**BCF 25th Anniversary Celebration**

**December 10, 2020 8:30am-12:00pm via Zoom**

*Note: the Zoom meeting was recorded so the minutes are not detailed, but serve as a general record of what was discussed.*

1. Small Group Networking-Breakout Groups
   1. As people logged onto the meeting they were placed in small breakout groups for learning about each other’s services and discussion.
2. Welcome from Co-Chairs: Mandy Geibel and Joshua Strelbicki
   1. Josh and Mandy welcomed everyone to the event!
   2. Zoom controls were reviewed as well as instruction as to how to use the chat feature during the presentations.
   3. It was announced that the event was being recorded.
   4. The results of the Executive Committee Election were announced. All Executive Committee members introduced themselves via the chat feature.
   5. The new Logo was revealed!!
      1. Josh showed everyone the new BCF shirts made in collaboration with Summit Academy.
3. History of the Butler Collaborative for Families from Founding Members
   1. Past-Chair Dr. Elan Lewis opened this portion of the day. She is one of the founding members and talked about the history of the BCM with other founding members- Carmine Scotece and Joyce Ainsworth.
4. Butler County Beyond 2020
   1. Commissioner Kim Geyer
      1. Kim first talked about how she got involved with Human Services and her work with transitioning Human Services from a civil-service hiring to merit-based hiring. She is also involved in the Block Grant and Community Partnership (formerly Community Action).
      2. Kim also talked about an order coming later today from Governor Wolf that will result in many people being unemployed. She talked about the importance of supporting each other during this time.
      3. She then passed the conversation over to Commissioner Leslie Osche. Leslie talked about how exciting it is to see new faces at the BCF and how important collaboration is.
      4. Leslie then turned things over to Commissioner Kevin Boozel. He also emphasized the importance of collaboration, especially in difficult times like these.
   2. Brandon Savochka, Director of Human Services
      1. Brandon talked about how great it is to have three supportive and engaged Commissioners!
      2. He first talked about the past and current state of Human Services to highlight the foundation that Human Services has been built upon. Brandon said that Butler County is seen as a leader in the state in Human Services for our non-silo model that facilitates collaboration between systems.
      3. The past year has presented challenges but also provided opportunity to improve services.
         1. He then reviewed progress and improvements that were made this year. This included the reinstatement of a Mobile Meds program that will begin in 2021!
      4. The Future of Human Services: primary focus is to build upon and refine the current system.
         1. This involves the schools being the “front door” of the human services system. This will allow families and students to begin accessing services through the schools, where they are already involved. Brandon discussed the programs implemented at Emily Brittan Elementary and Moniteau Elementary.
         2. Another goal will be to have there be “no wrong door to access services.” The focus of this is a warm hand-off regardless of where and individual or family initially reaches out for assistance.
            1. Beginning in January, Butler County will be voluntarily rolling out a pilot program for providing transportation. Community based agencies should be contacted after January to get feedback on transportation needs.
            2. Improvements will also be made to work towards having individuals and families only needing to tell their story once instead of multiple times, which can be traumatic and difficult.
            3. Training will also be offered to improve skills. There is currently a Motivational Interviewing cohort training that is concluding soon. Another Motivational Interviewing cohort will begin in summer 2021.
      5. Brandon is always looking for feedback, so do not hesitate to reach out to him!
5. Mini-Grant Awards
   1. Mandy Geibel talked about the Mini-Grant and announces the awardees.
      1. The standard Mini-Grant was awarded to: The Lighthouse Foundation for their Cooking with Friends program!
      2. The Covid Mini-Grant was awarded to: Butler County Alliance for Children for technology to hold virtual team meetings and forensic interviews!
6. The Role of Higher Education for a Better Butler County
   1. Karen Jack, the BCF Education Representative, led this discussion and introduced the speakers.
      1. Jeffrey Rathlef, Director of Community-Engaged Learning- Slippery Rock University
         1. Jeffrey talked about how SRU is getting more involved with the community. There was a power point that accompanied the presentation.
         2. SRU is becoming more focused on community engagement.
         3. He also talked about the new Butler SUCCEED program.
            1. It addresses the goal of engaging communities and collaborating with partners to advance the quality of life in the community.
            2. He then asked John Golden to talk more about the development of Butler SUCCEED.
            3. Alice DelVeccio also spoke about Butler SUCCEED.
            4. If anyone is interested in getting involved please reach out! Information will be sent to Glenda to be distributed to the BCF.
      2. Dr. Nick Neupauer, President of Butler County Community College
         1. There were some technical difficulties and Dr. Neupauer was disconnected from the meeting at the beginning of his presentation. Everyone took a short break until he was able to reconnect.
         2. Butler is one of only two counties in the state that have both a state college AND a community college.
         3. He talked about the benefits of having colleges in the community and the positive impact they have.
         4. He said that BC3 enjoys hosting community events and has also taken a role in addressing food insecurity, or as they prefer to call it- food security, in the Butler community.
         5. Both BC3 and SRU are working to have presence on Main St. in downtown Butler.
         6. He highlighted the importance of higher education, not only for students, but also for the communities surrounding the colleges.
      3. Both SRU and BC3 highlighted their willingness and efforts to become more engaged with the community and involved with meeting the needs of individuals and families in Butler County.
7. Meeting the Needs Now- A facilitated discussion led by Jim Smith, CCR
   1. Howie Dittman (Helping Butler County) kicked off the discussion by speaking on the service collaboration in Butler County. He has done work in other counties and they do not have the kind of systems, agencies, services, etc. who are ready and willing to collaborate to meet needs of the community. In regards to the BCF, he noted that “No one is here to check the box” and that everyone is involved because they are invested in the community of Butler County.
   2. Jim Smith talked about how the culture of collaboration and responsibility for the community starts with leadership but spreads down to all employees and community members. It is up to us to continue to lead by example and work with each other to continue meeting the ever-changing needs of the community.
   3. Josh Strelbicki (Butler County Alliance for Children) talked about “veterans” of the system, services, and agencies readily serving as mentors as individuals new to the system.
   4. Julie Thumma (Lifesteps) has been involved with the BCF for many years and is the chair of the ECEC sub-committee. She does a lot of work with agencies in other counties and talked about other counties not having the same resources, collaboration, and commitment to the community. When funding for Early Education was cut, other counties lost their programs, but Butler County was able to support and continue our Early Education programs and services.
   5. Allen Kitchen is relatively new to the area and worked in other states and counties in the past. He is glad to be settled here in Butler. He said this area is especially unique in the way that collaboration is encouraged and so easily happens as compared to other places he has worked.
   6. Caitlin Painter talked about how easily she has been able to make connections through the BCF. She has used these connections to pass along information and resources to others.
   7. Glenda Seybert spoke of how, when she joined the BCF, she had no knowledge of human services. She has so much faith in Butler County and the good that is being done here.
   8. Jim Smith said that even though 2020 has been a difficult year, there is still a lot to celebrate. A lot of progress has been made this year and a lot of unexpected challenges have been met.
8. Final Remarks
   1. Jim Smith provided uplifting and motivating final remarks.
9. Conclude
   1. Mandy Geibel concluded the celebration. She shared her positive experiences with the BCF and thanked everyone for everything they do!