**Butler Collaborative for Families**

**September 10, 2020**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mandy and all members were asked to introduce themselves. The meeting today was held via Zoom.
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jill, second by Kortney. All in favor.
3. BCF 25th Year Celebration- Save the date was emailed September 3rd
   1. The BCF is celebrating 25 years!!! An event is planned for December 10th.
      1. With this event we are hoping to bring several things together to have a dynamic event!
      2. Brandon Savochka will be speaking on where the County is moving in the future.
      3. The County Commissioners will also be in attendance.
      4. We are working to get representatives from SRU and BC3 to attend as well.
      5. We are also working to have awards for volunteers in the community.
      6. More details will be emailed out!
4. Mini-Grants: ***applications must be submitted to Glenda by October 30th***
   1. Josh presented the new information for this year’s mini-grants.
   2. The amount of the standard mini-grant has been increased to $2,500.00 as a way to celebrate the 25th anniversary. And additional $600.00 in ancillary funds will be awarded for grant-writing services or marketing support. The $600.00 can be used up to two years after receipt of the grant.
      1. Must have three BCF members who are in good standing (current on dues, regular attendance).
      2. One member is identified as the lead applicant; the other two are identified as the collaborative partners.
      3. The lead applicant MUST be a non-profit.
      4. This grant must be used to address a current gap in the service system. These projects should be new and innovative or an expansion of and existing program that will address and unmet need.
      5. Josh will send out the most recent gap analysis which highlights the current gaps.
      6. Cannot be used for: one-time events, or specific events, annual event, finding for general support of an existing program.
   3. A second, Covid-19 Program Impact Mini-Grant is also being offered.
      1. Eligible programs are those that are addressing the needs of the communities of Butler County.
      2. This grant is for a singular organization/entity program that has been impacted by Covid-19 (funding losses or delivery restrictions).
   4. An Ad-Hoc committee will be formed to review and vet applications. This will consist of five general members and one member of the executive committee. The executive committee member will serve as oversight only. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Glenda. Note: those serving on the committee will not be eligible for a mini-grant.
   5. Approved applicants will present an overview of their applications at the November general meeting. BCF members in good standing will be eligible for vote once per agency.
   6. Mini-Grants will be awarded at the 25th anniversary celebration.
   7. For the standard mini-grant: funds cannot be used to pay for expenses that have been incurred prior to the award date. This does not apply to the Covid mini-grant.
   8. Agencies can apply for both grants.
5. New Logo
   1. We have a new logo!!
   2. Howie created this logo and shared it with the group. Other versions were also made for placement on member websites (proud member of BCF) as well as black and white and gray scale versions. They are all vector images so they can be resized to meet your needs!
   3. There will be shirts with the new logo on it at the 25ht celebration!
6. Executive Committee Open Positions
   1. All positions are open for nomination, even if the person currently serving in that position is eligible and willing to serve again. All members of the executive committee must be paid BCF members. Josh gave brief overviews of each position.
      1. Co-Chair- Currently Josh Streilbecki (eligible and willing to serve again for his second term)
      2. Vice Co-Chair- Currently Kortney McConnell (eligible and willing to serve again for her second term)
      3. Secretary- open (Amy has served two terms)
      4. Treasurer- open (Jan has served two terms)
      5. Business Rep- open (Jim S is unable to continue serving)
      6. Faith Based Rep- open (Tara moved ☹ and is unable to continue serving)
      7. Youth Community Rep- open (Caitlin has served two terms)
      8. Adult Community Rep- Currently Howie Dittman to complete John McCool’s term, he has accepted a nomination to fill the position for his first term.
      9. Education Rep- Currently Karen Jack (eligible and willing to serve again for her second term)
   2. Nominations can be sent to Glenda, Mandy, or Josh!!
7. Jean Bowen- Bundle Up Butler
   1. With Covid-19 some things have changed with Bundle Up Butler.
   2. It is being held Friday, October 16th at Butler Memorial Park.
   3. Everyone will need to pre-register this year. The coats will already be bundled into bags. Cars will drive up and the bags will be placed in the cars. **Please call the I&R number at 724-431-3748 to register!**
   4. Drive-up hours will be from 10am-1pm. Walk-up hours are from 1pm-3pm for those who do not have transportation.
   5. Vendors are also welcome and also need to pre-register. Please call Jess at 724-431-3609 to register as a vendor.
   6. More info will be emailed out to the BCF.
8. Presentation: Howie Dittman, Helping Butler County (HBC)
   1. HBC is a collaborative effort started by Howie. He identified a gap where those interested in helping and donating were unsure how to get involved or what organizations were trustworthy.
   2. They identify needs that are identified in the gap and then reach out to the HBC community to fill that gap.
   3. They have helped people with everything from yard work to obtaining vehicles.
   4. HBC is to be seen as the “last line of defense” as individuals in need should be contacting other services prior to HBC. HBC is for filling the gaps that these services cannot fill.
   5. If you have a need: please be specific so the need is met more easily. Ex: if someone needs a dryer- what size? An oven: gas or electric? Request of “they need everything” are too broad and donors are not sure what to do with that. The more specific, the better!
   6. Donations usually go to the agency working with the person in need to protect to confidentiality of both the person receiving the donation and the person donating. In some cases, the donor can take the donation to the person receiving it directly. The agency involved will need to approve this.
   7. HBC prefers to operate through the agencies making requests, not the person in need making the request. HBC wants to ensure that the individuals and families receiving donations are connected to services that will work with them to not have to reach out to HBC again.
   8. Howie also talked about the new app version of HBC!!!
      1. Everything will be located on the app and “calls to action” can be directly sent via the agency instead of having to go through Howie.
      2. You will also be able to see what needs have already been met so there is no duplication.
      3. By the end of this year the app will be available!
   9. If you are aware of any families who are going to be in need assistance with Christmas gifts for their children, HBC can also help with this.
   10. If you have a call to action, please make sure you are in the HBC group in case there are questions about your need.
   11. Josh asked for feedback from other agencies who have worked with HBC in the past about what their experience has been:
       1. Mark from the Lighthouse said that he is currently working with HBC to get one of the transitional housing residents a car. He said the process has been awesome.
          1. Two vehicles have been donated to HBC and they are working to get the cars in good running condition.
   12. There is also a Butler Collaborative for Families Agency Collaboration page that is for members of organizations/agencies only where needs can be discussed and met. This group is private and HIPPA laws of confidentiality are followed in the group.
9. Subcommittees
   1. Updates were included in the agenda except for the ones below:
      1. Safe Kids: have been unable to meet due to their meeting place being in the Dept. of Health in Butler. Safe Kids is looking for events where they can attend and do outreach. If you have an event coming up that Safe Kids or Early Intervention would be a good fit for, please contact Jill McDonald at [jmcdonald@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:jmcdonald@co.butler.pa.us).
      2. Resource and Development: discussing training models being released online: ethics, de-escalation, attachment, etc. There will be a small fee to access them. More information will be sent out to the BCF when the models are ready.
10. Next Meeting: October 8, 2020 at 10am via Zoom.