

The group currently has 40 members. Through the group, five scholarships to KAEYC were offered (one paid for by the group and four paid for by Smart Start of Butler County). They recently helped with the Numana food packing activity. They are currently working on a Coat Drive with the Grizzly Ambassadors, where they are collecting coats for adults and children that will be distributed during Augusta's Trick or Treat Down the Street. The group meets monthly and has a membership fee of \$5. Membership in the group is open to more than students; professionals in the field of Early Childhood are encouraged to become members. At their next meeting, November 13, will be held at Rainbows United Kids' Point in Wichita and Audra Kenneson will be the presenter. Attendees will receive a KDHE approved certificate for attending the Safe Slumber training that Audra will present. In the Spring they will have a day-long inservice day the last day of March. They are looking at the location for that event. For more information about BCCAEECE or about BCC's Early Childhood Program, Teresa can be reached at tthompson@butlercc.edu.

Smart Start & Early Childhood Block Grants – Audra

The RFP's for these grants were released and they are due within the next few weeks. The directions in the RFP indicate that the budget for Smart Start should show a 14% decrease from the 2011 budget and the ECBG budget will remain the same as 2011. Audra passed the signature page around for specific individuals/agencies that are required for the signature pages. As decisions were made by the Smart Start Advisory Committee, we took into account the outcomes of each activity from previous grant years and the community survey that we sent out over the summer of 2011. The following activities will be written into each grant for 2012:

Early Childhood Block Grant	Smart Start Grant
Mental Health Specialist (Classroom Based)	Mental Health Specialist (Family Home Based)
Child Care Scholarships for families	Smart Start Coordinator
Special Needs Supplements for providers	0.5 FTE Administrative Assistant
	Incredible Years Parent Training Classes
	Butler Dads “Dad and Me” Activities
	WAGE\$ program for providers
	Child Care Provider Trainings
	Scholarships for State/Local Trainings
	BCC Scholarships for Early Childhood Classes
	Start Up Grants (new providers)
	Grants to Existing Child Care Providers
	Infant Care Supplements for providers
	Community Partnership Resources

Other:

Audra – Reminder from Susan that if you hold any trainings or screenings that you please let her or Audra know of the numbers (trainings – hours, screenings – children) so that we can count it in the community numbers for our annual report.

Debbie – The State ICC meeting will be in Butler County on October 28 at BCC (it will be at the Welcome Center in the lower level) at 1:00 pm. Susan will be presenting and talking about transition into the Part B Program. If you would like to attend, please do! It is an honor that they are having the meeting in Butler!

Nijah – The All-American Cities letter was accepted. The Movie in the park, held last week, was a success. There were “Lots of kids there!” It was at East Park. They’d like to do similar activities in the future and invite members of our group to participate.

Sue – The Early Childhood Department at BCC received a new Smart Board from the Carl Perkins Grant. It has been installed in EduCare, which is a teaching lab for early childhood educators. They are very excited about the new technology.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on November 16 at Bradford Memorial Library (611 S. Washington; El Dorado, KS) at 11 am. The presenter will be Susan Gardner from Bethlehem House in El Dorado.

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
October 23, 2011