



## 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, April 18, 2012

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

#### Attendees (26 total):

Amanda Dorey, South Central Mental Health Social Stars; Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barbara Ehret, **Parent** & Resource Center for Independent Living; Crisanne Thompson, **Parent**; Darcy McCoy, First Baptist Day Care; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jennifer Stanyer, The Arc of Butler County; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, Andover YMCA; Juanita Newberry, CDI Head Start; Kathy Gann, Coventry Health Care of Kansas (formerly Family Health Partners); Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Leslie Sissel, Parents as Teachers; Tabitha for Nijah Fudge, El Dorado City Hall; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood & EduCare; Sue Givens, USD 490; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood; Tresa Garcia, **Parent**; Traci Polenz, UniCare; Tricia Bassingthwaighe, New Generation Christian Learning Center. First Time Attendees/New Partners: Debbie Willsie, SRS Consumer and Community Services Wichita Region; Gay Rozell, SRS Wichita Region Child Care.

#### Introductions & Announcements:

- Leslie – Leslie brought candy and fruit to celebrate her daughter's return from overseas deployment. She returns tonight. We join with Leslie in celebrating her daughter's safe return and appreciate her service.
- Sue G – They break ground on the new middle school today at 2:00. The location is Highway 77 and 30<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Suzi – The Buckaroo Ball is Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening. It will be at Murfin Stables on 143<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. They have over 100 silent auction items and will have the Bucky Fowler Band there. They anticipate over 300 to be in attendance.
- Tricia – New Generation Christian Learning Center in Augusta will have a "Summer Camp" for kids K – grade 5. It will be the same hours as child care and will be open 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. They will plan lots of field trips and activities to keep them

- engaged. Tricia's program just completed their playground! For more information contact Tricia at [btbass@att.net](mailto:btbass@att.net) or 775.6317.
- Darla – The Safehouse has two new programs. They have done Teen Dating Violence in schools and have received good feedback. They have developed a Good Touch/Bad Touch program to do in child care programs. For more information contact Darla at 321.7104 or [safe.house@flc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:safe.house@flc.kscoxmail.com).
  - Teresa T – They hosted the KAEYC Board in Butler County last Friday and Tresa Garcia (the *Incredible Years* caterer) catered it. The board loved it. To reach Tresa Garcia for catering information contact 321.6201.
  - Kathy G – Kathy had handouts with the new Coventry name. She reminded us that with the name change, there is no change in benefits for those who have Healthwave. She brought us tissue boxes with Coventry covers. Thanks, Kathy!
  - Jennifer – YESS Camp is coming up. May 10 is the application deadline. Arc of Butler helps provide transportation and has some funding available to help pay for individuals to attend. Arc tennis (for ages 8+) starts May 1. For more information, contact Jennifer at 680.4240 or [Jennifer.stanyer@hotmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.stanyer@hotmail.com).
  - Susan – The Rainbows Walk – Run will be this Saturday, April 21. They anticipate 250+ to be in attendance. Susan passed out brochures/registrations.
  - Susan – Susan's church is joining with other churches to host FREE pizza meals at local churches on Saturdays. Tresa will find out more about the other locations and contact Audra with that information.
    - Note: *The following information was sent to Audra by Tresa*
      - Mondays – 5:30 to 6:30 – At Family Worship Center (501 S. Topeka)
      - Tuesdays – Noon to 1:00 – at Family Worship Center
      - Wednesdays – 5:45 to 6:30 – at First Baptist (315 W. Central)
      - Thursdays – 5:30 to 6:30 – at Family Worship Center
      - Fridays – Noon to 1:00 – at Family Worship Center
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – 5:30 to 6:30 – at Presbyterian Church (400 W. Central)
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – 5:30 to 6:30 – at Methodist Church (421 W. Central)
      - *For more information about the meals, contact Linda at 320.1504.*
  - Audra – Audra had several announcements:
    - We just wrapped up our first session of *Incredible Years*. We had 19 attend the first night and ended with 15 completing successfully. These were the parents of 27 children (and two pregnancies). The next *Incredible Years* class will begin on May 15 in El Dorado. Susan Duncan will be coteaching with Audra (see handouts for flyer); Audra will send a PDF to everyone for the flyer. Thank you to those who distributed the last time, especially Sue Givens who sent out to all of the area schools. More than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the families who enrolled did so because their child brought home the information from school in their back packs – others reported getting the information via text and email from the schools. For more information contact Audra at [akenneson@rui.org](mailto:akenneson@rui.org) or 320.1342.
    - Audra passed out a flyer for the Habitat for Humanity fund raiser.

- Butler Directors met for the first time on April 5. This is a group of directors from child care centers and preschools in Butler County. We had 13 people in attendance at our first meeting. This group will serve as a subgroup of the Task Force. Our next meeting will be on May 3 and will be held at EduCare at 11 am to 12:30. The goal of this group to meet is to discuss the needs of children, families, and child care providers in the community.

**Guest Presenter:**

Juanita Newberry – CDI Head Start - Augusta: Juanita is the director of the Augusta center. She brought pamphlets (see handouts). They know that the grant will be passed to another agency (or agencies); they are currently taking family applications for next school year, but they are not starting enrollments. They are waiting for the new agency to do the enrollment packets. In Butler County, Leon serves 14 children in a full day classroom, Augusta serves 50 children in two half day and one full day classroom, and El Dorado serves 50 children in two half day and one full day classroom. Each class has a teacher and an assistant. El Dorado and Augusta each have two Family Service Workers and one cook; Leon utilizes the school district's food. They hold one parent meeting each month and every 3 months they serve a free family meal. Family involvement is strongly encouraged; 20% of funding has to be in-kind. They utilize "Creative Curriculum." If a child has an IEP then the child can do Early Childhood AND Head Start; Head Start makes sure to follow the IEP and they offer to attend the IEP meeting with parents. Head Start serves children who are 3 – 5 years old. For more information about Head Start you can contact the CDI office in Newton at 316.283.8800. Local contact information: Leon – 745.9985, Augusta – 775.6666, and El Dorado – 321.1959.

**Martin Playground – El Dorado City Clerk (Tabitha – for Nijah):**

Keith Martin and Cliff Stone donated funds for this playground that will be built near the new football stadium at Haverhill and Central. This will be a playground that is ADA Accessible. They will have a build day on August 18 and they are seeking donations, volunteers, etc. (see handouts). For more information go to: <http://www.360eldorado.com/Government/EIDoradoParks.html>

**BCCAECE Update – Teresa Thompson:**

The annual fundraiser was March 31 and was an all-day inservice. They had 30 register and 25 show up. The topic was Eco-Friendly Child Care. The group has volunteered to help do the child care area for the upcoming Rainbows Run/Walk. They will kick off the Week of the Young Child in their end-of-the-year picnic on Sunday. Their last meeting will be on May 6. For more information about BCCAECE, Teresa can be reached at [thompson@butlercc.edu](mailto:thompson@butlercc.edu) or 323.6845.

**Week of the Young Child**

Week of the Young Child is April 22 – 28. Local child care homes and centers were asked to send Audra a list of their activities. A few have done so (see handout). These were sent to area newspapers along with an article from Rainbows about the Week of the Young Child, its history, and the importance of early childhood education.

### **Bright Beginnings Part C Update – Susan Harsh:**

Things are changing at the state level because of Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). These changes are mostly seen in paperwork; everything will be in place by July 1. One of the changes will be a new, state-wide IFSP. Locally, the numbers are good; they are in compliance. They are getting information in on time and meeting the needs of children and families. They saw 15 more kids than before but lost \$5,000 in funding. For more information about Bright Beginnings, Susan can be reached at [sharsh@rui.org](mailto:sharsh@rui.org) or 320.1342.

### **Task Force Strategic Plan – Susan Harsh:**

(See handout) We looked at the strategic plan that was created in October 2010; this year we will examine and see how we need to change the strategic plan. We believe we are meeting the goals of the plan – we have engaged new partners and have re-engaged partners who have not been as involved; we have utilized funding from Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grants and partnerships to fill gaps in services that were identified; we have held a legislative reception and encouraged contact with legislators through emails, writing campaigns, and social media; and we have utilized this group to ensure that networking is happening around all areas that impact young children.

### **2012 Calendar:**

For the next three months we will be in a different location than our normal spot at Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. See the schedule for more information. Audra will send reminder emails as we near those meetings.

### **Other:**

Audra asked for help as the month of June approaches. Mark Wirth, our Butler Dads helper is in transition and will be unable to coordinate the June Dad & Me Events. Audra asked that everyone thinking about someone who can help with these events. Butler Dads Dad & Me events are held on Saturdays in June at libraries around the county. Audra orders everything, we arrange for volunteers from each community, and we need a Dad/Grandpa/Uncle to help “man” the events so there is continuity and someone there to represent Butler Dads. If you have a man in mind to help with this, please contact Audra at [akenneson@rui.org](mailto:akenneson@rui.org) or 320.1342.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on **May 16 at Rose Hill Parents as Teachers**. The meeting location is 112 Rocket Drive (on the campus of the school). Our speakers will be Leslie Sissel – Parents as Teachers and Cathy Gray – Kansas Healthy Kids.

*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  
Tuesday, April 24, 2012