

Session 6 – Child care

Progress on childcare challenges- regional successes and best practices learned

- Childcare & Early Learning Bootcamp – Lona Duvall, Sarah Hayden
 - Resource Community Services tax credit- JR Robl
- Grow & Learn Childcare Center, Inc.- Leoti, Wichita county -Aimee Baker
- USD's involvement- Craig Correll, Coffeyville
- Cowley-Sumner Pilot Project - Child Start - Tanya Bulluck & April Graham
- Connecting resources- Child Start and Child Care Aware of Kansas - Tanya

Lona DuVall has been the President and CEO of Finney County Economic Development Corporation since 2011. FCEDC is charged with growing and sustaining the economic base of Finney County and the Greater Garden City area. Having worked in the financial, health care, and education industries, Lona has a wealth of experience related to the economic conditions in the region. Lona views her role, and the role of FCEDC, as one that has a responsibility to the region, not just Finney County. To that end, she has assisted many area cities and counties in creating community development strategies. Lona is a member and Past President of Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (WKREDA), a former board member of Kansas Economic Development Alliance (KEDA), acts as a consultant to western Kansas counties, and holds a degree in Public Administration. lona@ficedc.com

J.R. Robl has over 20 years of combined career experience in economic development and directs civic projects for GLMVs Community Studio. He is actively engaged in the design and development of childcare centers in Kansas. A guru on state and federal tax credits, J.R. has a proven record of linking grant funding programs with quality-of-life strategies. jr.robl@glmvc.com

Aimee Baker is from Leoti, KS and has been an extension agent for 6 years. She serves lots of roles in her community, but the biggest right now is serving as the Grow & Learn Childcare Center Board President. Aimee is married to her husband Andrew and is a proud boy-mom to Nash-6 and Finn-4. Andrew & Aimee farm and ranch and love being a part of their small town. bakeaim@ksu.edu

Dr. Craig Correll, recently named the Kansas Superintendent of the Year, is committed to the students of Coffeyville and is evidenced by the countless relationships created between Coffeyville Public Schools and area businesses and organizations. Partnering with other advocates of early childhood education, he helped form the Coffeyville Coalition for Early Education. This 501c3 was responsible for raising funds to expand the Dr. Jerry Hamm Early Learning Center, raising just over \$2m. This is a premier learning center and has been recognized by both the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Association of School Boards as a model for the state. The center has also been featured in Kansas Child magazine.

In February 2017, State of Kansas Education Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson announced to a local group of citizens that between the years of 2010-2016 the number of Coffeyville High School graduates enrolling in post- secondary education had risen from 14%-67%. This was the largest gain of any school district in Kansas. Also, under the guidance of Dr. Correll, the secondary schools have reduced behavior referrals by over 60% while increasing attendance rates by over 40%. Graduation rates have also risen during this time. craig.correll@cvcilleschools.com

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Tanya Bulluck has been with Child Start since 2014, becoming the Child Care Resource and Referral Director in 2019. She is responsible for overseeing a variety of services that impact more than 60% of children under age 5 each year in South-Central Kansas, as well as teachers, child care providers, daycare center staff, parents, grandparents, foster parents, and the general community. Tanya earned an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Studies, a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership and a Master of Leadership, both from Southwestern College. She is also currently an adjunct faculty member in the Early Childhood Education Department at Butler Community College and a CDA Specialist through the Council for Professional Recognition. Tanya is a proud Air Force spouse and an even prouder mother of three pretty neat children, ages 19, 17 and 12. tbulluck@childstart.org

April Graham is a Specialist at Child Start/Early Childhood Connections (Wichita). April's focus is serving Sumner and Cowley counties under the Quality Beginnings Rural (QBR) Program partnered with Cowley College. agraham@childstart.org