

## Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2022

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

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

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

Amy Gerstner	Amy Staab	Andrea and Nick Felder
Andrea Hoss	Andrew Cutright	Angie Tetlow
Barb Wasinger	Brett Schmidt	Brianna Bernasconi
Brooke Deines	Callie Lewis	Dacia Haselhorst
Dana Stanton	David Clingan	Donna Hudson-Hamilton
Doug Ford	Doug Williams	Eddie Herrman
Erin Gibson	James Robben	Janice Wilson
Janet Brungardt	Janice Wilson	Jean Basgall
Jeff Brull	Jennifer Burgardt	Jennifer Hecker
Jessamyn Staples	Jill Keller	Kaitlin Robben
Kayla Ford	Kayla Hollern	Kristen Gaschler
Kristy Younger	Laney Roths	Lisa Lane
Lucy Bouscher	Melissa Schoenberger	Michelle Dannels
Mindy Kuhn	Olga Detrixhe	Pat and Tony Schumacher
Rebekah Meyer	Sandy Jacobs	Sarah Meitner
Sarah Wasinger	Shae Veach	Shelley Scheck
Steve Keil	Tasha Eichman	Tori Ruder
Tricia Dreher	Becky Rogowski	

### 1. Grant Writing Update – Upcoming Deadlines

- Schmidt Foundation \$30,000 matching grant (we need to acquire an additional match to use these funds)
- Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant Update  
Wasinger shared the Hansen grant did not come through as hoped. Task force members discussed the need to shift the writing for the next grant to call it an awareness campaign instead of marketing efforts. Stanton shared that she would be willing to provide feedback and guidance for the next grant request.

Wasinger shared that Becky Rogowski from the committee shared that the First Presbyterian Church received a grant to add up to 36 additional child care spots at their church. It will be operated by Bright Minds Academy.

- Future Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant Requests (cycles close the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month)
  - Child Care Provider Substitute Pool Grant
    - Child Care Substitute Models – see attachment - Dana Stanton review
    - Ruder, Stanton, Hecker, and Wasinger will serve on this committee.
- Infant Care Sustainability
- Certification Level Incentivization Grants  
Schmidt shared that providers can currently write grants for funding when working through child care provider workforce pathways. The goal of this program is to elevate the prestige of providing child care as a profession.
- Patterson Family Foundation Grants – Wasinger is working to establish relationship with foundation. She will be connecting with a representative from the organization to discuss our communities needs, potential projects, and see if the Patterson Family Foundation would be interested in being a partner.

## 2. Approving Mission and Vision Statement

### **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.*

Stanton moved to approve the mission as written. Dreher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **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.*

Schumacher moved to approve the vision as written. Hecker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Task force members are encouraged to think of a tagline to use that will help identify the efforts of our group. Please email ideas to [sarah@hayschamber.com](mailto:sarah@hayschamber.com) before the next meeting.

Wasinger asked if it would be beneficial for task force minutes to be added to the website for the community to access. The group agreed that would be a good idea as well as to include when the meeting dates would be held.

## 3. Identifying Short-Term Goals

- Approving the Mission and Vision (accomplishing today)
- Sub Pool Committee Meeting: Members so far include Tori Ruder, Dana Stanton, Jennifer Hecker, and Shanna Dinkel and Chris Hipp from USD 489 will
- Schedule and Host Focus Group Meetings
  - Provider-based focus group
    - Identify provider short-term goals
    - Educating families on challenges for providing care
    - Other needs to identify
  - Parent-based focus group
    - Greater access to infant care
    - Affordability and reliability of care
    - Workforce constraints when child care isn't available last minute
  - Employer-based focus group
    - Child care tax credits
      - Burgardt shared that the Department of Revenue would have FAQs available by the end of September for this program.
    - Pay to play options: number of spots, benefits for providers, outlining details
    - Provider benefits package
      - Seeking business to help with retirement options
      - Health insurance
      - Assistance with regularly recurring bills like internet, phone, etc.
  - Faith-based focus group
    - Could faith spaces serve as a center during the week?
    - Are any members of congregation interested in providing care
    - Support for families seeking care

- Education-based focus group
  - Options for adding capacity at any of our current schools
  - Potential partnerships with schools and providers
- Child Care Tax Credits – Host a Lunch & Learn to Discuss Benefit for Employers
- Creation of Sub-Committee for Child Care Providers: Would this allow greater participation for providers and business community?

#### 4. Identifying Long-Term Goals

- 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
- 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 need for 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

Hecker suggested to prioritize the long-term goals so the task force can narrow its scope of work over the next year or so.

#### 5. Childcare Aware of Kansas Updates

- Business survey update
- Others?

#### 6. Current Financial Resources for Child Care Providers – Dana Stanton

Please see the attached documents from Stanton in the email with the minutes.

#### 7. Northwest Kanas Economic Innovation Center, Inc. Childcare Support – Dana Stanton

Please see the attached documents from Stanton in the email with the minutes.

#### 8. Future Meeting Date and Time: September 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at the Welcome Center

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Wasinger