

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

Minutes: May 24, 2010

Present: Marianne Ball, Dale Ball, Lois Cairns, Charlene Cunningham, Rachelle Gorton, Alissa Hall, Tammy Ingram, Fran Jozefowicz, Kimi Mead, Shelly Miller, Dr. William Pearson, Nikki Piggott, Ronda Rucker, Nikki Selleck, Melanie Shehan, Nancy Sherd, D'Lynn Smith, Kim Thelen, Donna Turner, Kathy Vogel, Donna Webb, Debra Williamson

1. Chairperson Cindy Van Neste opened the meeting with group introductions. Upon arriving, members were asked to contribute to a poster with comments or drawings on: "What Great Start means to me..."
2. The Proposed Agenda was amended to include "Family Support" within section 5: Reporting by STAR Areas.
3. The March 2020 EGS Minutes were approved following a motion from Marianne, with support from Nikki S.
4. Great Start Collaborative Updates and continuing work:

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee met on May 18 and developed a policy to manage and establish a social networking site for Eaton Great Start through Facebook. The policy was presented to the Collaborative. Following review, D'Lynn made a motion to establish a Facebook site for EGS and to accept the proposed policy to manage the site. Fran supported the motion, which was accepted by the full group.

EGS Quarterly Report to ECIC: Ronda presented the detailed Quarterly Progress Report she prepared for ECIC, outlining work accomplished through the Collaborative. Members were asked to review the report and to direct any questions or inclusions to Ronda.

GSC in the News: Three recent news articles were distributed for review. Ronda requested that members send her news items mentioning Great Start they may see.

CMH Letter of Support: On behalf of Eaton Great Start, Ronda has written a letter of support for a State of Michigan Block Grant prepared by Fran for services through C-E-I Community Mental Health. If funded, the grant would allow for reinstatement of services previously provided through the KEEP program within the tri-county area. A copy of the letter was distributed.

Moving Toward Updating the Strategic Plan: A) In order to keep focused on updating the EGS Strategic Plan for the upcoming year, Ronda distributed a summary of the work

on the Plan completed by the group during the March meeting. She asked members to review the summary for possible additions.

B) A survey is being 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. Ronda indicated that the information from the survey could assist the EGS be able to network throughout the larger Eaton County community.

Technical Assistance Meeting: Six EGS members, Shelly, Nikki, Kimi, Cindy, Ronda, and Fran recently attended a Technical Assistance meeting sponsored by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. Each commented on information they found valuable from their experience.

## 5. Reporting by STAR Area:

### Committee Information:

Child Care and Early Education: Charlene Cunningham

This committee is considering holding a child care provider recognition and quality care event. They have been discussing what “quality” means. Four key elements have been identified: continuing education; membership in a professional organization; providing enriching experiences for children; and providing positive behavioral support.

The Child Care and Early Education Committee is also developing an educational packet regarding licensing and information on selecting care options.

Pediatric and Family Health: Ronda for Heather Sanders

The environmental brochure developed by this committee has been distributed throughout the county. This goal is now completed.

Parent Leadership: Kimi Mead

Over three thousand people attended the recent Star Power Rally at the Capitol Building. Eaton County was well-represented. On July 14 a “Juicebox Convention” is being held at the Breslin Center, MSU. This kid-centered event will host gubernatorial candidates.

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.

Family Support: Cindy Van Neste

This group is continuing their task of identifying community groups and events throughout Eaton County. The next EGS insert will be distributed on July 11. Committees and individuals were asked to contribute articles.

## 6. Learning about our partners

EATRAN: Donna Webb

Donna gave an informative presentation about the EATRAN public transportation system, the new EATRAN strategic plan, and the upcoming millage election. Ronda commented that the EGS strategic plan supports public transportation.

Capital Area Community Services: Shirley Ripley

Shirley reviewed the many services available to families through CACS. She said that they have services available from “birth to death.”

Partner Sharing:

Cindy Van Neste shared information about upcoming “Toddler Time in the Park” events and the “Family Excursion Lunch Train.” The volunteer signup for the Eaton County Fair booth was distributed. This year’s booth will include a diaper changing area.

Upcoming meetings:

June 21--- @ noon: Social Emotional Health and Pediatric Family Health

@ 1:30: Family Support and Child Care and Education

July 26--- Next Collaborative meeting