



General Membership Minutes

September 12, 2024, 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 Linda Thoma and Becky Clouse

II. Review and approval of the June General Meeting minutes

- a. No meeting notes provided for review.

III. Budget & Finance Committee Report- Becky

- a. Janet is stepping down as the treasurer due to personal reasons. We will miss you, Janet!

Restricted Funds: \$ 15,908.93

Unrestricted Funds: \$42,340.30

Total: \$58,249.23

IV. Featured Speaker: Kiria Cora is a Venezuelan native who resides in Pittsburgh along with her husband Joey Cora, a former MLB player and current Major League coach, she has established the “The Cora Foundation” to raise awareness about bullying and promote #DialNOMas Bullying.

- Started “Heart Math” as a certified trainer/coach after experiencing her own battle with depression, emotional drain and sleep disorder
- Offers assistance with emotional intelligence and resilience
- Learn strategies to help stabilize heart rhythm.
- A program is four coaching classes

V. Agency/Business Spotlight: Early Learning Connections/Center for Community Resources-Bundle UP Butler and Catholic Charities.

EARLY LEARNING CONNECTIONS:

- Early Learning Connections was formerly “Butler County Children’s Center”
- Mission is to provide high quality programs to children and their families
- Offer HeadStart, PreK ITCS (Infant/toddler) and childcare programs
- Home and center-based programs
- Center follows the school calendar
- Has a rapid response team to assist with facilities needing short term support (classroom management, behavioral issues, 1:1 support or classroom wide support offered
- Looking for space in the downtown Butler area for programming

Bundle Up Butler:

- Event is October 11th- at Farmers Market downtown-vendors needed
- Coat donations and financial donations are needed
- Cornhole Tournament on September 22 to benefit the event
- Greater need for gently used/new little boy jackets size 8/14
- Drop off at CCR or there are community collection boxes around town
- Don't bring a coat you wouldn't put on yourself or your child

Catholic Charities:

Gismondi job training program of Catholic Charities. Short-term training for long term career opportunity.

- Telecommunications class teaching about basic infrastructure skills
- Free program to anyone over the age of 18
- Job training and soft skills are taught
- Armstrong guarantees an interview after completing the program
- 3-month program 4 days a week. Classes held at YWCA
- Next session starts September 30
- 10 students per cohort
- Certification is good nationwide

VI. Subcommittee Reports:**a. Marketing and Events Committee Report: No report****b. Resource and Development Committee**

- a. Upcoming Microsoft Excel Training at BC3-October 15, 2024. Two sessions, each cost \$65. BCF membership gives a discount.

c. Any Current Ad-hocs-

- a. Holiday Huddle Planning Committee-seeking general membership participation

VII. Partnering Collaborative Updates:

- a. Butler County Prevention Council (BCPC)-Amanda Feltenberger
 - a. Partnering with SRU-survey coming out soon
 - b. November 15th is next meeting
- b. Butler County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT)-Allyson Rose-Devin Cunningham
 - a. November 1- Stand Down event- vendors needed
 - b. November 7-Dodgeball at Butler Twp Park (sign up a team)
 - c. November 10-Stuff the Bus for homeless housing (Sams Club parking lot)
- c. Butler County Early Care and Education Council (ECEC) Julie Thumma
 - a. Next meeting September 19, 2024
 - b. Featured speaker: Linda Thoma from CCR to talk about resources/support from CCR for children and families
- d. Safe Kids-Jill McDonald
 - a. Car seat roundup on September 15th.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Proposed By-law changes
 - a. Members were encouraged to take a copy of the draft and come back to the October meeting prepared to vote on proposed changes.
- b. Upcoming Elections-seeking nominations
 - a. Many positions open and up for reappointment
 - b. Business and treasure both open with no one on the ballot.
- c. Mini Grant applications due date 10/31/2024
 - a. Look at the website for details
 - b. \$4,000 awarded with a \$600 ancillary fund
 - c. Must collaborate with other agencies to apply
- d. Membership renewals being accepted for 2025.

IX. E newsletter submission Deadlines: September 19 & October 3

X. Gap Identification / Discussion

- a. Center on Center has “professionals in recovery” events on Fridays from 6-7pm
- b. Anna’s closet is looking for gently used prom/homecoming dresses
- c. CAC has a new family advocate role to support families involved with the agency
- d. Trunk or Treat event hosted by CAC, Lighthouse, VOICe and Humane Society looking for “trunks” to participate in this year’s event. October 24th from 5-7pm at Clearview Mall.
- e. An eagle scout is looking for hygiene donations to make kits. Looking for donations and businesses to set up a donation bin. Contact Devin Cunningham from the Lighthouse Foundation for more information.
- f. Reach and Rise through the Butler YMCA is looking for mentors. Especially in the Karns City area. 1:1 mentors are the biggest need. Training is provided.
- g. Charlie Health offers virtual support groups for anyone impacted by suicide.

XI. Next General Meeting: October 10, 2024, at 10:00 am – 11:30 Monarch Place

XII. Adjournment of Membership Meeting

XIII. Networking with a purpose