



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, May 18, 2011

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

Attendees (18 total):

Amanda Dorey, SCMHCC Social Stars; Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Becky Hadicke, SRS; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jackie Tanner, Child Start; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jennifer Stanyer, The ARC of Butler County; Jodi Evans, Andover YMCA; Kandi Miller, United Way of the Plains; Kathy Van Zelfden, Smart Start; Kelly Price, Community Development Institute Head Start; Kris Nicholson, Child Care Aware of Kansas; Leslie Sissel, Rose Hill Parents as Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Marla Canfield; ECAAP Dept of Commerce; Suzi Thien, SCARF; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Traci Pohlenz, UniCare.

Introductions & Announcements:

- Becky – Public Notice on Child Care State Plan for 2012-213. The first public meeting was last night and there were no attendees. Today is the second (at 1:00). Becky encouraged those at today's meeting to go to the SRS building after our meeting to attend the public meeting (see Handouts). Becky also handed out a page on Car Seat Recommendations for Children (see Handouts).
- Suzi – SCARF had their fundraiser in April and it was "Extremely successful." Also, they were given 3 acres of land in the Andover City Limits by Hope Community Church. It was on the news on Friday. <http://www.ksn.com/news/local/story/Helping-child-abuse-victims-closer-to-home/Iuhmq0r-UiikNdpvU-Z2w.csp>
- Jamie – Carol Borger's retirement party is at the Butler County Health Department on Friday, May 20 from 3 to 5 pm. Please stop by and visit with Carol.
- Audra – The second Incredible Years class for this year starts on Tuesday, May 24 in El Dorado. Audra handed out flyers and asked the group to please encourage parents to enroll (see Handouts). Audra also passed around May 2011 issue of Young Child, the NAEYC publication that contains an article that highlights the partnership between Smart Start of Butler County and the early childhood student group at BCC (BCCAECCE) (see Handouts).
- Marion (via Audra) – MidCAP will have Parent Talk starting in July in El Dorado. Please give flyers to families who would benefit from this program. (see Handouts).

Guest Presenter:

Cathy Gray, Healthy Kansas Kids Director – Child Care Aware of KS®: Cathy shared with us different initiatives the Healthy Kansas Kids program has been working on. They have received funding from Kansas Health Foundation grant. The Kansas Association of conservation and Environmental Education has worked on creating Early Childhood appropriate curriculum. Cathy shared examples of this curriculum with us. Cathy also shared information about Eco-Healthy Child Care – designed to help providers and parents understand the dangers of environmental toxins. Cathy brought us several tip sheets (see Handouts). For more information about services offered by Healthy Kansas Kids, you can reach Cathy at cathy@ks.childcareaware.org or by calling 877.678.2548.

Legislative Updates

Audra shared information received from the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness about the Legislators restoring funds to Kansas Early Head Start and the Children’s Initiatives Funds.

Butler Dads

Butler Dads events will be held in June. We expanded from 2 communities in the first year to 4 communities last year. This year we will be in 5 communities. The events are on Saturdays from 10 to 11 and intended to be for young children and the male parent/parent figure in their life (see Handout).

Other

Audra shared coloring/reading books that Smart Start purchased to provide to partners in the community to share with the families they serve. Titles include: “I Love It When,” “Keeping Healthy: A Daily Guide for Good Health,” and “Ready for the Potty.” If you would like some of these for your waiting rooms, for your families, or to pass out at events, please let Audra know. They are written as instructions for parents on a lower reading level, but are coloring books for children and intended to be something for parents and children to read together. There are also “More Tips” for parents on each topic inside the book.

Audra would like to thank the Task Force for the cake, balloon, and special hat. What FUN it was!



Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on June 15 at Bradford Memorial Library (611 S. Washington; El Dorado, KS). The presenters scheduled for that day is Suzi Thien from Sunlight Children's Advocacy and Rights Foundation (SCARF).

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
May 18, 2011