



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, September 21, 2011

Location: Bradford Memorial Library – El Dorado, KS

Attendees (25 total):

Audra Kenneson, Smart Start; Becky Hadicke, SRS; Darla Carter, Family Life Center Safehouse; Jamie Downs, Butler County Health Department; Jennifer Stanyer, The ARC of Butler County; Jill Morrow, Bright Beginnings; Kandi Miller, United Way of the Plains; Kris Nicholson, Child Care Aware of Kansas; Leslie Sissel, Parents as Teachers; Luann McFadden, Bright Beginnings; Mark Wirth, 1st Church of the Nazarene & Butler Dads; Marla Canfield, ECAAP Dept of Commerce; Miles Harvey, Butler County Special Ed Coop; Sue Barrientos, BCC Early Childhood & EduCare; Sue Givens, USD 490; Susan Harsh, Bright Beginnings; Suzi Thien, Sunlight Children's Advocacy and Rights Foundation; Tamara Bernard, Smart Start; Teresa Thompson, BCC Early Childhood; Tricia Bassingthwaight, New Generations Christian Learning Center; Jim Garrett, Child Start; Darcy McCoy, El Dorado First Baptist Day Care; Kathy Carson, USD 490; Juanita Newberry, CDI Head Start Augusta; Nancy Krase, Child Start.

Introductions & Announcements:

- Audra – Smart Start worked with the El Dorado Police Department to advertise the PD's upcoming Car Safety Seat Check – it will be 10 – 3 on Saturday, September 24 during the Walnut River Festival (see handouts). Butler County Emergency Management asked us to forward information about the Text First Campaign (see handouts). Mid-CAP will be having their next Parent Talk class in October/November (see handouts).
- Sue B – Walnut River Festival is 10 – 3 in downtown El Dorado on Saturday, September 24. The BCC Early Childhood folks will be there with activities for young children.
- Jamie D – The Health Department still has car seats available. Also, flu shots are available. If you don't have Medicare, they are \$27. Mondays in El Dorado: 8:30am to 11:30 and 1:00 pm – 4:30. Wednesdays in Augusta: 1:30 to 4:30.
- Becky H – SRS is going to reorganize from 6 Regions to 4 Regions. She will no longer be our SRS Representative; her new area is not going to include Butler County. (*Audra's Note: Thank you, Becky, for being such a GREAT presence for SRS at our table. We wish you well.*)

- Darla – October is Domestic Violence Month. On October 8 at East Park at 7:30 pm there will be a FREE Movie and FREE Popcorn. The Safehouse will have information for people who attend.
- Teresa – BCCAECCE (student group) had a drawing for 5 scholarships to attend KAEYC at their last meeting. The student group provided one of those scholarships and Smart Start provided 4 of them. Teresa thanked Smart Start for the scholarships.
- Tricia – Tricia’s program received Smart Start Scholarships for the KAEYC Conference as well. She thanked Smart Start. Also, Tricia will be representing BCCAECCE at our Task Force Table.

Guest Presenters:

Jennifer Stayner – The Arc of Butler County: The Arc of Butler County advocates for people who have developmental disabilities. They have many activities for young people in various locations around the county. Activities include: Butler Blazers (the team that participates in Special Olympics), a Tennis Program, Circle of Friends (with the Special Education Cooperative), and various meetings and trainings for parents and guardians of young people who have developmental disabilities. An activity they have had in the past, and are waiting to see if they have funding for this year, is Friday Fun Nights in Andover. We can help The Arc of Butler with sharing information about the program with families we know they can help. They can always use volunteers and help with funding. For more information, Jennifer can be reached at 316.680.4240 or Jennifer.stanyer@hotmail.com. (see handouts).

Head Start Grant – Child Start – Jim Garrett

Child Start currently serves as the provider of Head Start in Sedgwick County and Early Head Start in Harper County. They have been in Sedgwick County since the mid 1970s. They have experience and success with their Head Start program. They believe adding Butler County and Greenwood County into their service area would be a good fit. There are two other agencies writing for Butler (and the other 5 counties currently being served by CDI). Child Start met with Sue Barrientos and Audra Kenneson about the possibility of writing for our county and then, two weeks ago, came to Butler County for a meeting to hear the community’s concerns and share information. They expect that the award for the new provider will be mid-school year. If Child Start is the agency awarded this area, they will keep things in place through the remainder of the school year and wait to make major changes (if there are changes) for the following school year. They plan to keep money in the community and hire from within the community when possible. Employees currently with Head Start in Butler County will be favored over new ones, if all qualifications are present. Thank you to those who have submitted a letter of support. If you have not yet done so, please send letters of support to:

Ms. Glenda Wilcox
 Head Start 0-5 Program Director
 Child Start, Inc.
 1069 S. Glendale
 Wichita, KS 67218

Letters of support should include how your agency can support/work with Head Start (trainings, meeting space, referrals, activities, etc.). The grant is due on October 3. Email scan of the letter of support is OK, hard copy of the letter is best. Jim and Nancy are headed out to talk to the

Augusta Superintendent after this meeting. For more information, you can contact Jim Garrett at 316.680.7141 or garrettj@childstart.org

Outcome of Community Survey of Smart Start Programs/Services - Audra

Audra passed around the report from the survey. We had 92 people respond. What we learned is that the community likes all of our services and wants us to work to keep all of our services.

Smart Start Early Childhood Block Grants – Audra & Kandi

We have learned that the Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grants will be released in two different RFPs, and they will be released within the next week. The grants will not be competitive; they will be released only to those programs who have had the grants in the past. This is good news for Butler County. We will have a site visit in Wichita from the chair of the Kansas Children's Cabinet. Audra will be the representative for Butler County at that meeting on Monday, September 26 at 2:30 pm.

Other:

Susan H. – The State Interagency Coordinating Council meets monthly. They are impressed with the partnerships in Butler County and have asked to have their October meeting in Butler. Sue Barrientos helped to secure the room at BCC. The meeting will be on October 23 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. If you are interested in learning more about this State-wide meeting, please talk to Susan at 320.1342 or sharsh@rui.org.

Suzi – Suzi and Aurora attended a Mandated Reporting training that Audra taught in Augusta earlier this month and they appreciated the information.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on October 19 at Bradford Memorial Library (611 S. Washington; El Dorado, KS) at 11 am. The presenter will be Darla Carter from The Family Life Center Safehouse.

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
September 23, 2011