

Childcare Task Force of Ellis County Meeting Agenda

February 17, 2022

Welcome Center – 2700 Vine Street

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

1. **Committee Member Introductions:** Those names highlighted were present.

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

2. **Ellis County Child Care Needs Assessment Summary – Bradford Wiles – KSU Extension and Research**

Wiles reported on the following items from the child care needs assessment survey:

- 270 families are currently seeking care.
- KSU Extension and Research is still working on finalizing the complete report.
- They suggest building off of the current capacities that aren’t being maximized that have been identified. i.e. providers who are only providing care for six children if they are certified to care for more than six children.
- Infant care is very difficult to find.
- A child care center would be the fastest way to address the most amount of spaces.

- Quality and trusted care came up first ahead of cost of care. This is not the case for many communities.
- 125 women would rejoin the workforce if they had access to quality care.
- The final report will pinpoint which zip codes have the greatest needs.
- We should approach our state and federal legislators to help create solutions for our efforts.
- We should ensure new providers utilize the small business loans and grants that are available to them.

3. Funding for Communities Through Childcare Aware of Kansas

- Review the funding parameters attachment
- Decide how the Child Care Task Force of Ellis County will utilize the \$9,000 in funds
 - Advertising for Ellis Potential Child Care Providers Meeting on **Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m.**
Thank you to Corey for acquiring our venue at the Ellis Public Library. Staab and Schoenberger have confirmed these dates will work for them.
 - Budget: \$200 / week for an 8 ½" x 11" ad in the Ellis Review and \$250 / day for Hays Post Push Down with 50 Eagle Radio commercials on same day
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$450 (one ad in the Ellis Review, and one day on Hays Post)
 - Advertising for Hays Potential Child Care Providers Meeting on **Monday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.** The location will be at the Welcome Center at 2700 Vine St. Staab and Schoenberger have confirmed these dates will work for them.
 - Budget: \$250 / day for Hays Post Push Down with 50 Eagle Radio commercials on same day
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$500
 - Advertising for Victoria Potential Child Care Providers Meeting on **Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.**
Thank you to Pfeifer for helping acquire a location for this meeting at the Elms' Conference Room on at 613 Grant St. Terrace. Staab and Schoenberger have confirmed these dates will work for them.
 - Budget: \$250 / day for Hays Post Push Down with 50 Eagle Radio commercials on same day
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$500
 - Giveaways for Potential Child Care Provider Meetings
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$750 (\$250/community)
 - Contract with The Chamber in Hays, Kansas to coordinate meetings, organize activities, develop strategic plan, resources, and accountability achieving mutually defined goals.
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$2,000
 - Design services for child care facility within the Hays Senior Living Project
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$3,000
 - Pay for an asbestos study to be completed on the Victoria Senior Center facility.
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$1555
 - Create potential child care provider video/ advertising video.
 - Total Proposed Budget: \$245

Schoenberger and Staab prefer the money designated to them be distributed elsewhere, so I added some additional funds to the Victoria project and the video we will create. The budget spreadsheet is attached for your review and has been sent to Burgardt at Childcare Aware of Kansas for consideration.

4. Communities in Action for Ellis County: Jennifer Burgardt – Childcare Aware of Kansas

Doug Williams, David Clingan, Donna Hudson-Hamilton, Brett Schmidt, Sarah Meitner, Laney Roths, Sarah Wasinger, and Jennifer Burgardt

I forwarded the invite to Hudson-Hamilton and Schmidt again. If anyone else on our committee would like to participate in this workshop, we can have up to ten spots for that date. Please email Wasinger at sarah@hayschamber.com to sign up to attend. The highlighted names have confirmed their attendance.

Date: March 10th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Welcome Center (Lunch provided by The Chamber)

- We can have up to ten spots at this workshop. Would anyone else have the availability/desire to serve on the Steering Committee? There are 2-3 more spots available.

- Steering Committee members may work in more frequent capacities outside of monthly scheduled meetings as needed.
- Items that will be discussed during this session:
 - [Pre-planning and support](#). This may include support for initial coalition-forming, a preliminary needs assessment, or other key activities to build initial readiness (we are through most of this)
 - [Communities in Action Workshop](#). This workshop is a tailored experience designed to meet the unique needs of individual communities. Community teams learn from child care content experts, hear directly from child care providers, receive customized child care supply/demand data, and delve into development of short- and long-term goals during structured planning time with an expert community coach.
 - [Follow-up support](#). Ongoing support is tailored to the readiness, pace, and scale of each community to support successful execution of the action plan.

5. **Dane G. Hansen Foundation NWKansas Cares for Kids Grants**

- May apply for grants after data from surveys is finalized
- Grants are due by the 25th day of each month
- <https://danehansenfoundation.org/grants/nw-kansas-cares-for-kids/>
- Should we submit an early childhood education start-up or expansion grant for the Victoria Senior Center?
 - Funds can be used to assist with the remodeling costs of an existing facility that is suitable for childcare.
- We will look at which grants we want to apply for at the next meeting. All committee members are encouraged to visit the website included in the third bullet on this agenda item to see if any grants are applicable to assist our efforts in opening up additional spots in Ellis County for child care.

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

- Hudson-Hamilton shared that Early Childhood Connections is looking to partner with providers who are licensed to care for children served by D.C.F.
- Wiles forwarded Wasinger a Child Care Resource Guide from USDA. That attachment is included in the email with these minutes.

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

- Future agenda items:
 - Provide access to the full child care report from K-State Extension & Research
 - Discuss potential child care provider upcoming events
 - Decide which grants we should apply for and how we want to utilize the funds we would receive

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

