

**Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes**

**May 18, 2022**

**Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street**

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

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

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
David Clingan	Grow Hays	Community Advancement
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
Olga Detrixhe	Nex-Tech	Parent / HACCC board member
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

**2. Hays City Commission Child Care Presentation Recap**

Wasinger said the commissioners were grateful for the work of the task force and seemed interested in receiving additional updates if there were projects that could be helped with in the future. The commissioners were surprised by how many respondents would re-enter the workforce if they had access to child care.

### 3. Child Care Provider Appreciation Review

- Child Care Proclamation by Hays Mayor Mason Ruder  
Wasinger shared that there were eight child care providers who attended the meeting and were recognized during the Child Care Provider Appreciation Proclamation that was read by Mayor Mason Ruder.
- \$50 Chamber Cheque Winner – Darcy Herlet
- \$100 Nex-Tech Wireless Gift Card Winner – Janet Brungardt
- Bags distributed – Wasinger shared that 24 appreciation bags were left. Several task force members took the remaining bags to distribute to Ellis County providers.

### 4. Grant Writing Update – Upcoming Deadlines

- Dane G. Hansen Foundation grant cycles close the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month
- Should we apply for any of these grants, and what would our asks be?

Schmidt said he would be willing to work with Wasinger to connect with the Schmidt Foundation to request funds to begin marketing the prospective child care provider video.

Task force members discussed the Light House at the church and shared that it is in need of plumbing and could hold around 20 children if it passed inspection for plumbing and the kitchen. This space would be ideal for a group home provider if an affordable rent agreement could be arranged.

### 5. Creating a Mission and Vision Statement (Former task force mission and vision are below)

#### **Mission Statement:**

*To create and maintain a healthy childcare environment that will assist in attracting key employees to Hays, the employer of choice, while developing our children into a new generation of workers for our community.*

#### **Vision Statement:**

*A community in which current and prospective employees are productive while their children are nurtured and learn in a safe and stimulating childcare environment.*

- Wasinger shared that the original child care task force had a mission and vision statement to help guide them in their efforts. Their statements are included above. For time purposes, task force members were asked to look at the statements and bring suggested revisions to the meeting in June. Some initial feedback included ensuring that greater focus is placed on the community and its providers.

Members discussed having a series of focus groups, including businesses, churches, foundations, parents, providers, schools, and government leaders to see how child care impacts them and see if they have any suggestions on solutions they can offer to help open up space for providers. There are currently 700 spots needed for child care in Ellis County.

### 6. Survey/Questionnaire to Businesses from Child Care Aware of Kansas

- Update from Jennifer Burgardt regarding total survey completions – Jennifer shared that participation in this survey has not been strong. Wasinger said they would re-open the survey up to employers in June and close it at the end of July to get greater participation and have more accurate data to rely on going forward.

## 7. Updates from Task Force Members

- Chamber health insurance plan through Chamber Blue of Kansas – Wasinger shared that business owners with two or more full-time employees would be granted access to a new health insurance option in January 2023 if they are a chamber member.
- Hudson-Hamilton shared that Hays High School is working on implementing a CDA track for students.
- The task force members discussed writing a grant for around \$15000 to bring in Tina Payne for a child care provider conference. She presents on the topic of “Whole Brain Child” and is very well-respected in her field. This could be a great opportunity to provide a benefit to local providers and give them access to in-person training that can go towards their annual certification requirements. We would need to receive approval through KDHE to sponsor this training.
- Waconda school is opening up day care facilities in their community.
- Reno County’s child care group applied for ARPA funds to address their projects. It was discussed that Ellis County’s funds have already been distributed.
- The Sheridan County school district is working with in-home providers on some unique options.

## 8. Future Meeting Date – June 29, 2022 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

- Future agenda items:
  - Review the mission and vision statements
  - Discuss long-term goals
  - Identify a specific project that can provide funds to current providers and prospective providers and apply for a Dane G. Hansen child care grant
  - Further discussion of Tina Payne training and a grant to pay for the project
  - Discuss distributing the business survey regarding child care
  - Pay to Play program – how would that work