



**Butler County Child & Family Development
Task Force
April 21, 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 (15 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Barbara Ehret, Mid-CAP Head Start; Brooke Thomas-Fekken, Smart Start; Dale Tower, Flinthills CDDO; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jackie Tanner, Child Start; Jennifer Stanyer, ARC of Butler County; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Kris Nicholson, KACCRRRA; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Education Dept; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Suzi Thien, SCARF; Kandi Miller, United Way of the Plains.

Introductions & Announcements:

Audra welcomed the group.

- Social Stars – Brandi was unable to attend today but she sent Social Stars flyers for us. They are having an open house on May 3 from 4 – 6 pm. 340 N. Oil Hill Rd. in El Dorado.
- Kris – She brought two Kansas Child magazines for us. Reminded us that the Bus Stop tour is Friday at Top North. 9 am
- Audra – Week of the Young Child activities were in the El Dorado Times. They covered the many activities that happened throughout the week. (newspaper was passed around)
- Sue – reported on Visioneering meeting where they will be having a group that meets to discuss the issue of voting. She has volunteered to be on that group with one person from each county in the MSA.
- Suzie – the Buckaroo Ball is this week. They had an opportunity for Suzie to be on B98 radio in the morning for “Make a Difference Monday.” It was a good opportunity for them to announce the needs of SCARF to a broader audience. They’ve had some calls from that radio appearance.

Guest Presenter:

- Jennifer Stanyer, Executive Director – ARC of Butler County: Jennifer showed us a video about The ARC of Butler County. They have a Special Olympics Team called “Butler Blazers” that is for people ages 8 and older. Their oldest athlete is 72. They also have ARC of Butler Tennis, where they focus on abilities and not disabilities. Circle of Friends is in the school districts; 13 classrooms participate. In this program, they pair buddies – students from regular education and special education classrooms. They also have Teen Club in Andover on Friday nights for ages 14 – 30. They hold quarterly informational meetings for providers in the community to share information to caregivers. They are in need of volunteers. If you

would like to refer a family for services or volunteer, contact Jennifer at Jennifer.stanyer@hotmail.com or 316.680.4240. You can see the website for her agency at www.thearcofbutler.com

Bright Beginnings Update: Susan Harsh

Bright Beginnings (Butler County Infant/Toddler Services) is doing an excellent job serving children. Susan told us about feedback from a recent report. The feedback recommended that we show more parent involvement with our task force. Although we have parents who receive services from either Bright Beginnings or Smart Start on the Task Force, we identify them by their employer rather than parent – so we will change how we note them on attendance. Butler Infant/Toddler specialists use the coaching model which is evidence-based. Since 1997, they have seen over 1300 kids in Butler County. Parent responses on the exit surveys are good. There is some concern over the cuts proposed by the Children’s Cabinet to cut CIF funding to Infant/Toddler programs. If those cuts happen, then we won’t meet the federal requirement and we will lose the federal funding – across the state. Write your local legislators, please.

Butler Dads:

We will be having our second annual Dad and Me event in June (because of Father’s Day). Events will be June 5 – Augusta, June 12 – El Dorado, June 26 – Rose Hill. We are hoping to have a June 19 in Douglass, but we do not have confirmation on them yet. Mark and Audra are working on these events and locating people in each community to help. Mark is working with the Nazarene church in El Dorado; Audra is working with the Kiwanis in Augusta. We are working on identifying a group of men in Rose Hill with the help of the Rose Hill librarian.

Smart Start and Block Grant Updates:

Block Grant: We used encumbered funds from 2009 to pay for the first quarter of scholarships and supplements. Currently we have filled 20 of 20 Child Care Scholarships, 4 of 3 Special Needs Supplements, and 2 of 3 Infant Care (at risk) Supplements. Mental Health work continues and goals are being met.

Smart Start: We have filled 2 of 4 Infant Care Supplements, 0 of 4 Start-Up Grants (we are working to identify new programs), 3 of 10 to Grants to Existing Providers, ½ of the funds for BCC Early Childhood Scholarship have been used (the rest will be used this summer and in the fall). Mental health work continues and goals are being met. The Incredible Years parent training class is on week 9 of the 12 week series; there are 15 people who attend regularly.

Other

There was no other business to discuss.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19 from 11 am – 1 pm Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado. Please bring your own lunch. Our guest presenters will be Marla Canfield with ECAAP Apprenticeship Program and Amy Karr of KCSL to discuss the Period of Purple Crying.

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