

Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

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	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	Kelly Horn
Christina Janney-reporterHaysPost	Sarah Elzay	

2. Grant Writing Update – Upcoming Deadlines

- Schmidt Foundation \$30,000 matching grant (we need to acquire an additional match to use these funds) (Sarah- contacting businesses / non-profit organizations to potentially match to provide an Ellis County focused awareness campaign to push the NTW video. Pat: what about as a PSA? And the financial and Early Childhood Development can give to providers Brett: KDHE- can help on how to start and why to start = providers)
- Rural Champions
 - Would provide 20 hours a week for a part-time employee to focus solely on child care
 - The Chamber would fund the 25% match contribution required if selected
 - 12 champions will be identified across the state / selection process is in October
- KS Department of Commerce- \$20k to work on childcare project. 1-2 month to plan a course of action to fill more spots that are needed. They could work on modeling what works for other communities.
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - May apply for up to \$750,000 in funds
 - Cannot cover programmatic expenses like salaries, equipment, fencing, or playgrounds
 - Must be used for new construction of buildings or renovations of existing buildings, acquisition, engineering or architectural fees, and administration of the grant funds

- Deadline to apply is February 1st
- <https://www.kansascommerce.gov/program/community-programs/cdbg/>

Dana Stanton- this has now been opened up in KS for childcare. Few rules and regulations, no minor updates or salaries- only major renovations or new builds NON-PROFIT ONLY. 25% of children being served had to be low income to qualify. How is that tracked? TBD. Permanent funding. The City or County has to apply, not the entity. Could apply for it under housing and then be used to renovate one house and then the county could use it for childcare. City / county would need to coordinate and not duplicate, and only focus on one area is recommended. Sarah will schedule a meeting with Darrin, Mason and Grow Hays to follow up with this. Could meet up with Dane G. Hansen and EICI to get the cash match.

- Future Dane G. Hansen Foundation Grant Requests (cycles close the 25th of each month)
 - Child Care Provider Substitute Pool Grant
 - Matching grant for the Schmidt Foundation funds for awareness campaign (will be reapplying in the October grant cycle)

Dana Stanton will review last grant application and provide feedback.

- Patterson Family Foundation Grants
 - All 2022 funds have been distributed or approved
 - Will open up additional opportunities in 2023
 - Waiting to hear back from Sara Hackett, Program Officer, to schedule a meeting

Dana Stanton: NWKEIC has grants available- application period ends October 25th.

3. Identifying Short-Term Goals

- Creation of a Sub Pool: Members of sub-committee include Tori Ruder, Dana Stanton, Jennifer Hecker, and Sarah Wasinger (USD 489 will meet as needed)

Tori Ruder: Extended sub would need 20 hours w/ the same qualifications as FT providers. Temporary sub would need 3 or less hours worked per sub-license for PT subs. She will clarify this.

Barb Wasinger: Can we get a recommendation of short-term sub qualifications? This would require changes in licenses, mentioned by Donna.

Donna: We need the sub pool to be all qualified the same as providers. If we are the managers of the sub-pool, we need to pay them to get the qualifications to be a provider. Recommended reaching out to FHSU education department for interest for their education. Part of a sub-system is in the works with other organizations.

Sarah: We talked about a sub pool rating system where other providers could rate / reference different subs. Speed dating / job fair for the sub pool. Letting the providers choose their subs. Safeguarding the liability- would we need to provide waivers? Firing people from the pool based on rating black / white. One room schoolhouse type option versus in someone's home. She can also help the existing providers with letters of support. USD #489 will allow us to use their software / existing sub pool. We just need to assign who could manage that.

Jennifer: Childcare aware, hopeful to see how it develops: trial & error. Building a pipeline. Could they pilot the referral program for subs? Capacity for that might be pretty heavy.

- Schedule and Host Focus Group Meeting Schedule Facilitated by Betty Johnson (strategic doing Dane G. Hansen)
 - Provider-based focus group: November 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center
 - Parent-based focus group: November 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center
 - Employer-based focus group: November 1st at 4 p.m. at the Welcome Center
 - Faith-based focus group: November 17th at 1 p.m. at the Welcome Center

- Education-based focus group: November 17th at 9 a.m. at the Welcome Center
- Find a volunteer to write a press release

Donna: Could we use Betty Johnson's time and services as part of the match for the Schmidt Foundation?
Sarah will ask and find out.

- Child Care Tax Credits – Host a Lunch & Learn to Discuss Benefit for Employers
 - Should this be scheduled for February of 2023?
 - Who should be a speaker at this? More information is coming early October is coming out.
- Explore Additional Sub-Committee Needs

4. Identifying Long-Term Goals and Their Priorities

- 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

5. Childcare Aware of Kansas Updates

- Grant updates? From Jennifer: Child Care Community Partnership Grants. SIGN UP for community newsletters. Funding opportunities for childcare communities. Anyone can apply for the community partnership grants. Full information will be coming soon about this. Website will provide the information and can be signed up. New Provider Support webpage. Please send any potential new providers to Childcare Aware's website / or to Jennifer.
- Others? NWKEIC assistance as well for new providers. Kansas Action for Children's website put together a nice summary on the Childcare Tax Credits.

6. Round Table Updates

- Donna is working on a CDA track and Dana is trying to promote for-profit workers.
- Jeff Brull: Offered help to share what they put on their Dane G. Hansen grants. All the information the task force has pulled together helped their process of gaining funding. He thanked the task force for their work. \$1.3 million for 77 spots. He asked if the Foundation could provide ½ of the funds so that they could have their name on it. He then had to find the other ½ of the funding. Also looking at training / on-boarding versus retaining employees is a benefit to everyone, but especially for them. Not a 24 hour facility initially, but a survey has gone out to their Hays Med to see about hours needed. Possibly very early hours needed for their facility.

7. Future Meeting Date and Time: October 25th at 4 p.m. at the Welcome Center