

Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

April 25, 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	Doug Williams	Melissa Schoenberger
Amy Staab	Eddie Herrman	Michelle Dannels
Andrea and Nick Felder	Erin Gibson	Mindy Kuhn
Andrea Hoss	James Robben	Rebekah Meyer
Andrew Cutright	Janet Brungardt	Sabina Hoffman
Angie Tetlow	Janice Wilson	Sandy Jacobs
April Brown	Jean Basgall	Sara Bloom
Barb Wasinger	Jeff Brull	Sarah Meitner
Brett Schmidt	Jennifer Hecker	Sarah Wasinger
Brianna Bernasconi	Jessamyn Staples	Shae Veach
Brooke Deines	Kaitlin Robben	Shane Smith
Callie Lewis	Kara Burkholder	Shelley Scheck
Chelsey Ladd	Kayla Ford	Steve Keil
Dacia Haselhorst	Kayla Hollern	Tanya Koehn
Dana Stanton	Kristen Gaschler	Tara Witthuhn
Dava Gaschler	Kristy Younger	Tasha Eichman
Dave Van Doren	Laney Roths	Tori Ruder
David Clingan	Lisa Lane	Tricia Dreher
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Lucy Bouscher	Vernie Pritchett

2. ChildCare Aware of Kansas Grant Application

- We are still waiting to hear back from our grant application. There was a system error that delayed our application being fully submitted in their grant portal.
- Some of our other ideas for the \$2000 for our task force being started look like they are not eligible for this grant.
- Child Care Aware of Kansas has shared that we could apply for funds to offset staff expenses from chamber time to continue its efforts. Is this something that everyone would feel comfortable with us submitting?

3. Kansas Children’s Cabinet Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant

- Two intents for applications were received by The Grove, Grow Hays’ child care project and from Learning Cross Preschool from Brett Schmidt

4. Child Care Provider Appreciation Sub-Committee Updates

- 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
- Sponsorship updates:
 - **Child Care Champions:** Nex-Tech Wireless, Golden Plains Credit Union, and The Chamber in Hays, Kansas
 - **Child Care Advocates:** Ideal Refuse Removal & Roll-Off Service and Dillons #14 and #61
 - **Child Care Supporters:** HaysMed and Midwest Energy
- Swag bags: chapstick balls, kitchen strainers, kitchen spatulas, fly swatters, (items from Dillons TBD from task force discussion), Community Guides and information on child care provider chamber membership, and possible item(s) from HaysMed
- Sponsorship opportunities will be available for \$100, \$250, and \$500, and we ask that anyone wishing to put items in the swag bags contribute \$100 as a sponsor
- Tori has been posting information to the Facebook group
- Tasha posted a Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/739002037682234/?ref=newsfeed>
- Please share this Facebook event with your friends who provide care and like the page and comment to help increase interaction and visibility
- 31 are registered to attend so far – goal of 150 people / as many Ellis County providers as possible
- Swag bag stuffing meeting – Monday, May 8th from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m.?
- Volunteer shifts for day of event:
 - May 11th – Arrive at Welcome Center to take bags and supplies to the venue – 3:30 p.m.
 - May 11th – Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - 4:30 p.m. - Set up registration tables with name tags, pull tickets, give away table, signage, and survey cards for quarterly professional development events
 - 5:30 p.m. – Be ready to start greeting guests

6. **Marketing Sub-Committee Updates – Tasha Eichmann**

7. **Food Program Sub-Committee**

- Review survey data – See attached spreadsheet

8. **Child Care Provider Professional Development Event Sub-Committee**

- \$5000 worth of funds to spread throughout four events to pay for meals and speakers
- Would anyone like to sit on this sub-committee
- Setting dates for quarterly events – survey card at Child Care Provider Appreciation event

9. **Early Childhood Transition Task Force Updates – Sara Bloom**

10. **Round Table Updates from Task Force Members**

11. **Future Meeting Date and Time: May 30th at 4 p.m. – Hays Welcome Center**