



General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

10:00 am - 11:30am

Monarch Place, Red Chimney Hall 100 Brugh Avenue, Butler, PA 16001

The mission of the Butler Collaborative for Families is to build a unified and integrated network of services by using a multiple-agency approach to break down barriers and strengthen the system of care for individuals and families of Butler County.

I. Welcome Co-Chairs Becky Clouse & Linda Thoma- meeting called to order at 10:07am

II. Review and approval of the February 8, 2024 General Meeting minutes 1st-Cody Slater 2nd-Lynn

III. Budget & Finance Committee Report- BCF Treasurer

Restricted Funds: \$14,296

Unrestricted Funds: \$ 30,673

Total: \$41,970

IV. Featured Speaker: Royal Family Kids Camp

- a. Royal Family Kids is a 5 day 4 night summer camp for kids 7-11 who are in foster care.
 - b. Faith based, but not a church affiliated camp.
 - c. For the Kids is the parent organization of Royal Family Kids. It was started in 1972 in California, and is now a nationwide organization with 43 states hosting multiple mentorship/camp programs all part of "For the Kids" larger organization. The main goal is to interrupt the cycle of abuse, neglect and abandonment of children. The goal of Royal Family Kids Camps is to build relationships and provide happy, healthy memories. Mentorship is a year-long program to work alongside the camp kids. Mentorship is not in Armstrong yet, but is a dream of the local chapter.
 - d. Armstrong Chapter started in 2018. First camp was in 2019.
- a. Accept kids from the neighboring counties
 - b. Children must be in foster care, kinship, or have been adopted
 - c. 71 kids have been served so far since camp opened.
 - d. 28 kids attended last summer.
 - e. Various outdoor activities, arts and organized games throughout the week
 - f. Fundraise all year to provide a free camp to the kids
 - g. Looking for volunteers to mentor and assist with camp.
 - h. Volunteer requirements: background clearances, 3 references, interviewed, 12 hours of training for new volunteers.
 - i. 2 volunteers at all time with the kids
 - j. Counselors available for the kids
 - k. "Grandparents and Aunts and Uncles" (volunteers) are available as support throughout the week
 - l. www.ftcarmstrong.org for more information on how to volunteer.
 - m. Looking for volunteers, donations and help spreading the word to eligible kids.

V. Membership Spotlight: New Hope Ministries, Ginger Vandevort

- a. Christ centered addiction recovery program
- a. Celebrate Recovery program and church required



- b. 12 month program (assigned a mentor for the year)
- c. Months 2-10= Vocational Training offered with partnering businesses to offer work/training for the clients. No one gets paid during this time. Business pays the Hope Center and that funding is used to keep the program running.
- d. Only a men's facility at this time, but a women's facility is planned to open by the end of 2024.
- e. Months 10-12= Can have cars, cell phone privileges and are required to have a 40-hour work week. Given some freedom to come and go as they want to become better prepared to be back in the community.
- f. Focus on family restoration with families coming in on weekends to visit and attend church with the resident.
- g. 51 locations nationwide
- h. Reentry from prisons is one way for intake into the program. Homeless shelters and detox/rehab centers can make a referral as well

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Marketing & Events Committee Report

Collaboration planning committee – if you'd like to help, please reach out to Emily Snow at esnow@gladerun.org

a. The July date for the event will be announced at the April meeting.

b. Resource and Development Committee

- i. Gaps and needs - please share your thoughts on the post-in-notes provided on your table
- ii. Leadership Butler County- scholarship applications for the 2025 class are now available. Applications are due by May 31, 2024 for the September class. Applications and requirements are available on the resource table.

VII. Partnering Collaboratives Updates:

a. Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC) – Amanda Feltenberger

a. No new updates at this time. Contact Amanda

b. Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) – Allyson Rose Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month at 9am at Community Alliance Church. Everyone is welcome!

a. The Warming Center closes at the end of March. Looking for another solution when the shelter does close for the season.

c. Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC) – Julie Thumma Next meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Mars School District Admin. Office (Zoom available) During this meeting, we will discuss issues in early learning, early childhood mental health, children's health and safety, Kindergarten transition, and family engagement. All are welcome. Please contact the Council Coordinator at jthumma@lifesteps.net for additional information. *Save the Date:* "Spring into School Readiness" Saturday, April 27th, Clearview Mall

a. Looking for participants to come and set up a table for the event on April 27. Must have an activity for kids to do at your table.

VIII. Upcoming Membership Events

i. Membership applications are available on the website at <https://www.butlerfamilies.com>

a. **Make sure you have paid your dues. If your organization is in yellow, you need to pay your 2024 dues. See/email Lorna if you have any questions.**



ii. Career & Resource Fair - April 10th at BC3

- a. Full of vendors, creating a waiting list. Flyers will be coming to share with consumers/clients.

IX. New Business

- a. Jesse-United Way
 - a. Annual book drop (focus on young children books) 30,000 books will be given out
 - b. Food giveaway for the summer programs (May)
 - c. Bike giveaway-YMCA and Broad Street and Emily Brittan. (June)
 - b. United Way Women's Leadership Council- open to new members and networking.
 - c. Reality Tour-reached capacity at Butler School District. Last dates will be in April and then will start up again in the fall.
 - d. Butler Recovery Center- Soft opening on April 25. Look for a wish list of items that will be needed.
 - e. Vita- free tax prep for anyone making \$60,000 or less. Please call 211 to schedule an appointment.

X. Gap Identification/ Discussion

- a. No gaps/discussion at this time.

XI. Next General Meeting: April 11, 2024, 10:00 am – 11:30 am at Monarch Place

XII. Adjournment of Membership Meeting 11:06am m/s/a

XIII. Networking with a Purpose: Collaboration & Information Sharing