

## Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

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

### 1. Committee Member Introductions:

1	Abby Werth	Opening daycare	New provider
2	Amanda Unrein		
3	Amy Staab	KDHE	Childcare Licensing
4	Angela Tetlow		
5	Barb Wasinger	State of Kansas	111th District Representative
6	Berny Unruh	Cottonwood Extension District	Family Community Wellness
7	Betsy Wearing	Dane G. Hansen Foundation	Programs and New Initiatives
8	Bradford Wiles	Cottonwood Extension District	Early Childhood Development
9	Brett Schmidt	Learning Cross Preschool	Provider
10	Corey Burton	USD 388	Superintendent
11/12	Dacia and Dallas Haselhorst	TreeTop Security	Possible provider link
13	Donna Hudson-Hamilton	Early Childhood Connections	Early Childhood Development
14	Doug Williams	Grow Hays	Community advancement
15	Eddie Herrman	HaysMed	Removing barriers for employees
16	Hali Bielser	Uhlig, LLC	Parent
17	Jeff Pfeifer	Victoria Senior Center	Has space to renovate for daycare
18	Jennifer Burgardt	Childcare Aware of Kansas	Community-Wide Resource
19	Jennifer Oborny	Hays Area Children’s Center	Infant/Toddler Early Intervention
20	Jill Keller	KDHE	Childcare Licensing
21	Kaitlin Robben	Hays Medical Center	Parent
22	Kayla Ford	Golden Belt Cooperative	Representative
23	Kelly Horn	Sunshine Connections	Child and Adult Care Food Program
24	Laney Roths	FHSU Early Childhood	Instructor
25	Lisa Lane	Ameriprise Financial	Parent
26	Melissa Schoenberger		
27	Michelle Dannels	Early Childhood Connections	Educator
28	Patrick McGinnis	Breathe Coffee House	Community advancement
29	Penny McGinnis	Tiger Tots	Provider
30	Rachel Gardner	University of Kansas	Research Project Coordinator
31	Sandy Jacobs	City of Hays	Mayor
32	Sarah Meitner	Heartland Community Foundation	Grant Resources
33	Sarah Wasinger	The Chamber in Hays, Kansas	Community advancement
34	Shelley Scheck	Daycare	Provider
35	Tasha Eichman	Nex-Tech Wireless	Parent
36	Tori Ruder	Ruders Rugsrats Daycare	Daycare Provider
37	Zach Woolf	FHSU Foundation	Parent

### 2. Ellis County Childcare Survey Update (Goal is to reach 1,000 completed surveys) – Communication from Bradford

- Where the survey has been shared:
  - Sent to Hays Post and *The Hays Daily News*
    - Posted on Hays Post on November 29<sup>th</sup>

- Had push down ad in Hays Post on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and have one more scheduled for Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.



- Chamber Facebook page
  - pinned as top post and boosted through December 31st
  - 8,112 people have been reached
  - 757 engagements
  - 54 shares
- Chamber December newsletter
  - Emailed to approximately 1200 individual email addresses
- KAYS radio segment in November
- Shared with Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Facebook Group
- Requested information be shared with parents in USD 489, USD 388, and USD 432
- Other places?
  - Lane said she shared the survey on the Daycare mom Facebook page and noted that it has 1400 members.
  - Wasinger will contact Roger Bixenman at the Hays Recreation Commission and Brandon Hines at the Hays Public Library to see if they can distribute the survey to those on their contact list.
  - Pfeifer will connect with the Victoria Recreation Commission
  - Burton will connect with the Ellis Alliance and Chamber of Commerce, as well as their recreation commission to help spread the word.

3. Dane G. Hansen Foundation Childcare Programs and Grants – Betsy Wearing  
*Betsy Wearing may be reached via email at: [betsy@danehansenfoundation.org](mailto:betsy@danehansenfoundation.org)*

Wearing shared the following resources with the task force:

- Northwest Kansas Cares for Kids is available on the Dane G. Hansen Foundation website. This has information regarding grants for childcare centers and group homes.
- There are additional bonus grants available to help stabilize the workforce for providers. Once they complete a full year of childcare, they can receive a \$1600 bonus per year.
- There are also grants for early childhood centers to purchase books.
- There are two new grants that are focused on expanding the availability of childcare in the form of group homes, centers, and in-home care. The Childcare Task Force of Ellis County can apply for these after the survey results are received. (The only other requirement is that the business community is involved in that process, and Wearing shared that the diversity of those participating in our task force would definitely qualify to apply for these grants. Finding a way to sustain livable wages must be part of the solution when applying for these grants.
- If we apply for the grants, a 501(c)3 organization must be the recipient of the funds and submit the application.
- The grants have questions specific to childcare and don't follow the same outline as the traditional application.
- Funds can be used to help individuals obtain their licensure.
- Lincoln and Norton have both had successful programs.

#### 4. Resource Update from Task Force Members

- Hudson-Hamilton said they are seeking partners to provide childcare for children receiving services from DCF.
- Meyer shared that they are working with KDHE to support startups.
- Schmidt shared that Learning Cross Preschool has 80 kids on a wait list and have capacities of 24/20 for their centers.
- Horn said Sunshine Connections provides food for daycare facilities in case anyone knows of new providers.
- Roths said FHSU is offering scholarships for students obtaining emergency sub licensure.
- Burgardt said that providers must apply for grants through Childcare Aware of Kansas and take their training in order to qualify.

#### 5. Provider Resources – How should we assemble and share out the resources we acquire with providers?

Wasinger asked if the task force had any thoughts on how it should share the resources that are uncovered throughout the discovery process. Wasinger said there are so many, and keeping track of them is taxing. Schmidt shared that there are efforts currently underway to centralize all childcare resources to one website, but noted that it won't be ready until the end of next year. Wasinger said she would work with her board of directors to seek permission to start sharing those resources on The Chamber's website.

#### 6. Other Feedback from CTFEC Facebook Group

- Getting with college students in education to team up with current providers
- Start up grants for new providers
- Have local organizations host activities during the day that are daycare/childcare intentional
  - Schmidt noted that the Kansas Board of Regents is allowing for students to receive credits for college while providing childcare. The program is called Direct Services.

#### 7. Future Meeting Date/Time Suggestions –

- Future agenda items  
Wasinger will send out a Doodle poll to schedule a meeting in late January to review the data collected from the survey.

Wasinger shared the dates for The Chamber's upcoming Legislative Coffee series for 2022 and shared that she would like to have the task force submit some questions to the legislators for those events. The dates and time information include:

- Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Hays Public Library: Doors open at 8 a.m. with coffee and scones provided for guests. The official program will run from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Hays Public Library: Doors open at 8 a.m. with coffee and scones provided for guests. The official program will run from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Hays Public Library: Doors open at 8 a.m. with coffee and scones provided for guests. The official program will run from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 9:30 a.m.

---

#### Challenges facing current providers:

- Keeping a house a home and business simultaneously
- State regulations in Kansas are more stringent than in surrounding states
- Making a profit as a business model
- Classification of infants for available spots

Possible incentives to consider for current and future providers

- Offset the cost of liability insurance for providers
- Utility/internet discounts
- Food assistance/reimbursement
- Equipment
- Schmidt suggested that The Chamber consider offering courtesy memberships for childcare providers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Wasinger