

CKLECC Child Care Committee Meeting Minutes

MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2015

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

LIMON

MEETING CALLED BY	Colette Barksdale, CKLECC Chairman
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly CKLECC Child Care Committee
FACILITATOR	Colette Barksdale, CKLECC Chairman
NOTE TAKER	Julie Witt, CKLECC Coordinator
TIMEKEEPER	
ATTENDEES	Phone: Julie Thayer (Haxtun Child Care Center); Troy McCue (Lincoln County Economic Development Director); Jan Richards (Kiowa County Economic Development Director); Dennis Pearson (Kiowa County Social Services); Sheila Anzlovar (NE Child Care R&R) On Site: Julie Witt (Coordinator CKLECC); Colette Barksdale (Lincoln County DHS); Haley Smith (CKLECC Rep.); Luci Reimer (Limon Memorial Library); Kristen Allen (Licensed Home Provider)

MINUTES

BACKGROUND & UPDATE

COLETTE BARKSDALE & JULIE WITT

DISCUSSION	<p>Colette Barksdale began the meeting by welcoming new attendees and briefly updating them on why the committee was formed. She stated that the committee was formed to identify the needs of child care in Cheyenne, Kiowa and Lincoln Counties and what needs done to get interest in opening a child care center or getting more licensed providers.</p> <p>Julie Witt updated the committee that since the April meeting she has spoken to Temple Hoyne Buell (THB) and they highly suggested speaking with Julie Thayer from the Haxtun Child Care Center on what was done to get a center opened in Haxtun. Julie Thayer was invited to join the meeting today. THB also discussed how to write for funding in the Cheyenne, Kiowa, Lincoln Early Childhood Council (CKLECC) grant application to hire an additional staff person to oversee the child care committee and duties. THB said a detailed job description would need to be included in the funding request. THB suggested getting an MOU signed with members to keep them involved. Julie Witt reported that Kristen Allen, a licensed home provider, in Limon had contacted her about her interest in opening a child care center. Kristen was also invited to the meeting today. Julie mentioned that at her State TA meeting last month another Council Coordinator suggested CKLECC get in contact with the Gates Foundation and USDA regarding funding to help with opening a child care center.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

MINUTES

JULIE THAYER/DIRECTOR OF HAXTUN CHILD CARE CENTER (HCCC)

JULIE THAYER

DISCUSSION	<p>Julie Thayer, Director of the Haxtun Child Care Center, provided many details on how the Haxtun Child Care Center was developed. Many questions were asked by committee members and Julie Thayer provided as much information as she could. Below are the details provided by Julie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Gates Foundation and USDA provided money towards opening the center. -The largest grant received was a DOLA grant (Dept. of Local Affairs). -USDA does community matching of funds. -The background in Haxtun at the time of center discussions was that in 2010 there were only two home providers. The first attempt was to pass a mill levy through the school and it failed. A small group led by Julie Thayer then took over and did a community survey and worked on grant after grant and held fundraisers. -The fundraisers helped with matching funds which is a requirement of some grant donors. -Ongoing grants help to maintain the center because revenue does not cover it. Julie's approximation was that 60% of budget is revenue and 40% is grant based. -An annual New Year's Eve Gala is held as a fundraiser. It consists of a fancy dinner, the community buying tickets and sponsors.
-------------------	---

- The current enrollment at HCCC is 219 which consist of 70 kids per day.
- The square footage of the center is 2900 square feet.
- It was built new and grants were available to build a tornado shelter.
- The center was stick built.
- There is CCCAP funding; however, a certain amount of CCCAP slots are not designated.
- When the Center opened there were only 7 children enrolled. The next year there were 44 and within 2 years of Julie being the Director the enrollment went up to 219.
- Grants and the USDA helped fund the equipment inside the center.
- \$250,000 of matching and continued donations comes from local businesses.
- Operational hours are Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- The center has reached capacity and a waiting list per room.
- The center serves ages 6 weeks to 12 years old.
- There is one infant care room with 10 infants. There is an on call nurse consultant.
- The staff consists of 13.
- The community of Haxtun has half day preschool. There are roughly 20 to 25 school aged children who attend center after school.
- Annual financial auditing is done. Two accountants sit on the HCCC board and financials are run each month.
- HCCC became a 501C3. This needed to be done to continue receiving much of the grant funding.
- The population of Haxtun is 1000.
- There are 11 people currently on the board and they meet monthly.
- The HCCC Board consists of someone involved in insurance, two accountants, hospital employee, President of a bank, three parents, and a teacher from the public school and a doctor from the hospital.
- There have not been many changes with the Dept. of Health since the center opening; however, rules and regulations for centers are in the process of being redone.
- Current center rates are: infant all day -\$25.50; toddler/pre-k all day - \$20.00; and before or after school \$5.00.
- HCCC does not have any development documents on file on how they got started. Volunteers who knew the importance of the child care need did word of mouth, community meetings were held, and grants were written.
- Prior to first community meeting a survey was done throughout the community. Survey asked who needed child care and how the lack of child care affected businesses.
- Top goals in the beginning were: 1-get everyone on board; 2 –what kind of child care was needed; 3- who would secure the land; 4-who would write grants.
- It cost approximately \$500,000 to build the center
- The annual operating budget for 2015 is \$188,034
- The center has two director certified staff. Julie Thayer is the Director and there is an Assistant Director who is also the infant room teacher.
- The timeframe of getting the center constructed was two years (from the beginning of the grant cycle to opening the doors). It would have been four years if you add in the time spent on the mill levy for the school.
- Julie Thayer did not think there were any new hurdles to be faced at this time versus when HCCC opened. She did mention that statewide there may be some start up funds available from the Colorado Dept. of Licensing for in home providers and centers.
- Phillips and Sedgwick Counties are currently in the process of doing community meetings around the same issue. They have already completed their community survey. The contact person on this would be Stephanie Edwards of the early childhood council. Michelle Sharpe is the council coordinator.
- Phillips and Sedgwick created a community FACEBOOK page strictly for child care to post community meetings, survey, and updates.

CONCLUSIONS	Julie Thayer said she would be willing help our committee along the way and answer as many questions for us as she could.
--------------------	---

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MINUTES

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR POSITION

COLETTE BARKSDALE

DISCUSSION	<p>The council worked on a job description for the Child Care Director position that Julie Witt will be requesting funding for in the CKLECC THB Grant due at the end of April. The following were decided as important for this position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Must work and coordinate with the Economic Development Directors in all three counties. -Will conduct and coordinate committee meetings. -Will travel and have discussions with similar communities and visit open centers. -Will be in charge of event planning and making sure not to duplicate events. -Be responsible for getting an MOU signed with committee and board members. -Will be responsible in recruiting appropriate board members. -Will be responsible in finding community funders.
-------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Have experience in public relations and grant writing. -Knowledge of computer systems. -In charge of community survey and community meetings. 	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Julie will include these items in the job description in CKLECC's request for funding due by May 1 st .	Julie	May 1 st

MINUTES

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

ATTENDEES

DISCUSSION	<p>Troy McCue, Economic Dev. Director for Lincoln County, mentioned that the Hugo efforts in conjunction with the hospital are not active anymore. Colette Barksdale mentioned the possibility to speak with the county about the land in Hugo and that Linda Orrel, who was very involved in the Hugo conversations, would be willing to discuss the efforts in Hugo.</p> <p>Colette mentioned with the prison in Limon there are a lot of families that commute from Colorado Springs who may not choose to move here because of the lack in child care. Colette suggested at some point a subcommittee per each county may need formed to create the framework per each individual county.</p> <p>Julie Thayer mentioned that 17 of their children at the center come from the community of Sterling.</p> <p>Dennis Pearson said the greatest need in Kiowa County is for the employees at the hospital and the school but there is not a nearby prison.</p> <p>Colette asked Julie Thayer what statistics may be needed to have early on to be able to write for grants. Julie mentioned that their current board president may have some of the beginning documents.</p> <p>Julie Thayer said that the community survey consisted of questions asking who needed care, what ages of children needed care, are parents currently using licensed or unlicensed care, what hours of care are needed, and if couples were planning to have children will they use care. Questions specifically geared toward businesses were such as: have job offers been turned down due to no child care, do current employees need child care, and how many employees have been lost due to lack of child care. Troy McCue suggested he could assist with the groundwork in the survey as he has experience and software that could save some time.</p> <p>Julie Thayer suggested that because the process to get a center takes some time to not forget about the current home providers and to help get new home providers as well.</p> <p>Next steps discussed for the committee were that at some point it would need to become a 501C3 and there may need to be separate entities. The business leaders on the board would oversee the staff position and committee. The possibility of an existing 501C3 housing the committee as well as CKLECC was discussed. Troy McCue mentioned that the Your Community Foundation could possibly umbrella as a 501C3. Dennis Pearson suggested that the Economic Development Foundation in Kiowa County may also be a possibility. Julie Thayer said the Haxtun Education Association acted as a 501C3 for them.</p> <p>Sheila Anzlovar mentioned she has five interested in becoming a licensed provider; however, they each have a different barrier they are facing. Sheila was asked to provide a report to Julie Witt prior to the next meeting that listed the different barriers being faced. Colette mentioned it may be a good idea to ask the question on the CKLECC FACEBOOK page if anyone has considered being a provider and what the barriers they face are. Sheila reported that there will possibly be microloans and micro grants available for providers and centers from the Office of Early Childhood; however, the amounts will be spread across the entire state so the amounts will not be great.</p> <p>The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m.</p>	
	CONCLUSIONS	
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Sheila will provide a report to Julie prior to next meeting.	Sheila	May 13th
Julie will post FACEBOOK question; Dennis will check with Jan Richards, who had to leave meeting early, regarding 501C3, Troy McCue will inquire about 501C3 possibility with the Your Community Foundation.	Julie, Dennis, Troy	May 13th