

Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

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

1. Committee Member Introductions:

Amy Staab	KDHE	Childcare Licensing Surveyor
Andrea and Nick Felder	Bright Minds Academy	Providers
Angie Tetlow	Parent of potential provider	Provider
Aubrey Woolf	Early Childhood Connections	Educator
Barb Wasinger	State of Kansas	111th District Representative
Bradford Wiles	Cottonwood Extension District	Early Childhood Development
Brett Schmidt	Learning Cross Preschool	Provider
Brooke Deines	Shining Stars Preschool	Provider
Corey Burton	USD 388	Superintendent
Dacia Haselhorst	TreeTop Security	Possible provider link
Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Early Childhood Connections	Early Childhood Development
Doug Williams	Grow Hays	Community Advancement
Eddie Herrman	HaysMed	Employer
Hali Bielser	Uhlig, LLC	Parent
Jeff Pfeifer	Victoria Senior Center	Community Advancement
Jennifer Burgardt	Childcare Aware of Kansas	Community-Wide Resource
Jennifer Oborny	Hays Area Children’s Center	Infant/Toddler Early Intervention
Jill Keller	KDHE	Childcare Licensing
Kaitlin Robben	Hays Medical Center	Parent
Kayla Ford	Golden Belt Cooperative	Representative
Kelly Horn	Sunshine Connections	Child and Adult Care Food Program
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
Patrick McGinnis	Breathe Coffee House	Community advancement
Penny McGinnis	Tiger Tots	Provider
Rachel Gardner	University of Kansas	Research Project Coordinator
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 Rugrats Daycare	Daycare Provider

*Amanda Rohleder was also present.

2. Prospective/Current Child Care Provider Meetings:

- Information to cover: KDHE information, SBDC business plan information, what else?
- Information to collect from attendees: name, phone number, email address, information on what type of child care they are considering providing/already provide?
- Which committee members will be able to be present at each meeting?
- What resources do we want to have printed off to hand out to attendees?
- Can we run background checks at these meetings, too?

- Ellis Prospective and Current Child Care Providers Meeting: Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
 - Location: Ellis Public Library – 907 Washington St.
 - \$250 Chamber Cheques will be given away
 - Advertising in Ellis newspaper and Hays Post Push Down occurred on March 15th
- Hays Prospective and Current Child Care Providers Meeting: Monday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Location: Hays Welcome Center – 2700 Vine St.
 - \$250 Chamber Cheques will be given away
 - Advertising in Hays Post Push Down on March 31st and April 3rd
 - Rick Feltenberger from the SBDC will be able to attend
- Victoria Prospective and Current Child Care Providers Meeting: Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Location: Elms' Conference Room – 613 Grant St.
 - \$250 Chamber Cheques will be given away
 - Advertising in Hays Post Push Down on April 7th and April 11th

Melissa will prepare 30 packets and provide information at the meetings with providers and discuss KCCTO as a resource. Jennifer will also be present on behalf of Child Care Aware of Kansas. Background checks cannot be completed at these events.

3. Funding Update for Communities Through Childcare Aware of Kansas

Advertising for Ellis Potential Provider Event	\$450
Advertising for Hays Potential Provider Event	\$500
Advertising for Ellis Potential Provider Event	\$500
Giveaways for Potential Provider Events	\$750
Contract with The Chamber in Hays, Kansas	\$2,000
Design services for Hays Senior Living Project	\$3,000
Asbestos Study for Victoria Child Care Project	\$1,555
Create potential child care provider video / advertising video	\$245
Total Proposed Budget	\$9,000

*Nex-Tech Wireless will be preparing the child care video and sharing it at the April meeting. Melissa will work with Tasha to get some current providers to be featured in the video.

4. **Communities in Action for Ellis County Update from Attendees**

Goals defined during workshop:

- Host community provider meetings and connect with prospective providers and current providers. Identify new providers during these meetings.
 - Connect with Amy and Melissa to see if we can run background checks at those meetings.
- Host June Membership Lunch and launch the concept of businesses pledging funds to help make child care sustainable in Ellis County (pay to play concept).
 - We would also discuss the option of starting a fund through the Heartland Community Foundation. Use residual funds to invest back into child care.
- Identify specific projects to add spots for child care and apply for grants to open those spots.
- Work to establish a workforce pool.
 - Meet with educational facilities to discuss grant funds obtained from KU.
- Create a county-wide child care provider benefit package, including a special rate for Chamber membership for business support and resources.
 - Send out a survey to members to see their interest in participating through discount program.

5. **Grant Writing Update**

- Meeting notes with Judy Keller from Keller Consulting
We will be able to work with Judy Keller for \$1500 worth of contract time to write grants for the task force.

6. **Chamber Website – Child Care Resources Added**

The child care summary is currently available on The Chamber's website.

7. **Resource Updates from Task Force Members**

We discussed Child Care Appreciation Day on May 6th. Sarah W. said she would work with the City of Hays to get on the schedule to do a special proclamation. Melissa and Jennifer said they would connect Sarah W. with resources for that day.

8. **Future Meeting Date/Time Suggestions**

- Future agenda items: