

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- 10:06 called to order

II. Review and approval of the March General Meeting minutes

- a. M-Cody S-Lisa Approved

III. Budget & Finance Committee Report- BCF Treasurer, Phil Schmeltzer

Restricted Funds: \$8,768.60

Unrestricted Funds: \$41,634.27

Total:

Featured Speaker: Tom Baker, CEO- Variety- The Children's Charity of Pittsburgh-

Tom Baker proudly serves as Chief Executive Officer of Variety- The Children's Charity of Pittsburgh. With a mission to empower children with disabilities to live life to the fullest, Variety provides life-changing mobility and communication equipment to ensure our most vulnerable kids are no longer left out, left behind, or excluded. Variety focuses on mobility, communication, and inclusion for children and families in 59 counties in PA and 1 county in West Virginia.

- i) International organization, but started in the Pittsburgh region in the 1920's.
- ii) Provides life changing equipment to disabled children. Focus on bikes, strollers and voice systems
- iii) Medical supply company customizes the bikes for each child
- iv) Voice system supported with a partnership with the state, most plentiful funds for these items
- v) Partners with many agencies to raise funds to support the items so they are no cost for families.
- vi) Open to being a part of events and collaborating with other agencies
- vii) Over 100 pieces of equipment given out in Butler County
- viii) Intermediate Units and schools put in referrals for equipment, but individuals can also contact Variety directly.
- ix) Very generous income guidelines for qualifying families.
- x) 9 kids on the wait list for a bike/stroller in Butler County
- xi) 3–21-year-olds served with the equipment. Two-year-olds qualify for the voice systems

IV. Agency Spotlight: Kelly Bowman, Dollar Bank

- a. Dollar Bank is different in that they offer home ownership counseling services/credit counselor services
- b. Teaching Financial Literacy/Wellness in the community. Tries to build trust in the community with the banking systems

V. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Marketing & Events Committee Report-
 - i. 30-year celebration event- QR code was provided for members to vote on a slogan to be used on the promotional materials
- b. Resource and Development Committee – meets at 9:30am prior to BCF general meeting – all are welcome!
- c. Upcoming PANO- May 21st at BC3 Free event for BCF and community members. Designed for Nonprofit organizations. RSVP is required.

VI. 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.

- i. On hold until July due to changes within staffing of Butler County Human Services

b. Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) Any Further Questions please contact -Allyson Rose at arose@co.butler.pa.us

- i. 35 participating agencies meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at Community Alliance Church
- ii. Planning a landlord meeting/dinner for the fall to work more closely with community landlords
- iii. Committee that plans the Stand Down event in November is looking for new committee members to help with marketing and managing volunteers for the event. Reach out to Allyson for more details.

c. Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC)– Julie Thumma –For any further information please contact Julie at jthumma@lifesteps.net

- i. Week of the Young Child Celebration held at Family Pathways on 4/12. 22 organizations coming to present information during the event.
- ii. Next meeting will be announced at the May BCF meeting

d. Safe Kids- Jill McDonald

- i. Bike Rodeo on 6/14- more information coming

VII. New Business:

a. Membership Renewals are still being accepted for 2025

- i. Still accepting membership renewals for this year.
- ii. Remember your membership fee helps to fund the mini grant each year
- iii. Membership allows your events to be put in the BCF newsletter
- iv. You can pay online or mail a check

b. 211 website is updated-please log on and update your agency information

VIII. E newsletter submission Deadlines:

IX. Gap Identification / Discussion

- a. Please fill out the forms on the tables if there is a need/gap that you are seeing in the community
- b. United Way-Hot water tanks and paying for lodging (hotel vouchers) for homeless individuals are unmet needs on the 211 website.
- c. Rise Up Rides- awarded \$10,000 to keep providing transportation for food insecurity
- d. Amanda Feltenberger-BCF meeting in May will be focused on a Block Grant update.

X. Next General Meeting: May 8, 2025 at Monarch Place, Butler County Human Services will review the Block Grant.

XI. Adjournment of Membership Meeting-11:09

XII. Networking with a purpose