

### 1.3 Child Care Facilities

Contact: Kathy Jenkins  
 (417) 682-3373  
[dj@ipa.net](mailto:dj@ipa.net)



Assessment Process	
A.	The assessment of needs, wants, and resources is achieved by surveys, town meetings, brain storming, focus group studies, and advisory committees.
B.	Specific direction related to Child Care for the community is provided through an extensive health assessment conducted by Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security (BCAWS).

Program Standards	
A.	<b>Organization:</b> Barton County Achieving Wellness and Security (BCAWS) is the primary organization to provide for the networking of child care providers with related health and human service agencies in Lamar and Barton County. Through Child Care Resource and Referral Service of the Ozarks, an active member of BCAWS and the Chamber of Commerce, families and civic agencies have additional tools for the advocacy of child care needs and services in Lamar.
B.	<b>Mission Statement:</b> The Child Care Facilities program seeks to facilitate the best care, education, and development for children. In addition to linking families with child care providers, the program connects providers with other agencies to meet the needs of area children.
C.	<b>Assessment:</b> BCAWS conducts health assessments in Barton County that identify and define specific child care service and facility needs. Recent assessments have directed BCAWS to launch a successful Summer Day Camp program and After-School program for elementary-aged children. Statistics on specific needs identified for infant and toddler care have been utilized to expand these services through licensed home-based care providers. Surveys and focus groups through the Chamber of Commerce identify specific child care needs related to the local workforce. Furthermore, home-based businesses-related needs, such as private child care providers, are identified and prioritized through the Chamber of Commerce.
D.	<b>Coordination:</b> Child care providers, both public and private, are able to network and collaborate on issues of mutual concern through BCAWS at regular monthly meetings and through ongoing services provided by Child Care Resource and Referral of the Ozarks.
E.	<b>Provider List:</b> The <i>Community Health Resource Guide</i> , published by BCAWS, provides the most extensive local inventory of child care services available. The guide is utilized by agencies such as the Health Department, the Division of Family Services, and the Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, specific information on providers such as location, services provided, and quality ratings are cataloged by Child Care Resource and Referral Service of the Ozarks.
F.	<b>Zoning:</b> The City of Lamar zoning laws enacted in 1998 are designed with maximum public interest and mutual benefit. These protect, rather than hinder, the ability of child care providers to meet the needs of the community.
G.	<b>DFS Assistance:</b> As an active member of BCAWS and several other task force groups related to healthcare and quality of life, the local Division of Family Services is actively engaged in the betterment of child care services throughout Lamar and Barton County.

## Program Goals and Planning

<b>Goal #1</b>	<b>Provide a permanent physical location for the continuity and expansion of child care services in Barton County.</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Construct a facility to house the After-School program and Summer Camp program operated by the BCAWS Youth Development Board. (This facility was constructed in the summer of 2002, but as of this MoCAP update, is in need of additional funding to meet commitments for the future of this project.)
<b>Funding</b>	Local donations, access fees from programs, public and private grant support
<b>Timeline</b>	Full completion of project by 2004.

<b>Goal #2</b>	<b>Promote and establish a new vision for youth programming through year-round youth development programs serving school-age children.</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	Create three staffing positions through the Youth Development program: community organizer, youth development director, and program evaluator
<b>Funding</b>	\$450,000 in federal grants for the first three years of program cycle
<b>Timeline</b>	Annually

## Program Evaluation

The success of Child Care endeavors for Lamar is addressed through performance targets and project verification as related to current grant projects:

### Performance Targets:

- Attendance at collaborative meetings will increase 25%
- Project will become year-round and participation will increase 25%
- After participating in the program, more than 80% of youth participants will report through surveys and interviews that the experience is beneficial, enjoyable, and rewarding
- At least 80% of parents or caregivers of student participants in youth development will report through surveys and interviews that the experience is beneficial and rewarding
- At least 75% of the student participants will demonstrate, through pre-test and post-test, increased skills and knowledge after completing the youth development program
- At least 75% of teen participants will report academic and/or career goals
- 100% of student participants will not become teen parents

### Project verification:

- Youth Pre-Intervention Survey to establish baseline
- Youth Post-Intervention Survey to measure effectiveness of initiative
- Youth Participant Satisfaction Survey
- Parent/Caregiver Participant Satisfaction Survey
- Youth Learning Pre-Test to establish a baseline of skills/knowledge level
- Youth Learning Post-Test to demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge
- New data of teen pregnancy
- Monitoring/Analysis of KIDSCOUNT data to identify trends of teenage pregnancy and overall outcomes