

Eaton Great Start
Great Start Collaborative Council
Minutes: January 25, 2010

Present: Marianne Ball, Kathie Bappert, Connie Bussey-Hooper, Lois Cairns, Dennis Craft, Charlene Cunningham, Rachel Derva, Rachel Fox, Rachelle Gorton, Jean Harris, Dorian Hawkins, Melissa Heacock, Patty Heinze, Laurie Hilbrenner, Fran Jozefowicz, Williams Kennedy, Barry Kaufman, John Leefers, Kelsey McDonald, Kim McDonald, Kimi Mead, Shelly Miller, Lauren Pasbjerg, Andrea Potter, Tim Price, Stephaine Rogers, Elaine Romero, Ronda Rucker, Heather Sanders, Nicole Selleck, Megan Servo, Melanie Shehan, Nancy Sherd, Elaine Smiley, D'Lynn Smith, Mary Taylor, Janie Tharp, Donna Turner, Cindy Van Neste, Kathy Vogel, Debra Williamson, Pat Wing

Introductions:

Ronda welcomed everyone and facilitated member introductions including a sharing of personal interactions with children. These stories brought smiles to the many faces present.

Historical Review:

Following the introductions, Ronda lead the group through the history of early childhood initiatives from 1999, when a workgroup first began meeting, through ASAP Pie and ECIC funding initiatives, to the present day. She reviewed the ongoing collaborative mission regarding young children for Eaton County. Past work efforts and research in Eaton County were reviewed, as well as the structure for decision-making and collaborative bodies within the county. This led to the “unveiling” of the new Eaton Great Start committee structure, aligned with a cross State early childhood format, spearheaded by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

New Framework:

The new committee framework involves changes in meeting times and dates. All Eaton Great Start meetings will now be held on the last Monday of each month, with Council and committee meetings alternating, month-to-month. A few exceptions were pointed out, resulting from holiday conflicts.

Calendar 2010:

Great Start Collaborative Meetings:

>>Noon to 3:00 p.m.<<

- January 25, 2010
- March 29, 2010
- May 24, 2010
- July 26, 2010
- September 27, 2010
- November 29, 2010

GSC Committee Meetings:

>>Noon to 1:30 p.m. --- 1) Social Emotional Health, 2) Pediatric and Family Health<<

>>1:30 – 3:00 p.m. --- 3) Family Support, 4) Child Care and Education<<

February 22, 2010

April 26, 2010

June 21, 2010

August 30, 2010

October 25, 2010

December 20, 2010

Each new committee chairperson was introduced and those in attendance were invited to complete their “Partner Agreement” and select one or more committees in which to participate. Chairs include: Fran Jozefowicz, Heather Sanders, Cindy Van Neste, and Charlene Cunningham. Brief introductory gatherings were held at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Meeting the challenges in Eaton County:

1) Barry Kaufman: Child Care Enhancement Program (CCEP)

Barry highlighted the CCEP program changes from the previous KEEP efforts. CCEP serves families with children through 36 months old who receive DHS childcare subsidy assistance. CCEP assists with behavioral problems in childcare settings.

2) Anne Barna: Kids Count Data for Eaton County

Anne reviewed recent Kids Count data for Eaton County. This data is available from the Michigan League for Human Services.

3) Debra Williamson: Parents As Teachers (PAT)

Four parent educators are currently certified to provide the Parents As Teachers curriculum, a birth to kindergarten, developmental program for families. The service is available through the Eaton Great Start office.

4) Ronda Rucker: 211 and Helping Hand web site

Ronda encouraged those present to promote the above two valuable, informational resources to families.

Member Sharing:

1) H1N1 flu shots are currently available.

2) Homeless Connect event will be held on January 28.

3) MSU Extension is providing in-home food and nutrition education.

4) Capital Area Michigan Works will be providing vouchers for Micro-soft certification training.

5) Family Fun Events are scheduled for Potterville, Charlotte, Bellevue, and Olivet. See the website for program details: www.eatongreatstart.org.

6) The Month of the Young Child Michigan Author event is scheduled for April 16 and 17. See the website for program details: www.eatongreatstart.org. Author Alan St. Jean will be presenting.

7) On the Path to Health conference is scheduled for February 5.

8) Ronda was complimented on providing a helpful service for families.

9) The new childcare initiative was discussed, as well as training requirements for providers. For more information, contact: 800-234-6996.

10) The next Eaton Great Start newsletter/insert will be distributed in early March. Articles and advertisements are currently being accepted for the next edition.

News Release:

State spending over the past 25 years to educate Michigan children before they even get to kindergarten is helping save taxpayers \$1.15 billion every year, according to an economic impact study released by Wilder Research.