**Butler Collaborative for Families**

**General Membership meeting minutes**

**January 9, 2020**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mandy and all members were asked to introduce themselves.
2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jill, second by Jean. All in favor.
3. Celebration Moments!!
   1. Josh Strelbicki was BLOWN AWAY with the gloriousness of Mark Lane’s moustache!
   2. Howie Dittman: Helping Butler County (HBC) helped supply Christmas gifts for 109 kids. They can also help with birthday gifts! If you have a need, please contact them.
   3. Howie Dittman: Is creating a private Facebook page specifically for agencies and providers. The page will be for them to reach out with a need and then that need may be filled by either another agency/provide or HBC.
   4. Dena Hays: A local 10 year old girl saved money to buy a scooter but instead decided to use the money to buy items to donate to the Butler County Alliance for Children. A community member who heard about this then bought her the scooter. So awesome!
   5. Dena Hays: Her neighbor donated an old Santa Suit. John Hertzog dressed as Santa for the BCAC open house. Dena later saw a post online about a woman wanting to take her son to see Santa but had been unable to because he has Autism and sensory sensitivities. John dressed up as Santa again and they partnered with the Butler Fire Department to have Santa arrive at the boy’s house in a fire truck! Santa also delivered gifts. Santa told the boy that he was proud of him. The mother later reported that the boy said to her “Santa is proud of me!” I’m not crying, you’re crying!
4. Professional Resources
   1. Josh passed out information about the Professional Quality of Life Scale (PROQOL). This survey is used to evaluate burnout, compassion satisfaction, and secondary trauma. This can be found online by Googling “PROQOL”
5. Grant Opportunities
   1. The Butler Bar Association is offering a grant. The deadline is 02/28/20. Please email Janice Hacket at [foundation@butlerbar.org](mailto:foundation@butlerbar.org) for more information.
   2. The Children’s Trust Fund is a grant focused on family strengthening. It is a 2-3 year grant that is typically $45-60 thousand. This grant is funded with marriage and divorce decrees. Around 11-15 grants are given state-wide. The deadline is usually in mid-April.
6. Membership Update
   1. Glenda has sent out the 2020 invoices and 18 members have paid so far.
   2. Checks can be made payable to the BCF. You can also pay online through PayPal on the BCF website: [www.butlerfamilies.com](http://www.butlerfamilies.com)
   3. If your organization needs a W-9 in order to pay, please contact Theresa Mortimer at ANR.
   4. Reminder that Mini-Grants are funded with membership dues. The more paid members we have, the more money the Mini-Grant will be worth!
7. Mini-Grant Update
   1. The Butler County Alliance for Children received last year’s Mini-Grant. They used the grant to purchase pinwheels, plastic bags, and yard signs for the Pinwheels for Prevention project for Child Abuse Awareness Month. Minute Men Press volunteered to print 900 Family Fun Packets for the project for free!
   2. Pinwheel gardens were planted in every geographical area of the county and some were even planted out of state. Over 247 yard signs were distributed. All of the Family Fun Packs were distributed.
   3. The Pinwheels for Prevention program will continue this year!
8. Subcommittee/Ad-HOC Committee Reports
   1. Detailed reports were included in the agenda. Additional information provided during the meeting is noted below.
   2. Butler County Prevention Council: Next meeting is 01/16. Focus has been on getting the Front Porch Project ready for the community. The training has been decreased from three hours to two as part of this preparation. If you are interested in having the training, contact Amanda Feltenberger.
   3. Local Housing Options Team: The yearly PIT count is coming up! If you are interested in helping, please contact Allyson Rose.
   4. Marketing: The Vagabond Center has offered 20% off rental of their space for BCF members! This is with the expectation that the member renting will assist with set-up and take-down.
   5. Safe Kids: There will be no meeting in February. Next meeting will be 03/12 before the BCF general meeting.
9. Presentation- Dr. Brian White, Superintendent of BASD and Cassandra Pencek, Principal at Emily Britain Community Partnership and Demonstration School.
   1. When Dr. White came to the BASD he toured the schools and noted that each school functions and operates differently despite being in the same district. He specifically talked about the STEAM room at one of the schools was completely un-used. He asked about this and was told that the teacher who got the grant for the equipment in the room had left. No one else had been trained or knew where the teacher went to get trained.
   2. He also noticed how many community partners the different schools have, but that the central office of the district had no knowledge of who these partners were, what schools they were working with, what they were working on, etc. Kids and programs both need consistency and staying power to have the greatest impact.
   3. Dr. White said that poverty is often seen as the only need of children in the district, especially Emily Britain since it is a school in the City of Butler. He stressed that poverty is not the only need. All students and their families have their own specific needs. Dr. White said that poverty kept coming up as an excuse as to why, for example, the reading scores are low. He wants poverty to not be seen as an excuse, but as a need to tackle.
   4. The Emily Britain is now being called: Emily Britain Community Partnership and Demonstration School. They are using this as a pilot program that will look at how the school collaborates with community partners to meet the needs of the students and their families. If the program is successful, it will be rolled out to the other elementary schools.
   5. He brought the Green Building Alliance’s healthy, high performing, and sustainability program to the school district. This program encourages teachers and administration to stop talking about test scores and to start talking about people and relationships. The staff at Emily Britain is currently going through this program. The YMCA has donated a space for the trainings to be held and substitutes are brought in to teach so all staff can attend.
   6. Cassandra is the new principal at Emily Britain and has an active role in the new direction the school is going. She met individually with each teacher over the summer. She could see that all of the teachers care so much about their students, but that they needed help.
   7. There are 265 total students at Emily Britain. 82.4% of them are considered to be economically disadvantaged, which means that all students are able to receive free breakfast and lunch. 29.1% are in special education, 1.9% are in foster care, and 2.7% are homeless. Cassandra made an awesome reference to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Need! If the student’s basic needs are being met, how can they be expected to excel in school?
   8. They are working on identifying the needs of the families instead of assuming what they need. Yes, there is an economical need, but what does that mean? Families were sent surveys at the beginning of the year and were sent another survey more recently to assess need. The school is focused on breaking down barriers and showing families that they are there to help, not judge.
   9. The school is currently working on partnering with Butler County Human Service, the Rotary, YMCA, and SRU for student support and student teachers. They are working with Helping Butler County on making a comfort closet. The IU-4 is providing coaching to help with behavioral needs. CYS and the Lice Clinic of America are working to help with cases of chronic lice.
   10. The students in the school have perseverance, grit, determination, and are strong! The staff are committed, devoted, and are making withdrawals from their emotional piggy banks all day long. This is why partnerships in the community are needed.
   11. Dr. White said that he had heard from community services/organizations that they have offered to partner with the school district in the past but were turned down. This is no longer the case!! Their door is open and they need community involvement and support!!
   12. They are looking to form partnerships with non-profits and churches. Please contact them if you are interested.
10. Identified Gaps/Needs
    1. Howie (HBC): There is a woman with several needs looking to come back into the Butler area. Her family is from here and she is currently in a treatment facility for children she has aged out of. She has RAD. She is not eligible for ID services. Several people made suggestions as to what agencies/individuals to contact.
    2. Mandy (SPHS): SPHS is opening permanent supportive housing in Armstrong County.
    3. Howie (HBC): They are “revolutionizing how vicarious trauma is handled.” They are looking for people who provide direct service/direct care for feedback.
    4. Alan Kitchen: They are involved in prison aftercare. They are working with a single dad of three who is struggling to work, pay for child care, and repair his car. ELRC provided information on child care and CCR provided information about the PennDot care repair program.
11. Agency Updates
    1. CCR: VITA begins Monday, 01/13. Please call CCR to schedule an appointment to get your taxes done!
    2. Catholic Charities: Services offered include- homeless housing and case management, permanent supported housing, and Pregnancy & Parenting program.
    3. YMCA: Are starting a youth mentoring program!
    4. CARE: A new youth support group is starting. It is for teens affected by a family member’s substance used.
    5. Butler County Alliance for Children: Save the Date for Strike Out Child Abuse bowling event! It will be held on 04/05!
    6. The Inn Maternity House: Got a new house parent and will be accepting referrals in February.
    7. Twilight Wish: Happy Hour Benefit is on 02/20 at The BackAlley at 11th Frame Bar and Grill from 5:30pm-8:30pm.
    8. Jim (CCR): There is a new schedule out for upcoming Mental Health First Aid adult & youth courses.
    9. Carl: NAMI has a new support group.
12. Kudos!
13. Next Meeting: February 13, 2020 at 9:30am. Red Chimney Hall, Monarch Place.