

Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

June 27, 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.

• **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	Monique Koerner
Andrew Cutright	Janet Brungardt	Rebekah Meyer
Angie Tetlow	Janice Wilson	Sabina Hoffman
April Brown	Jean Basgall	Sandy Jacobs
Barb Wasinger	Jeff Brull	Sara Bloom
Brett Schmidt	Jennifer Hecker	Sarah Meitner
Brianna Bernasconi	Jessamyn Staples	Sarah Wasinger
Brooke Deines	Kaitlin Robben	Shae Veach
Callie Lewis	Kara Burkholder	Shane Smith
Chelsey Ladd	Katie Dorzweiler	Stephanie Keller
Dacia Haselhorst	Kayla Ford	Steve Keil
Dana Stanton	Kayla Hollern	Tanya Koehn
Dava Gaschler	Kelly Horn	Tara Witthuhn
Dave Van Doren	Kristen Gaschler	Tasha Eichman
David Clingan	Kristy Younger	Tori Ruder
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Lisa Lane	Tricia Dreher
Doug Ford	Lucy Bouscher	Vernie Pritchett

• **ChildCare Aware of Kansas Grant Application**

- The final budget sheet was resubmitted to CCAKS regarding the \$45,000. We were asked to resubmit any of our requests for funding that didn't fit within the scope of the \$45,000 request as additional funds may be available.

• **Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center Updates – Grants for New Programs**

Children's Cabinet released funds for the accelerator grant, Patterson Family grant would have to be tied to a childcare center tied to school district. CCA had an RFP for a childcare service hub. Things like Brightwheel software, other back office supports could be covered. This could also start up a substitute pool, purchasing / sharing services. Training workshop has served almost everyone on their waitlist. We may have a table representing the Ellis Co. Childcare taskforce, Sarah will look into this if needed.

- **Kansas Children's Cabinet Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant**
 - The Grove's Child Care Project Update

- **Child Care Provider Appreciation 2024**
 - June 20, 2024 from 6 to 8 p.m.?
 - Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - Working with Members to Enhance Number of Sponsors for the Event in 2024
 - **Tori, Dana and Tasha will be on this sub-committee.**

- **Child Care Provider Professional Development Series**
 - October 26th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - January 25th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - April 25th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - Sub-Committee Members: Tori Ruder, Dana Stanton, and Sarah Wasinger – Others? Please stay after meeting to schedule time to meet
 - \$5 registration fee for Ellis County providers and give them a priority date and open up the series to others if room is still available. **All will be charged \$5 a person regardless of county they live in to simplify the registration process.**

- **Ellis County Commission Presentation – July 5th at 8 a.m.**
 - Providing updates on task force progress
 - Marketing campaign efforts tied back to county funding and support

- All Child Care Task Force Members are welcome to attend. Please email sarah@hayschamber.com if you will be there so I can introduce you. Tasha, Dana and Donna will try to be there at the meeting.

- **Marketing Sub-Committee Updates – Tasha Eichman / Katie Dorzweiler**

40,000 views on the OTT campaign. July - Sept campaign to focus on what businesses can do to support. Hays Med, Shae Veach and MWE, Mike Morley will be involved in this campaign.

- **Scheduling Next Prospective Child Care Provider Event**

Should we look at scheduling this event in the Fall with Tanya and Melissa with Child Care Aware? We can rotate it between the towns of Hays, Ellis, Victoria and have Melissa and Jennifer there too. Childcare health team from CCA can be a part of it too.

- **Food Program Sub-Committee Meeting – July 19th at Hays Welcome Center from 5 to 6 p.m.**

Any member can attend, we didn't have a lot of survey responses from the providers. We will have more updates at next months meeting.

- **Early Childhood Transition Task Force Updates**

- Governor Laura Kelly Child Care Task Force Road Tour Hays Stop

- June 28th at 2 p.m. at the Rockwell Administrative Center at 323 W. 12th Street
- All task force members are welcome and encouraged to attend

- **Round Table Updates from Task Force Members**

Hays Area Children's Center: FHSU student workers wages have gone up to \$10/hr. Our utilities have gone up 10 - 15% year over. Andy also brought up the disparity between in-home and center rates and how that is related to the child care shortage. Tanya mentioned there are state conversations about how this is a systems issue because you can't price your parents out of the market. Right now there is an increase in the amount of the providers from January, but that is not expected to change. CCA said to let legislatures know about the issues. Brett said that there is a KDHE section on their website will include each section, and anyone can comment on them. The website for the regulations will be emailed out to

the group. Brett is using exemptions on about 12 regulations for his pilot childcare center. August 1st is the MWE grant opportunity deadline, one time this year.

- **Future Meeting Date and Time: July 25th at 4 p.m. – Hays Welcome Center**