

Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2022

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

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

1. Committee Member Introductions: Those in attendance at the meeting are highlighted in yellow.

Amy Staab	KDHE	Childcare Licensing Surveyor
Andrea and Nick Felder	Bright Minds Academy	Providers
Andrew Cutright	Hays Area Children’s Center	Board member
Angie Tetlow	Parent of potential provider	Provider
Barb Wasinger	State of Kansas	111th District Representative
Brett Schmidt	Learning Cross Preschool	Provider
Brianna Bernasconi	Child Care Licensing	
Brooke Deines	Shining Stars Preschool	Provider
Dacia Haselhorst	TreeTop Security	Possible provider link
Dana Stanton	Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center	Childcare Program Director
David Clingan	Grow Hays	Community Advancement
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Early Childhood Connections	Early Childhood Development
Doug Ford	Hays Area Children’s Center	Board member
Doug Williams	Grow Hays	Community Advancement
Eddie Herrman	HaysMed	Employer
Erin Gibson	Child Care Provider	Provider
Hali Bielser	Uhlig, LLC	Parent
James Robben	Grow Hays	Possible child care project
Janice Wilson	USD 388	K-12 Education
Jean Basgall	Child Care Provider	Provider
Jeff Brull	HaysMed Foundation	Parent
Jeff Pfeifer	Victoria Senior Center	Community Advancement
Jennifer Burgardt	Childcare Aware of Kansas	Community-Wide Resource
Jennifer Hecker	Options	Community connection
Jessamyn Staples	Nex-Tech Wireless	Parent
Jill Keller	KDHE	Childcare Licensing
Kaitlin Robben	Hays Medical Center	Parent
Kayla Ford	Golden Belt Cooperative	Representative
Kayla Hollern		
Kristy Younger	Potential Child Care Provider	Potential Provider
Laney Roths	FHSU Early Childhood	Instructor
Lisa Lane	Ameriprise Financial	Parent
Melissa Schoenberger	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment	Field Services Supervisor
Michelle Dannels	Early Childhood Connections	Provider
Mindy Kuhn	Child Care Provider	Provider
Olga Detrixhe	Nex-Tech	Parent / HACC board member
Patrick McGinnis	Breathe Coffee House	Community advancement
Rebekah Meyer	Childcare Aware of Kansas	Health Consultant
Sandy Jacobs	City of Hays	Mayor
Sarah Meitner	Heartland Community Foundation	Grant Resources
Sarah Wasinger	The Chamber in Hays, Kansas	Community advancement
Shae Veach	HaysMed	Employer
Shelley Scheck	Daycare	Provider
Steve Keil	DSNWK	Employer
Tasha Eichman	Nex-Tech Wireless	Parent
Tori Ruder	Ruders Rugsrats Daycare	Daycare Provider

2. Grant Writing Update – Upcoming Deadlines

- Request to Schmidt Foundation for funding to market child care video
 - Wasinger shared that she would ask the Schmidt Foundation to consider funding the marketing video as well as the general need for more providers and for businesses to get more engaged in the process.
- Dane G. Hansen Foundation grant cycles close the 25th of each month
 - July 25th application submission
 - Funds to support current and prospective child care providers – are task force members in favor of this approach? What qualifications or supporting documentation would we require from current/prospective providers?
 - This topic was discussed, and many shared that there were grant dollars available through Childcare Aware of Kansas to support in-home providers and centers. This will be a topic of discussion for future meetings.
 - Are there any specific projects we know of that we could write a grant to help start right now?
 - The task force discussed writing a grant that would fund a substitute provider pool. Roths shared that subs would have to be ID'd and pass background checks to be included. More investigation will need to take place to see how this could work before a grant proposal is submitted. The task force will work on getting more in-home providers connected with this conversation to square away the logistics and assess the true need on an annual basis.
 - Hudson-Hamilton shared that there are sustainability grants available and suggested that there be a focus on infant care. Infant care subsidies were also discussed since providers have a limited number of infants they can care for in comparison to other aged children. The task force members discussed finding the cost of providing care for infants, toddlers, and 3-5 year-olds so a true understanding of that disconnect can be found.
 - Younger shared that she was notified it would take 45 days for the state to process her license and noted that having grant funds available for potential providers while they are going through the licensure process would be beneficial.
 - CCAKS currently offers a \$2500 stipend for providers once they are licensed.
 - The task force also discussed acquiring a grant that would incentivize providers to get through the various levels of certification.

3. Creating a Mission and Vision Statement (Former task force mission and vision are below)

Mission Statement:

To create and maintain a healthy childcare environment that will assist in attracting key employees to Ellis County, the employer of choice, while developing our children into a new generation of workers for our community.

The proposed changes to the Mission Statement included:

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 learn in a safe and stimulating childcare environment.

No suggested changes were given for the Vision Statement. Task force members should email any suggestions to Wasinger before the next meeting.

4. Discuss Long-Term Goals for Task Force

- Ellis County currently needs to open 700 spots to reach full capacity
- Capacity building for current providers – Tina Payne training

- Development of a pay to play program and how that would work

Other long-term goals that were shared included:

- 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
- Address second shift care
- Investigating and working with local legislators to see if birth to five child care could be funding much like K-12 education is. B. Wasinger shared that she would work with the legislature budget committee to obtain a dollar amount for this idea.
- Considering stipends for long-term providers

5. **Survey/Questionnaire to Businesses from Child Care Aware of Kansas**

- Survey is being reopened and will close July 31st
- Please help circulate the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZHFFHW>

6. **Updates from Task Force Members**

- Roths shared that FHSU is working on a pathway with sliding fees for students seeking child care certification.
- Ford shared that the Hays Area Children's Center lost its Part C. They have space for providers to come in if they are licensed to offer care and may contact their facility directly.

7. **Future Meeting Dates and Times**

- Several in-home providers have mentioned they would be able to attend meetings if they could be scheduled in the evening during the week starting no sooner than 5:45 p.m.
- Task force members agreed to shift the meeting time to 5:45 p.m. for the next meeting.

8. **Future agenda items**

- a. Review the mission and vision statements
- b. Discuss long-term goals
- c. Identify a specific project that can provide funds to current providers and prospective providers and apply for a Dane G. Hansen child care grant
- d. Further discussion of Tina Payne training and a grant to pay for the project
- e. Discuss distributing the business survey regarding child care
- f. Pay to Play program – how would that work

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Wasinger