



**Butler County Child & Family Development  
Task Force  
December 17, 2008**

**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**

**Attendees (19 total):**

Amanda Dorey, South Central Mental Health Center CBS Support; Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barb Roths, Butler County Extension; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jamie Jellison, EduCare Assistant Director; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, YMCA; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRA; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marcy Cone, Child Start; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood Education Director; Susan Duncan, BCC EduCare Director; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Mark Wirth, 1<sup>st</sup> Church of the Nazarene; Angie Baur, Community Foundation of Greater Butler County; Nikki Nansel, Child Start; Kate Hovis, Child Start; Sandra Chavez, UniCare.

**Introductions & Announcements:**

Audra welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves.

- Several new individuals joined the group: Mark Wirth attended a recent Fatherhood Initiative meeting and joined us today to learn more about the task force, Angie Baur is a partner on our Early Childhood Block Grant and is the director of the Community Foundation of Butler County, Nikki Nansel and Kate Hovis are new staff at Child Start, Sandra Chavez came as a guest speaker.
- Marcy announced that "Growing With Children" will be March 7 in Wichita. It is an opportunity for child care providers to obtain 5 hours of inservice credit.
- Kris announced that Rusty Keeler will be in Hesston on March 6. He is an author who has written about Natural Play Scapes.
- Audra announced that a new class of Incredible Years will start on January 5 in El Dorado.

**Guest Presenters:**

- Jamie Downs: Butler County Health Department – The Butler County Health Department operates in El Dorado five days a week and in Augusta one day a week. The department offers many services, including: Child Care, Community Health Clinics, Community Health Nursing Visits, School Health Services, Immunization Clinics, Testing Clinics, Women's Clinic, WIC Program, Maternal & Infant Project, Healthy Start, Physical Assessments, Health Education, Rabies Control, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Jamie said that the WIC food packages will be changing in 2009. They will start including breads, fruits, vegetables, etc. They also have the "Early Detection Works"

program for women 40 – 60. If you have any questions or concerns, Jamie can be reached at 316.321.3400 ext. 221 or [jdowns@bucoks.com](mailto:jdowns@bucoks.com).

- Sandra Chavez: UniCare – UniCare is one of the two options for insurance when individuals in Kansas sign up for HealthWave. The other option is Children’s Mercy. UniCare serves 105 counties (all of the counties in Kansas). They would like to work with the health department and the hospital to have educational contracts to ensure that their clients are paid for when they take classes. Please let Sandra know if you have any questions or concerns. She can be reached at 316.681.5059 or [Sandra.chavez2@wellpoint.com](mailto:Sandra.chavez2@wellpoint.com).

### **2008 Review of Smart Start Grant :**

We met our goals for 2008 and had a successful year. In 2008, Smart Start provided:

- KQRS & WAGES
- Trainings for Providers
- Start Up Funds
- Infant Care Supplements
- Early Childhood Scholarships to BCC Students
- Mental Health Specialist & ½ Time Social Worker
  - Developmental Screenings
  - Assessments for Social Emotional Delays
  - Behavioral Intervention Plans
  - Support to Centers and Families
- Male Focus group
- Incredible Years parent training classes
- Coordinator to communicate with providers and attend community meetings

### **Early Childhood Block Grant :**

- In 2009 we will be offering:
  - 3 Infant Supplement Grants
  - 3 Special Needs Supplement Grants
  - 20 Early Childhood Scholarship Grants
  - 1 Mental Health Specialist to reach underserved areas of the county
- Wind Farm Grant Update: We applied for the Wind Farm Grant. Audra and Dale presented the request to the Butler County Commissioners. Jamie Downs told us that she saw in the paper last night that the County Commissioners did not provide us with the Wind Farm Grant as we had hoped. Audra has not yet heard from the Commissioners and will let the Task Force know when she has.

### **Smart Start Grant Update:**

The 2009 Smart Start Grant was completed and mailed at the end of last week. Because 2008 was so successful, we kept most of the things the same. We wrote the following into the grant (unless otherwise noted, the service provided will remain the same as it was in 2008):

- KQRS & WAGES
- Trainings for Providers

- Start Up Funds
- Infant Care Supplements – three fewer than last year since the Early Childhood Block Grant will provide three supplements. This reduction in the Smart Start Grant allowed us to use the extra funds elsewhere.
- Early Childhood Scholarships to BCC Students – last year we offered 20 and then used those by June and increased the budget line to pay for 30. This year we are offering 30.
- Mental Health Specialist & ½ Time Social Worker
  - Developmental Screenings
  - Assessments for Social Emotional Delays
  - Behavioral Intervention Plans
  - Support to Centers and Families
- Male Focus group
- Incredible Years parent training classes – we are increasing to three parent training classes. Two were offered last year.
- Coordinator to communicate with providers and attend community meetings
- Financial support to existing child care homes, centers, preschools – five small grants up to \$250.

**Collection for donation to Bradford Memorial Library:** An envelope was passed and those who wished to donate put money into the envelope. We collected \$97 to donate. Audra will write a letter and give the funds to Hollis Helmecci, asking her to please utilize the funds to provide books for children 0 – 5 or children 0 – 5 with special needs as they did with our last year donation.

**Next Meeting:** Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. A representative from South Central Mental Health Center will be here to speak about services to children that are provided by their agency.

*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)*