

**Childcare Committee of Bedford Area Resource Council**  
**July 28, 2021**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Mission:** The Childcare Committee of the Bedford Area Resource Council serves as a facilitator of conversation and action focusing on identifying and meeting the childcare needs of Bedford County's families and employers.

**Vision:** All Bedford County families will have access to affordable, quality childcare for their children ages 0 – 13.

1. Increasing Access to Childcare
  - a. Encouraging existing programs to become subsidy vendors
  - b. Encouraging new programs
    - i. Businesses
  - c. Finding teachers
    - i. CVCC

Present: Misty Jewell, Denise Hutton, Jason Ferguson (CVCC), Andy Crawford, Amanda Powell, Janet Trent, Bridget Austin, Karen Wesley, Kimberly Booth, Mary Jo Boone, Cindy Perdue, Holly Layne

Amanda announced that Bedford currently has 6 subsidy providers, two being the Y's afterschool programs, one being Little Light ELC and the others family Day Homes.

Andy shared that there are only 194 unemployment claims in Bedford this week and explained that the number of people able to work is not as high as the number of job openings.

Jason Ferguson announced that CVCC is hiring a person to teach the Child Development course offered this September and also to create an ECE degree or certificate program that will be covered by G3 funds, meaning it will be free to students. This is good news as we face a shortage of childcare workers.

Much of the discussion focused on the shortage of childcare workers and spaces for families. Andy pointed out that if existing programs could increase hours and spaces, that would help. This is not just a poverty issue. Cindy Perdue is going to find out more information on the high school program at Susie B Gibson. Holly, Karen and Amanda will reach out directly to Main St Methodist, Bedford Baptist and East Lake churches to discuss the Mixed Delivery grant and how their programs can benefit from becoming licensed and participating. Denise shared online places to post job openings.

Amanda, Holly and Denise will meet to start plans for a Childcare Professional Resource Fair.

Amanda will send subsidy info to all to share on webpages and facebook pages. Andy suggested we all contribute to create a social media presence for potential providers. As Amanda and all find things we can share, please send to Holly who will forward to committee.

Thank you to all!