



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
February 17, 2010**

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 (27 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barbara Ehret, Mid-CAP Head Start; Barb Roths, Butler County Extension; Brandi Smith, SCMHC Preschool; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO; Debra Mattingly, SRS; Debbie Mai, Rainbows United; Jackie Tanner, Child Start; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jamie Jellison, EduCare; Jennifer Stanyer, ARC of Butler County; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Jodi Evans, Andover YMCA; Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRRA; Leslie Sissel, Parents-As-Teachers; Marla Canfield, ECAAP; Sandra Chavez, UniCare; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Education Dept; Susan Duncan, EduCare; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Suzi Thien, SCARF; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Education Dept; Valecia Vogts-Scribner, Big Brothers Big Sisters. Guests: Emily Lies, YMCA; Jane Weiler, Children's Cabinet.

Tour of Andover YMCA and Early Childhood Center:

Jodi took the group on a tour (AND provided us with cookies! Thank you Jodi!!)

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group.

- Jamie D – H1N1 shots are still available. Health department will be at the Andover Middle School on Saturday from 9 – 1 for free. You can go to the health department to get a shot: Mondays in El Dorado and Wednesdays in Augusta.
- Brandi – Social Stars IS LICENSED! They received it yesterday. She passed around a referral sheet and information. They serve children with Severe Emotional Disturbances who are 3 – 6 years in age and are located at 340 Oil Hill Rd.
- Teresa – Save the date for the KAEYC Conference – October 23 in Manhattan. The “Ooey Goey Lady” will be there.
- Susan H – Blarney Breakfast will be March 17. This is an annual fundraiser for Rainbows United. The breakfast will be at Old Chicago East on Kellog.
- Valecia – Big Brothers Big Sisters has begun the “Bowl for Kids Sake” campaign. If interested in being a captain, let her know. They have grown 60% since 2006 and need the community to help with this fundraising effort.
- Jennifer – ARC of Butler Special Olympics teams are forming for ages 8 and up. They just won games in basketball!

- Sue – Text 4 Baby – Handout
- Barbara – Handed out enrollment information for next year’s Head Start class.
- Audra – We just started an Incredible Years parent class at Andover United Methodist Church. Brooke is co-teaching with Audra. On February 27, Beth Reeder will be at Rose Hill for a Smart Start-hosted training on Conscious Discipline.
- Dale – A new initiative – Employment First which focuses on people with a disability having work as a first option. Dale will send an email closer to the date of the event, which will be in April.
- Jennifer – Invisible Kansas had approximately 300 people attend. There is an informational meeting on March 1 for parents, providers, and caregivers at the old Haverhill Elementary building. This month, they will discuss Special Olympics and the Yes Program (a school-age program).
- Jamie – “Inspect the Rest” campaign. There is a bill in front of legislators that will reshape the types of child care homes allowed in Kansas and how they will be inspected.

Jane Weiler, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund:

There are three people in the office – Jane is the Early Childhood Director. They are staff to the cabinet, who oversees the master tobacco settlement. This community receives the Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grants as well as Tiny-K. The CIF funds other programs as well. For FY 10, they feel very good, and thus far no suggestions have been made for funds are cut. They believe that there will be no changes this calendar year. The session is not over, but the cabinet is moving forward with their work with grantees. The cabinet believes it is important to focus on the value of all the programs, rather than focus on the value of one particular program, when we speak to our legislators. Dale asked about the age groups served by funding. Smart Start (focusing on school readiness) and ECBG (focusing on at-risk) serves children Birth – 5 years. Other programs are not focused on that age group. Dale also asked about discretionary funding – a portion of their funds are for accountability, to help with evaluation. Kris thanked Jane for the early release of the RFP for those areas that were able to submit for the Smart Start grant earlier this year than last. We thank Jane for driving from Topeka to attend one of our meetings.

Butler Community College Association for Early Childhood Education (BCCAEECE) – Teresa Thompson:

This student organization has 28 paid members and welcome early childhood professionals. They meet monthly on the 1st Sunday. They meet at a variety of sites and have professional speakers present information. Cathy Gray did the last meeting. They will sponsor a scholarship for the Growing with Children Conference and will do so for “Let’s Go Outside” which will be on May 20 and 21. Officers must be students at BCC. They presented at KAEYC about starting up a student organization.

Bright Beginnings’ Semi-Annual Report – Susan Harsh:

The 2009 year-end report was submitted. Susan would like to have numbers from partners who do screenings so we can add them to the report. Staff has done an awesome job in seeing the children. The cumulative count seen went up approximately 30 children from the year before.

Visioneering – Sue Barrientos:

Sue wrote a letter to the Wichita MSA Visioneering Birth – K Alliance regarding concerns that some alliance members have about who is able to cast a vote for Butler County partners. She passed the letter around and invited today's attendees to sign the back of the letter in support.

Update on 2010 Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grants - Audra Kenneson:

Currently we have filled:

17 of 20 Child Care Scholarships

1 of 3 Special Needs Care Supplements

2010 Calendar

More partners signed up to speak at our upcoming meetings.

Other

There was no other business to discuss.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Our guest presenter will be Jennifer Stanyer, the executive director for ARC of Butler County.

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
February 24, 2010