

Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Agenda

February 28, 2023

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

Virtual Option: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Mission Statement:

To create and maintain a sustainable, quality childcare environment that assists in attracting employees to Ellis County, while developing our children into the next generation of community leaders and workforce.

Vision Statement:

A community in which current and prospective employees are productive while their children are nurtured and educated in a safe and stimulating childcare environment.

1. Committee Member Introductions:

Amy Gerstner	Eddie Herrman	Mindy Kuhn
Amy Staab	Erin Gibson	Pat and Tony Schumacher
Andrea and Nick Felder	James Robben	Rebekah Meyer
Andrea Haas	Janet Brungardt	Sabina Hoffman
Andrew Cutright	Janice Wilson	Sandy Jacobs
Angie Tetlow	Jean Basgall	Sarah Meitner
April Brown	Jeff Brull	Sarah Wasinger
Barb Wasinger	Jennifer Hecker	Shae Veach
Brett Schmidt	Jessamyn Staples	Shane Smith
Brianna Bernasconi	Kaitlin Robben	Shelley Scheck
Brooke Deines	Kara Burkholder	Steve Keil
Callie Lewis	Kayla Ford	Tanya Koehn
Dacia Haselhorst	Kayla Hollern	Tara Witthuhn
Dana Stanton	Kristen Gaschler	Tasha Eichman
Dava Gaschler	Kristi Younger	Tori Ruder
Dave Van Doren	Laney Roths	Tricia Dreher
David Clingan	Lisa Lane	Vernie Pritchett
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Lucy Bouscher	Katie Dorzweiler
Doug Ford	Melissa Schoenberger	Erica Burgess
Doug Williams	Michelle Dannels	Christina Janney

2. Childcare and Early Education Advocacy Day at the Kansas Capitol – March 1st

- USD 489, Lisa Horton and a family advocacy contact will attend along with a CCA representative. Sara Bloom and Betsy Warring, Kelly Davis (CCA) will also sit on the State Childcare task force.

3. Child Care Aware of Kansas Grant Application

- We were approved to apply for the \$47,000 in grant funds for our task force
There is not funds for remodels in this grant, so Sarah is working on other avenues for remodeling grants. Tanya says to put entire project asks in the grant application so that they can see if other avenues can be explored so that they can see what the needs are. Extra pots of money may be available for other grants if they know all the needs. A lot of different applicants asking for items that other entities would, so if that happens with other grants we can do an MOA and amend our ask to CCA.

4. Process for Supporting Future Projects for Grant Application Requests

- How can we support our current providers OR new providers? We have 75 in home providers and 8 centers in town. How do we prioritize these? We want to ensure we have equal opportunities to help these needs. Dana said specific needs from the grants could help guide us on how to decide these for priority could be determined. Donna recommends giving priority to increasing childcare capacity. Tanya says they are very competitive on the accelerator grants and looking for shovel ready projects. Some groups have a governing structure where they can vote on what project gets what funding /

representation. CCA will only accept one grant application from one coalition and can split it in their application if there are two different projects are looking for funding. Talked about ways to get the word out to daycare providers about potential grant opportunities: existing emails lists, CCA newsletter or even United Way communications.

5. Child Care Tax Credits – Lunch & Learn Debrief

- Sara Bloom presented on the Community Tax Credit Program at today's Lunch & Learn. 18 guests attended today. Sarah will send out the meeting content from the slides to those interested. There is a webinar about this tomorrow at 1pm.

6. Child Care Provider Appreciation Sub-Committee Debrief

- We are planning a dinner for May 11th at Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering (the actual appreciation day is May 12th)
- A meal will be served and there will be a cash bar option
- Prizes will be given away, and there will be swag bags handed out to the first 150 guests
- Sponsorship opportunities will be available for \$100, \$250, and \$700, and we ask that anyone wishing to put items in the swag bags contribute \$100 as a sponsor
- Information about this will be shared in the March Chamber newsletter
- A Facebook event will be set up, and everyone is encouraged to invite their friends who provide care
- We will collect RSVPs to ensure there is plenty of food for everyone
- Any other ideas or feedback? \$500 meal cost needed, we are looking for a sponsor for this and they could have a moment to speak to the providers. Kelly from CACFP can put it in her April newsletter to providers.

7. Marketing Sub-Committee – Tasha Eichman

- April 1st timeline
- Facebook page consideration
- Overview of messaging - we will focus on attracting new child care providers to the profession and getting the business community more engaged in solutions to address needed spots.

Quarterly messaging different for each quarter April 1st will be the first deadline, caring for children and resources available. Several different avenues would be Hays Post, OTT and Facebook ads. Radio ads from providers, need providers to record the ad. Dana and Sarah on May 1st on 9:15am will do a radio spot promoting the appreciation event. Potential tagline is- "Be a Child Care Champion"

8. Food Program Sub-Committee

- Meeting scheduled for March 2nd at 5 p.m. at BriefSpace / Grow Hays
- Open invitation to any chamber member who may be able to provide food or transportation for food, such as local schools, caterers, and child care providers.

Starting the exploration of the avenues for providers that do not qualify for the Sunshine Connections program. Even if they do qualify for the Sunshine Connections, can they still participate in this or do a mix and match? Sarah will look into this question.

9. Childcare Aware of Kansas Updates

- Communities in Action Summit on April 4th
 - Current attendees include Brett Schmidt, Mason Ruder, Dana Stanton, and Sarah Wasinger

A lot of communities have gone through the community in action summit, so Tanya's group is trying to make it the most useful for everyone. Child Care Go Team is new, they partner with the childcare engagement team and assist with challenges like, licensing barriers (recent Wichita city code change is an example), nothing they won't

bring to the table to help with like sales tax credits. Tanya Koehn is the contact for the Child Care Go Team. CCA is working on some shared services opportunities, more to come on this!

10. Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center Updates – Dana Stanton

Dave is working on the Hadley Center group home locations to have it there versus in their own home. This could be ready in a matter of months. Could we could we work this in an advertised by the task force? He thought we could wait a bit on this, and when it is more ready we could then advertise this space. Lease would cover utilities, maintenance etc. Andrea also brought up insurance costs, food costs are something to consider for providers. Insurance Premiums / Legislators need to be involved in this conversation. Can the CCA Go Team work on this?

11. Round Table Updates from Task Force Members

SIT team could have some center assistance- per Brett. It's in a pilot program. Would function as mini center.

12. Long-Term Goals

- 501(c)3 through The Chamber that could be used to apply for specific grants being sought by the task force – The Chamber is having its first meeting on February 15th to discuss this possibility
- Ellis County currently needs to open 542 spots to reach full capacity
- Creating quarterly professional development opportunities for providers
- Development of a pay to play program and how that would work
- Providing greater access to child care for children with special needs
- Giving access to benefits like health insurance to providers
- Creating pay equity and addressing livable wages
- Adding CDA certification at local high schools
- Establish a foundation fund to subsidize infant care
- Working with local legislators to see if birth to five child care could be funding much like K-12 education
- Considering stipends for long-term providers

13. Future Meeting Date and Time: March 28th at 4 p.m. – Hays Welcome Center