



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, December 19, 2012

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado

Attendees (29 total):

Audra Kenneson – Smart Start; Brooke Wolf – Child Start Head Start; Debbie Willsie – DCF Wichita Region; Dale Tower – Community Partner; Darla Carter – Family Life Center Safehouse; Debbie Mai – Rainbows United; Holly Whitson – SCMHC Social Stars; Jamie Bailey – Foster Grandparents; Jamie Downs – Butler County Health Department; Jamie Jellison – BCC EduCare; Jennifer Stanyer – The Arc of Butler County; Jill Morrow – Bright Beginnings; Kandi Schmidt – United Way of the Plains; Kris Nicholson – Child Care Aware of Kansas; Leslie Sissel – Rose Hill PAT; Melody Gault – Foster Grandparents; Miles Harvey – Butler County Special Education Cooperative; Nicole Hall – CDDO; Rikki Bowker – CDDO; Sue Barrientos – BCC Early Childhood; Sue Givens – USD 490; Susan Harsh – Bright Beginnings; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Teresa Thompson – BCC Early Childhood; Tresa Garcia – Parent; Tricia Bassingthwaighte – New Generation Christian Learning Center. **New:** Nicole Beard – TFI Family Services; Cathy Gray – Child Care Aware of KS; Lucia Gutierrez – United Health Care.

Introductions & Announcements:

- Lucia – Brought business cards. Contact information: Lucia Gutierrez; Bilingual Community Outreach Specialist, Kansas Health Plan – United Health Care. Lucia_Gutierrez@uhc.com 316.214.1362. Also had handouts (see handouts).
- Cathy – Annual Conference of child care providers this summer. If interested in doing a presentation – see handouts.
- Teresa – BCCAEECE Annual Inservice is in on January 19. This is a four hour training for child care providers and others interested in the topics of infant/toddler and literacy.
- Nicole – from TFI is new to the group. She passed around goodies (hand sanitizer, bookmarks, information about foster parenting). Welcome, Nicole!

- Jennifer – Special Olympics basketball is starting. Any individuals 8 and older can join. Though they “are set” with coaches, they can always use volunteers.

Guest Presenters

Melody Gault – Foster Grandparents: They just started the grant. Melody provided some history of the Foster Grandparent program – it was established in 1965 by President Johnson as a “War on Poverty” project. Now it is under the Senior Corps. Currently they can serve 48 foster grandparents in 9 counties. They have 26 schools which returned to the program and 38 grandparents enrolled. For more information contact Melody at 775.0500 or mgault@bucoks.com.

Smart Start

We have been notified that we will not receive funding for 2013. We will be closing Smart Start of Butler County. Our last day in the office will be January 11. We will have a reception on January 10 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Audra will be the Mental Health Coordinator for Rainbows United in Sedgwick County. Tamara Bernard and Kathy Van Zelfden, Mental Health Specialists, will continue as Mental Health Specialists in the Wichita office. The email for each will not change from what it is now.

The Task Force will continue – Susan Harsh will be the facilitator. Her email is sharsh@rui.org. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet as well.

2013 Calendar – Moving Forward

We looked at the calendar and individuals signed up for speaking / presenting in 2013. If you know of someone, or if you want to sign up, please contact Susan.

Child Start Head Start Update – Brooke Wolf:

They have a few staff vacancies. They are almost fully enrolled at all centers, but need to develop a wait list, so please continue to refer families. They had their Hat/Mitten celebration yesterday. They are in need of “In Kind” volunteers – people to read, speak at parent meetings, etc. Please consider lending your talents for an hour. They are also in need of an interpreter. For more information contact Brooke Wolf at bwolf@childstart.org.

(NOTE: From Kandi Schmidt at United Way of the Plains – The Language Line number is 1.800.752.6096. You can set up monthly set pricing or by the call pricing for small volumes.)

Other:

None

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, January 16, 2013.
 - Guest Speaker – Jamie Downs – Butler County Health Department.

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 Susan Harsh at sharsh@rui.org.

Minutes written by Audra Kenneson, LMSW
Friday, December 28, 2012