

Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes– October 28, 2021
Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street
Virtual Option: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

1. Committee Member Introductions: Those highlighted in yellow were in attendance.

Zach Woolf	FHSU Foundation	Parent
Tori Ruder	Ruders Rugrats Daycare	Daycare Provider
Jennifer Oborny	Hays Area Children’s Center	Infant/Toddler Early Intervention
Berny Unruh	Cottonwood Extension District	Family Community Wellness
Jennifer Burgardt	Childcare Aware of Kansas	Community-Wide Resource
Sarah Meitner	Heartland Community Foundation	Grant Resources
Sandy Jacobs	City of Hays	Mayor
Tasha Eichman	Nex-Tech Wireless	Parent
Barb Wasinger	State of Kansas	111th District Representative
Lisa Lane	Ameriprise Financial	Parent
Hali Bielser	Uhlig, LLC	Parent
Sarah Wasinger	The Chamber in Hays, Kansas	Community advancement
Bradford Wiles	Cottonwood Extension District	Early Childhood Development
Doug Williams	Grow Hays	Community advancement
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Early Childhood Connections	Early Childhood Development
Shelly Scheck		
Kelly Horn	Sunshine Connections	Provider
Patrick McGinnis	Breathe Coffee House	Community advancement
Kaitlin Robben	HaysMed	Parent
Shae Veach	HaysMed	Employer
Andrea and Nick Felder	Bright Minds Academy	Provider
Skyler Tebo		

2. Walk Through of Ellis County Point-In-Time Childcare Survey

<https://stage.worklivesystems.com/Kansas?county=ellis>

Burgardt provided the task force with an update on the survey results.

3. Startup Funding Through Child Care Health Consultant

Meyer walked through a presentation on resources available through Childcare Aware of Kansas.

Additional information can be found on their website at ks.childcarewaware.org/health-consultant.

4. Kansas Action for Children Resources

12.9% of household income is spent on childcare in Ellis County. That is nearly twice that of other communities. 7% is the target for income spent on childcare.

Hudson-Hamilton shared that Early Childhood Connections is seeking partners to provide daycare for children receiving DCF services.

5. Questions to Address as a County

- What are our specific needs for childcare in Ellis County?
Wiles shared that the greatest needs being identified in a majority of counties are childcare for 18 months and under as well as 2nd and 3rd shift childcare. Childcare for children with special needs is also a critical need.
- What should our process for improvement look like to address the needs?
The task force spoke about conducting a community survey to start its process form improvement. The next meeting will focus on that survey, its questions, timeline, and how it will be shared with the community.
- What would it take to establish additional daycares or a center?
- Who is not here today and needs to be to move forward and address the issue?
The United Way of Ellis County and DCF were identified as organizations that should participate in this effort.
- What challenges exist for current providers in addition to the ones listed below?
 - a. Keeping a house a home and business simultaneously
 - b. State regulations in Kansas are more stringent than in surrounding states
 - c. Making a profit as a business model
 - d. Classification of infants for available spots
- Possible Incentives to Consider for Current and Future Providers
 - a. Offset the cost of liability insurance for providers
 - b. Utility/internet discounts
 - c. Food assistance/reimbursement
 - d. Equipment

6. Future Meeting Date/Time Suggestions

- Future agenda items

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Wasinger