

## **Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative**

Minutes: March 31, 2008

Members Present: Lois Cairns, Charlene Cunningham, Pat Gundrum, Fran Jozefowiz, Kelsey McDonald, David Martin, Kimi Mead, Laurie Newland, Ronda Rucker, Colette Scrimger, Nancy Sherd, Pat Simmons, Michelle Sine, Katie Southward, Brenda Stohr, Donna Turner, Cindy VanNeste, Debra Williamson.

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative met in regular session on March 31, 2008 at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church. Ronda Rucker, Collaborative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. for Nikki Selleck and Joyce Nickel, Co-chairs, who could not be in attendance. The meeting began with introductions.

2. The agenda was accepted by consensus with the following adjustment: Item #6, Meeting Schedule was moved to the top of the agenda..

6. Meeting Schedule - The calendar for future meetings was accepted as follows: April 28, June 30, August 25, October 27, and December 15, 2008. These meetings will be held at 12 noon, at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church.

3. Laurie Newland moved to accept the February, 2008 minutes as posted on the GSC website. Nancy Sherd supported the motion, which was approved.

#### 4. Committee Reports:

**Communications** - Cindy and Debra reported on the developing Communications Plan. A template designating items of importance to be included in the Communications Plan was distributed for member input. The Committee has recommended that the following protocol be adopted for Logo Use:

- a. all logos of all program (grant) funding sources be printed in black and white, grey-scale (this does not apply to special event funding sources)
- b. all logos of all funding sources be the same size and be listed in alphabetical order across the bottom of ECC letterhead and materials
- c. the ECC logo continue to be presented as it has been used over the last several years by ECC.

Debra Moved to adopt the Logo Use protocol as recommended by the GSC Communications Committee. Kimi provided support to the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of GSC members present.

**Early Childhood Care and Education Committee** -Nancy Sherd reported on Committee work to develop age-appropriate calendars for childcare providers and relatives and other providers. These calendars will also be available for use for other events as well. Lois Cairns is taking the lead on this project. Additionally, Charlene will provide information on becoming a licensed provider. This group has been working on a possible childcare provider recognition event. They are also working to promote the use of the GSC Benchmarks Document.

**Executive Committee** - Ronda reported the Executive Committee has met to discuss the Fund Mapping project. Joni Risner will present the project at the Human Services Collaborative. Nikki is researching working with college interns who could carry out on the project.

**Parent Coalition** - The GSC Parent Coalition has retained a consultant to lead a visioning process, reported Kimi Meade. They are developing promotional material and meeting with additional parent groups.

**Program and Services** - Members Debra, Fran, and Donna reported that the Program and Services Committee met with the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council in March. The Committee also reviewed the action steps needed to move forward on the GSC Strategic Plan.

**School Readiness and Kindergarten Transition Committee** - Ronda shared this new committee has been reviewing local opportunities for children to receive free books. Committee members include representatives from OYC, Head Start, MSRP programs, Early On, and EISD.

**Website Committee** - This committee has met recently to review the website, make changes, and update the site.

5. Other Community Reports:

**ECC Community Coordinators**- Cindy reported on the upcoming *Author's Event*, to be held on April 12 in both Charlotte and in Grand Ledge. She also shared information on April being *Month of the Young Child* and encouraged members to wear or display purple ribbons during April. The *Build My Brain* series has been very successful, and continues through July. *Toddler Time*, county-wide, serves 250 participant families per month at seven local sites. A facilitator is currently needed for the Grand Ledge *Toddler Time*.

**Head Start** - Lois shared that the *Proud Fathers* group is going very well. Three days have been added to the 2007-08 Head Start calendar due to snow days. Enrollment for fall is currently taking place.

**MSRP** - MSRP classrooms are also enrolling students for fall sessions.

**Kinship Care** - Ronda distributed new *Kinship Care* brochures. MSU Extension is printing the brochures. Tri-County Office on Aging will serve as a fiduciary for the *Kinship Care* group.

6. Great Start Collaborative Coordinator Update -

Ronda asked if the process of posting minutes on the website was acceptable to members. The consensus was to continue this method of distributing the minutes from the Great Start Collaborative and associated committees.

Members were surveyed to determine if anyone attended Chamber of Commerce meetings. It was determined that representatives of Charlotte Schools attend Charlotte Chamber meetings and representatives from Eaton Rapids Schools attend Eaton Rapids Chamber meetings.

Ronda encouraged members to promote the Month of the Young Child over the next month. She shared purple ribbons with members.

*Literacy Weeks*, including a variety of popular children's literary characters, will be held for two weeks this coming October. Mall events are scheduled for October 18 and 19. More information will be forthcoming.

Members were asked to update the GSC membership list.

7. The next Great Start Collaborative meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2008. The March meeting adjourned by consensus.