



General Membership Meeting
February 13, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Monarch Place: Dedication Hall, 100 Brugh Avenue, Butler, PA 16001

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 and Linda Thoma 10:08 call to order
- II. **Review and approval of January 2025, BCF General Meeting minutes**
 - a. **M-Peter/ S-Devin/ Approved**
- III. **Budget & Finance Committee Report:** BCF Treasurer, Phil Schmeltzer
 - a. Balance: \$44,608.95 Restricted Funds: \$11,343.80
- IV. **Featured Speaker:** Joe Maguire, Veterans Overwatch Foundation and BCF Leadership Butler County Scholarship Recipient
 - a. Joe has attended 5 sessions of Leadership so far. The groups project is rebuilding a gaga pit for St. Wendelin School. Also funding a BC3 scholarship.
 - b. Murder Mystery dinner at the Atrium on 2/15 as a fundraiser for the Leaderships projects.
- V. **Member Spotlight:** Jean Bowen, founder and member of Twilight Wish, Butler County. Upcoming event: Thursday, February 20, 2025 – join us for Happy Hour from 5-8.
 - a. Twilight wish started in 2010. The first wish granted was for a new dryer and a washer.
 - b. The teams' goal is to bless elderly individuals in the Butler Community
 - c. The mission is to help low-income seniors with wish lists (anything from appliances, safety equipment to concerts and hot air balloon rides)
 - d. Anyone can submit a wish. You need to be 65 and over.
 - e. 2 sisters getting a centennial celebration on 2/20. One sister is 100 the other is 104.
- VI. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. **Marketing & Events Committee**
 - i. Celebration of Collaboration, 30 Years of the BCF! – more information to follow soon!
 1. If anyone wants to be part of the planning committee, reach out to Emily Snow.
 - b. **Resources & Development Committee**
 - i. Gaps & Needs – Tricia Pritchard
 1. Papers on the table to complete when a need or a gap is identified.
 2. Leave sheets on the table-they will be collected afterwards.
 - c. **Career Fair, March 19 @ BC3, 9am – 2pm.** This is a collaborative project of the BCF, Butler County Health Care Consortium, BC3 and PA Career Link, Butler County.
 - i. No more vendors are being accepted but spread the word for those who are looking for a job.
- VII. **Partnering Collaboratives Updates:**
 - a. **Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC) – Amanda Feltenberger** – The next BCPC meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21 @ 1:00pm. Please contact Amanda for more information at afeltenb@co.butler.pa.us
 - b. **Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) – Allyson Rose:** The LHOT completed this years unsheltered Point in Time Count. 6 Teams canvassed the county in known and unknown locations looking for individuals experiencing homelessness. We located 1 individual. This individual did not accept services. He has been

residing in his car at a 24-hour gas station. During the outreach we also had the opportunity to educate local businesses on what to do if they encounter an unhoused individual and what resources they can connect them to. The LHOT is also in the early planning phases of holding a Landlord Engagement Dinner in the Spring. More information to come.

- c. **Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC) – Julie Thumma:** The next meeting of the **Butler County Early Care & Education Council** (entire group) will be held as an in-person meeting with a ZOOM OPTION on **Thursday, March 20th from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., Heart Prints Center for Early Education, Cranberry Twp.** (Regional Learning Alliance) During this meeting, we will discuss issues in early learning, early childhood mental health, children’s health and safety, Kindergarten Transition/Registration, and Family engagement opportunities. Please be prepared to share about your organization and to discuss any needs you feel the Council could help to address.

BCF Support/Participation Needed:

The Butler ECEC will be hosting the 2025 Week of the Young Child Celebration on Saturday, April 12th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Monarch Training Institute (Monarch Place).

Sponsors and Vendors to engage with families ages 0-8 are needed. Please watch for the invitation letter and participation form in the BCF newsletter or your email.

- d. **Safe Kids – Jill McDonald:** Safe Kids is starting their planning process for the Bike Rodeos this spring.

VIII. 2025 BCF Membership Drive

- a. Applications are still being accepted. Please check with your employer to make sure your fee has been paid.

IX. New Business

- a. Early Learning Connections needs our help! How can you help?
 - i. Looking for clothing donations for the children’s center/head start. Can be gently used or new. Tags are available to select a gender/size. Bring donations to the next BCF meeting.

X. Gaps/Needs Identification

- a. Advocacy Workshop in planning stages for spring (April). Training to help nonprofits understand differences between advocacy and lobbying.
- b. Looking for support groups for grandparents who are supporting grandchildren through grief/loss of parent
 - i. Connective nest- located in Discovery Church in Mars has a support group
- c. Educational Advocacy in the school system- lacking in Butler County-share ideas with Linda Thoma on how to bring that back to Butler.

XI. Next General Meeting: March 13, at 10:00 am at Monarch Place

XII. Adjournment-11:25

XIII. Networking with a Purpose – Collaboration and Information Sharing