

Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Agenda

July 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.

• **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	Gracie Stanton	Monique Koerner
Andrew Cutright	James Robben	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	Kelly- Sunshine Connections	Tanya Koehn
Dava Gaschler	Kristen Gaschler	Tara Witthuhn
Dave Van Doren	Kristy Younger	Tasha Eichman
David Clingan	Laney Roths	Tori Ruder
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Lisa Lane	Tricia Dreher
Doug Ford	Lucy Bouscher	Vernie Pritchett

• **ChildCare Aware of Kansas Grant Application Update**

- Hays Area Children’s Center – Funding for \$31,000 for positions
- The Learning Cross Preschool – Funding for \$14,000 for program equipment and furniture
- Patterson Family Foundation Funding - \$26,145 to fund The Grove Project Funding timing of this is TBD- Sarah asked if ChildCare Aware had updates on this and they can request the funds in one lump sum as they ordering due to storage space requirements.

- **Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center Updates**

- Sub Pool

From Dana: Communities in various NW Kansas communities were also funded grants from ChildCare Aware. Close to 1/2 million dollars awarded to our aware. Sub Pool will have an announcement next month about what the sub services can be offered along with other services to be announced. The NWK training seminar is next week Monday and Tuesday. There is only 3 on the waitlist and they have spots. Meals are provided along with trainings for no cost. Enhanced the CPR Trainings funded by KCEDO. A special welcome video will be given. A lot of groups came together to put on this event. Jennifer Hecker with Options will provide more communication documents for families for providers. Barb Wasinger will provide nail files for the providers. In-home providers at a task force meeting who put together their own training conferences gave Dana the idea to do a conference like this. Around 1,000 children in our area will not have care these dates. It might be a good reminder about how important caregivers are to our community.

- **Food Program Exploration Sub-Committee Debrief**

- Exploring grant opportunities for in-home providers and centers to subsidize food costs

7 in-home providers took the survey. What can the Task Force do? Possibly write grants to help subsidize the cost the food for providers. The desire is to work with Sunshine Connections. From the food vendor side, this would need to be an "all or nothing" offering. From Kelly, tiering has changed recently. If a provider is on the food program they can sign a form and still utilize Sunshine Connections as long as it meets all the qualifications. Kelly offered to help by sending out the survey to providers due to the low volume of results. The vendor would provide the labels to the providers for submission to Sunshine Connections. More CACFP rate information is available online by a google search. Rates were lowered again since they were only raised due to COVID times. A petition opportunity will be presented at the NWKEIC training next week.

- **Child Care Provider Appreciation 2024**

- June 20, 2024 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering – venue is confirmed
- Working with Members to Enhance Number of Sponsors for the Event in 2024
- Title Sponsorship for the event is confirmed
- Two other sponsorships are confirmed

- **Child Care Provider Professional Development Series**

- October 26th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering
 - High Plains Mental Health Center certification
- 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
- Meeting on August 2nd from 5:30 to 6:30 to continue with plans at the Welcome Center

- **Ellis County Commission Presentation Update**

Message was well-received and they appreciated the update on our progress with the marketing dollars they have received.

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

- Current child care provider appreciation campaign Started the business involvement ads
- Radio advertising: Mike Morley, Dana Stanton, and Tia Miller – possibly Shae Veach as his schedule allows
- Facebook: Appreciation event, new child care provider welcomes, help to schedule out child care provider campaign
- OTT – the video is currently being featured on a variety of platforms

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

October 19th at 5:30pm at the Welcome Center to set another recruitment event up for new (in the last year) and prospective providers to provide them more information on anything needed. ChildCare Aware (Childcare Health consultant, KDHE and KCCEDO are involved and also Sunshine Connections). No more than three of these events a year, possibly Ellis and surrounding towns.

- **Early Childhood Transition Task Force Updates – Sara Bloom**

From Dana- one of the listening events had a great turnout in Hays. Several of the comments mentioned in Salina were the same as Hays. Good information was shared.

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

In-home providers have mentioned the centers are being favored in the task force over assisting them. Conversations focused on there are still needs for in-home providers, there is an infant care need more than over age 18 month need. Needs are 81% are for 18 mos and younger per Tanya at CCA. Very few referrals for preschool age. Statewide the need is for this way. Coalitions are working to open up centers, but there will be openings in the older age ranges. The numbers lead to open up more centers. Dana mentioned the CCA numbers match right up to KDHEs numbers. CCA is the industry standard for providing stats and referrals for childcare. We also looked at our point in time data. June was the first month we didn't lose a provider in our NW KS area. Infant care need is what is needed, not so much childcare problem as evidenced by the age range care spots available. 91% of care is in-home based in Ellis county currently according to Dana. Raising the standard of care is needed. CCA is stating a pilot program in ten counties called Baby Steps to pay providers a bump to get them up to \$15.00 per hour if they take an additional infant (funded by a private funding). August 4th from 5 - 7pm Hays Area Children's Center Back to School Bash Fundraiser.

- HaysMed Child Care Center Ribbon Cutting – August 15th at 4 p.m.
- Holy Family Chamber Chat August 11th at 11am.

- **Future Meeting Date and Time: August 22nd at 4 p.m. – Hays Welcome Center**

- Meeting date changed due to Education Appreciation event scheduled with The Chamber on August 29th