

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 & Linda Thoma** – introductions of all
- II. Review and approval of the February General Meeting minutes - M/S/A
- III. Budget & Finance Committee Report- **BCF Treasurer, Phil Schmeltzer**

Restricted Funds: \$8606.30 Unrestricted Funds: \$38454.27 Total: \$42,688.99

- IV. **Featured Speaker: Megan Shane, Connected Nest:** Megan Founded Connected Nest in 2023. Connected Nest provides weekly and monthly support groups for those on the journey to and through parenthood. They hold regular community education and events to help reduce stigma around infertility, increase connections for moms and expand the reach to those with unique parenting challenges and needs. Connected Nest's participants share their experiences as very impactful in helping them reduce feelings of being overwhelmed and isolation, increase confidence, and find hope through life-changing connections. In its first year, Connected Nest served 466 people through support groups and reached over 1500 local families.

Contact information: 724-272-7012 | www.connectednest.org.

- V. **Agency Spotlight: Lisa Gill, Prevention Program Specialist– Butler County Human Services: Drug and Alcohol Program**
Contact information: lgill@co.butler.pa.us
Focus group: Immediately after the BCF April general meeting – all are welcome and encouraged to attend with lunch provided – RSVP requested

- VI. Subcommittee Reports:
 - a. Marketing & Events Committee Report-
 - i. Career Fair – March 19 @ BC3, Founders Hall
 - ii. Celebration of Collaboration – 30 years!!
 - 1. Save the Date – July 10
 - 2. Slogan/Tagline – we want to hear from you!
 - 3. Nominations for Spirit of Collaboration, Adult & Youth volunteer.
 - 4. Video creation capabilities – please see Emily Snow
 - b. Resource and Development Committee – meets at 9:30am prior to BCF general meeting – all are welcome!
 - i. PANO- Advocacy Session updates – Save the Date! May 21 @ BC3 Founders Hall

- VII. Partnering Collaboratives Updates:
 - a. **Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC)– Amanda Feltenberger.** If anybody is interested in participating, please email Amanda Feltenberger at afeltenb@co.butler.pa.us.
 - b. **Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT)** Any Questions please contact Allyson Rose at arose@co.butler.pa.us

- c. **Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC)– Julie Thumma-** The Butler ECEC will be hosting the 2025 Week of the Young Child Celebration “Spring into School Readiness!” on Saturday, April 12th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Monarch Training Institute. Sponsors and Vendors to engage with families ages 0-8 are needed.–For any further information please contact Julie at jthumma@lifesteps.net Join us for the next ECEC meeting Thursday, March 20 from 1pm – 2:30pm at Heart Prints Center for Early Education, Regional Learning Alliance Room 2120, Cranberry Twp. (Tour available)
- d. **Safe Kids- Jill McDonald** The Safe Kids Committee is planning to attend the Week of the Young Child event on 4/12. Safe kids are also planning a Bike Rodeo in June.

VIII. New Business:

- a. **Membership Renewals are still being accepted for 2025**

IX. E-newsletter submission Deadlines: 3/20/2025

X. Gap Identification / Discussion:

- Baby boomers (the anchors) are retiring, how do we develop a repository for these skills? Volunteering? How do we tap into their knowledge? How do we maintain that skill base?
Score mentor program – score.org
- Young Slippery Rock man in need – GED, transportation, housing
- Young woman (shopping cart) – if you see her, her items can be picked up at Family Pathways

XI. Next General Meeting: **April 10, 2025 at Monarch Place**

- Clothing donations for ELC will be collected at the April meeting

XII. Adjournment

XIII. Networking with a purpose