



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, February 15, 2012

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

Attendees (24 total):

Amanda Dorey, South Central Mental Health Social Stars; Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Crisanne Thompson, CDI Head Start; Darcy McCoy, First Baptist Day Care; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, Andover YMCA; Kandi Miller, United Way of the Plains; Kathy Gann, Coventry Health Care of Kansas (formerly Family Health Partners); Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Kris Nicholson, Child Care Ware of Kansas; Leslie Sissel, Parents as Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Mark Wirth, 1st Church of the Nazarene & Butler Dads; Miles Harvey, Butler County Special Education Cooperative; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood & EduCare; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood; Traci Polenz, UniCare; Visitors: Lisa Wills, CDI Head Start; Becky Wolfe, Leadership Butler, Janice Powers, Butler County Health Department.

Introductions & Announcements:

- Kathy G – Reminder any families on Healthwave will have no change in benefits as the change begins to take place. Kathy brought coloring books – please take some home. Also Audra has some in her office if you want some let Audra know. Kathy brought a flyer that looks at eligibility – so we can utilize that with families to help them check if they are eligible for services.
- Marcy – Brought Crib Notes. Growing with Children Conference is March 3 at Central Community Church – She brought booklets with registration forms. Child Start has moved! New address is 1002 S. Oliver. They are now utilizing the space formerly occupied by Joann Fabrics and Junior League. Their Open House will be March 28 from 4 to 5:30.
- Darla – The Butler Homeless Initiative has developed a pamphlet of resources. She has a few, if anyone is interested. She visited with John Grange for a half hour last week in Topeka. He wants to do some visits in April and is interested in having agencies share stories. Darla will let us know more when she knows more.

- Jamie – February 6, the new regulations for licensed child care providers go into effect. New providers will be required to have their trainings 30 days within turning application in. New regulations are posted on the KDHE website. Sherri from the Health Department is retiring and there will be a reception on Friday, February 24 from 2 to 4. Please stop by.
- Audra – Please save the date: April 21 for Rainbows' 5K Run & Walk fundraiser that will benefit the programs/services in Butler County. Incredible Years session started three weeks ago and is going very well, Jamie is teaching with Audra. 20 Enrolled, 19 are attending, 7 are men. LOTS of kids, we are paying five child care workers to help with the kids.

Guest Presenter:

Becky Wolfe – Leadership Butler: Leadership Butler began in 1988 – a group of people felt a need for cohesiveness within the county between communities to provide information about the county and it's communities and work on county-wide issues. The first class had 18 handpicked members. Over time, they developed a nomination process with a selection committee. They look of a good mix of participants from the different communities in Butler County. To date approximately 500 people have gone through the program. There is a time commitment involved – for both the adult and the youth program. The youth program has nominations for students who are sophomores and they participate in the program as Juniors. The project for the current group of youth participants is to raise funds and set up an endowment to help pay for D.A.R.E. in Schools. The nomination process for the adult class is underway – with deadlines being in April. Leadership Butler has an Alumni Association and through that part of the program, they offer quarterly informative breakfasts or lunches around issues in Butler County. Several members of the Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force are graduates of LB, among them are: Dale Tower, Susan Harsh, Jamie Downs, Luann McFadden, Teresa Thompson, and Audra Kenneson. If you are interested in knowing more about Leadership Butler, you can ask one of the graduates, check out the webpage (www.leadershipbutlerinc.org) or contact Becky at 321.4100 or becky@leadershipbutlerinc.org.

BCCAECE Update – Teresa Thompson:

Last Sunday they had their first meeting for 2012. 35 members plus 6 or 7 visitors attended. They presented scholarships for the upcoming Growing With Children conference (held by Child Start). One of the scholarships were paid for by the student group, four of the scholarships were paid for by Smart Start. They have a few volunteer activities coming up; among them are the Rainbows Run/Walk in April and the Growing With Children Conference. They will host their annual Training Day for local child care providers and it will be held on March 31 at the Andover Community Center. Two trainings will be offered, one at 9:30 and one at 1:00. There will be an open lunch. Registration will be \$10 for one session and \$15 for both sessions. Their next meeting is March 11 at Top Northwest (near North High at Arkansas & 25th). Cathy Gray will be the presenter and talk about Environmental Toxins. For more information about BCCAECE, Teresa can be reached at tthompson@butlercc.edu or 323.6845.

Week of the Young Child

Week of the Young Child is April 22 – 28. Several area child care centers and homes will be participating in balloon launches, fun activities, etc. It was recommended that if there were balloon launches, special ceremonies, etc that we let each other know what we are doing – perhaps everyone release their balloons at the same time, etc. If you know what your schedule is and want it to go out to everyone else, let Audra know and she will send it out in her emails to child care providers.

2012 Calendar:

We cannot utilize the library in June and July and will look to have those meetings elsewhere. Jodi will check on the possibility of doing a meeting at the YMCA in Andover. We would also like to consider having a meeting at Flinthills Services and touring their facility. Audra will check with Flinthills. **There is NO meeting in March.** In April we will meet at the library in El Dorado, as usual.

Other:

Audra has talked with the chairs of other ICCs and learned that many of them have a “welcome packet” of sorts – a pamphlet, a handout, etc – that shares the history of the group, a list of members and their contact information, etc. Are we interested in doing this and if so, who can help by writing the history for us? It was agreed that Susan Harsh and Dale Tower have the most history and we should ask them to write a few paragraphs to talk about the beginning of our group and why we meet. *(note from Audra: when you aren't in the meeting, it is easy for us to nominate you to do something for us!)*

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on **April 18** at Bradford Memorial Library (611 S. Washington; El Dorado, KS) at **11 am**. The presenter will be Brooke Wolfe and Juanita Newberry from Head Start. **NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MARCH MEETING**

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
Friday, February 17, 2012