

**Early Great Start - Eaton County's Great Start Collaborative**  
**Great Start Collaborative Council**

Minutes: July 26, 2010

Present: Dale Barr, Kelly Collins, Fran Jozefowicz, Kimi Mead, Shelley Miller, Laurie Newland, Kathleen Roberts, Stephanie Rogers, Ronda Rucker, Nikki Selleck, Nancy Sherd, Pat Simmons, Elaine Smiley, D'Lynn Smith, Kim Thalison, Kim Thelen, Donna Turner, Cindy Van Neste, Kathy Vogel, Alicia Williams, Debra Williamson

1. Chairperson Cindy Van Neste opened the meeting as members completed their salad lunches.
2. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as presented.
3. The May 2020 EGS Minutes were approved as corrected following a motion from Dale, with support from Kelly. Corrections: change Dale Ball to Dale Barr and Shelly Miller to Shelley Miller within those listed as present. At the meeting.

>>Alicia Williams (ECIC): Alicia shared information about a "Barrier Buster" document that has been prepared to assist local Collaborative groups move forward with Action Agendas. There has been approval for a three-month extension for completing current year work and for submitting new Action Agendas. These are now due in January 2011.

4. Great Start Collaborative Updates and continuing work:

Debra is leaving EGS at the end of July. Cindy will be assuming the PAT Parent Educator role. A new Community Coordinator and a 25% time assistant to Ronda will soon be hired. Kathleen Roberts agreed to take over the secretarial roll for the Collaborative. Debra nominated Kathleen and support was supplied by Kelly.

EGS in the News: Several recent news articles were distributed for review. News articles are still a primary news source for local families, according to local surveys.

EATRAN Letter of Support: On behalf of Eaton Great Start, Ronda has written a letter supporting the upcoming EATRAN millage election.

A "Business Breakfast" is scheduled for September 21 at LCC West. Charles Ballard will address those present. Names of suggested invitees should be forwarded to Holly Makimaa.

Moving Toward Updating the Strategic Plan:

A) The survey developed to determine the social/work "connections" of EGS members to various community groups, such as: churches, community service organizations,

professional associations, school groups, and the like, was not responded to in a useful tabulation manner. Ronda will re-work the survey and re-send it.

B) Members were asked to provide comments on the items listed within each “STAR Area” in the current Action Plan, with ideas being solicited for the new Plan.

September’s EGS meeting will begin with a luncheon to meet the candidates for the State legislature.

Information regarding the March, “Literacy Week” character events was distributed.

Information regarding the Imagination Library project was not available for review at this time.

Shelley shared a source for backpacks for the “Connect Kids” project that provides life supplies in a backpack for foster children.

#### 5. Reporting by STAR Area:

##### Committee Information:

Child Care and Early Education: Charlene Cunningham (through Ronda)

This committee had no business/information to present at this time.

Pediatric and Family Health: Heather Sanders (through Kim Thalison)

This committee had no business/information to present at this time.

##### Parent Leadership: Kimi Mead

Fair attendance was down due to the extreme heat. However, several ideas are in the works for next year’s booth. Several members complimented Kimi on the work she did on this project. Four candidates for State office attended the candidate “meet and greet” on “toddler day.” In conjunction with the upcoming “Sand Box Convention,” a sandbox theme was included at the event. Kimi shared information about the August 26 “Sandbox” event to be held in East Lansing. The Parent group is working with the Quality Rating Improvement System for childcare.

##### Social Emotional Health: Fran Jozefowicz

A special workshop, “Understanding and Working with Challenging Behaviors,” with presenters Kathy Vogel and Barry Kaufman has been organized by this committee, with funding from an, ECIC Implementation grant. The workshop will be held on September 14 at the EISD Building. Lunch will be provided. A conference is planned for August 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. A limited number of Eaton County workers are being invited by Ingham County’s GSC. This is a train-the-trainer workshop focused on preventing family violence.

Family Support: Cindy Van Neste

Cindy and Stephanie provided information on grants and services available to families of active military members. A front-line workers training is also planned, for November 30, to help human service workers assist military families.

#### 7. Partner Sharing:

Nikki: Due to weather issues in July, there are still more “Toddler Time in the Park” opportunities available. The Eaton Rapids Community Action Team participated in a community 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. This team has also established a “children’s garden.” Volunteers are needed to help maintain the garden area. The Potterville Team is planning a fall event. More information will be forthcoming. Nikki is working on organizing a Team in the Maple Valley area.

Cindy: Cindy encouraged Collaborative members to “friend” the new EGS Facebook page. D’Lynn complimented Cindy and the Social Networking Committee on this project. Other Community Action Teams will “re-group” in August. Each Team will be completing a work plan that will tie to the EGS Action Plan this year. “Fun To Be Me” will be held on September 25. This countywide event will have activities for one year olds, two year olds, three year olds, and four year olds. The event replaces the previously held annual “Fun to Be 4” events.

Kim Thelen: The Grand Ledge Team is being developed. Kim asked for names of local community contact persons.

Kelly: Highfields currently has one or two Wrap-around spots open in Eaton County. Contact Kelly with names of appropriate families.

Nancy: Postcards from CMU were distributed. These advertise the State searchable childcare database.

#### Upcoming meetings:

August 30 --- @ noon: Social Emotional Health and Pediatric Family Health  
@ 1:30: Family Support and Child Care and Education

September 27 --- Next Collaborative meeting