



Butler Collaborative for Families

**General Membership Minutes**

**April 11, 2024, 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Monarch Place: Dedication 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:** BCF Co-Chairs Becky Clouse and Linda Thoma- Meeting was called to order at 10:07

**II. Review and approval of the March 2023, BCF General Meeting minutes- M-Jill McDonald/S-Alan Kitchen /Approved**

**III. Budget & Finance Committee Report:** BCF Treasurer was absent, an update will be given at the February meeting.

a. Restricted Funds: \$ 14,846.43 Unrestricted Funds: \$31,758.15 Total: \$ 46,604.58

**IV. Executive Committee Updates:**

Two members have recently stepped down

- a. Howie Dittman- Emily Snow will be his replacement as the new Co-Vice Chair. Her youth representative position will be vacant.
- b. Cindy MacTaggart- Erik Fuhr will fulfill her term for the remainder of 2024
- c. Youth Representative is currently vacant. Reach out to someone on the executive committee if you or someone you know is interested in being that representative. An appointment will hopefully happen at the May meeting.

**V. Featured Speaker: Dress for Success: Liz Mims- Director of Community Engagement**

- 5 counties covered in the Pittsburgh area.
- Agency has been around since 2005 in Pittsburgh.
- 143 locations around the world
- Butler is the “newest” county that was added in June 2016
- DFS will work with all facets of women looking for various clothing resources
  - Not just business or business casual- can resource welding, food service, health care etc. as well.
- Mobile services available-Will set up a mobile clothing van
  - Must need a referral source to utilize the mobile service
- In 2023 they served 4,300 women and 2,300 of them were from the mobile unit.
- Can do a drop off option as well. Staff just needs sizes and what the client is looking for

- Ways to support the agency: writing notes of encouragement to the women receiving clothing is a way to support the organization, volunteers are needed for the warehouse and financial donations are always welcome.

**VI. Special Spotlight:** Community Impact, Butler High School Students: Alayna Bestwick, Olivia Slater, Addison Vance

- 100 juniors met and created a “dream school” experience
  - Asking the community to help fill in the community part of how the community can connect/relate to students in the categories of responsible, engaged, resilient and prepared. “How does the community interact with students in these four categories?”
  - Members of BCF were given post it notes and asked to write their thoughts for these categories on the notes and then place them on the large charts that the district brought.

**VII. Member Spotlight:** PA CareerLink, Norm Magliocca

- Mission behind CareerLink has two missions: first- assist individuals looking for employment. Secondly, they provide resources to employers. Employers can promote jobs and also search for talent. Employers can receive tax credits for hiring employees through CareerLink relationships.
- Individuals on staff that focus on youth looking for jobs, adults, low income etc.
- Can help with specialized needs. CDL, GED etc.
- Can help with connecting people with adult literacy and provide preparatory math english computer literacy etc.
- Career advisors and Vet advisors on staff as well to help eliminate barriers to employment
- CareerLink is NOT the unemployment office. They are the training/employment office.
- Helps corporations with recruitment and retaining vets for employment
- OVR- works with individuals with disabilities and assess appropriate jobs and find adaptive equipment for individuals.
- AARP- training program to get seniors jobs to earn some income to supplement their Social Security benefits.
- Partners with EARN program
- “Silver Tsunami” Boomers are retiring in the thousands of numbers and not many trades people are coming behind them.
- Can partner with employers on how to start their own apprenticeship program.

**VII. Subcommittee Reports:**

**a. Marketing and Events Committee:**

- Celebration of Collaboration- Save the date July 11, 2024 from 2-5pm Carousel Shelter.
  - Start thinking of volunteers to nominate for both the youth and adult categories

**b. Resource and Development Committee:**

- Identify any gaps/needs on a post it note and put on the poster so the executive committee can address those needs.
- Leadership Butler County Scholarship–Clare Clark gave her overview of Leadership Butler County and encouraged the audience to consider applying for the scholarship for the upcoming class of Leadership.

- Applications are due at the end of May for the BCF scholarship- take some time and start filling it out if interested.

**IX. Partnering Collaborative Updates:**

- a. **Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC)**- Amanda Feltenberger
  - i. Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month from 1pm-2:30pm at the Butler County Human Services Government Building. Virtual option also available. Please contact Amanda Feltenberger if you are interested in more information. [afeltenberger@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:afeltenberger@co.butler.pa.us)
- b. **Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT)**-Allyson Rose
  - i. no updates other than the May meeting is canceled.
- c. **Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC)**-Julie Thumma-Spring into School Readiness event is on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-2 at Clearview Mall. Invite any families you know to come to the event. Free books will be given out and chances to win prizes.
- d. **Safe Kids**-Jill McDonald
  - i. no updates at this time.

**X. 2024 BCF Membership Drive:**

- a. Join the BCF if you haven't done so yet.
- b. Many benefits for members

**XI. New Business:**

- a. May 9<sup>th</sup>-next meeting will be the Butler County Block Grant meeting.
- b. Eric announced there were flyers available for the upcoming financial literacy class being offered by the team that won the 2023 mini grant.
- c. Bags and Buddies event- a collaboration with the transportation committee and Butler Transit Authority. Event will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. First session for seniors (already full) Second session for the general public. Spread the word to help folks not be intimidated to ride the bus.
- d. Almost 150 people came through the career/job fair on 4/10. Was a great turn out and the team is looking forward to making it an annual event.
- e. "The Center on Center"- new recovery center where "The NET" was located. Will have an Amazon wish list of items needed for the center. Open house on May 8. More details to come.

**XII: Gaps/Needs Identification: None at this time**

**XIII: Next General Meeting: May 9, 2024 at 10:00 at Monarch Place**

**XIV. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned: 11:37 **m/s/a**