

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative

Minutes: June 29, 2008

Members Present: Dale Barr, Charlene Cunningham, Kim Estes, Fran Jozefowiz, Anne Kramer, Kelsey, Joanne Lucier, McDonald, Dave Martin, Kimi Mead, Barb Monroe, Joni Risner, Ronda Rucker, Heather Sanders, Nikki Selleck, Pat Simmons, D'Lynn Smith, Cindy VanNeste, Debra Williamson, Jackie Wood.

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative met in regular session on June 29, 2008 at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church. Nikki Selleck, GSC Chair-person, opened the meeting at 12:00 noon with introductions from members in attendance.
2. The agenda was accepted by consensus as presented.
3. Minutes from the April 28, 2008 Great Start Collaborative meeting were accepted as printed. D'Lynn made the motion to accept the minutes, Dave supported the motion.
4. Great Start Collaborative Coordinator Report and Updates:
Juvenile Justice: Ronda provided a copy of a letter sent to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners regarding the Juvenile Justice millage.

GSC Resignations: Current Co-chair, Joyce Nichol, has resigned from the Collaborative. She will continue as a Toddler Time leader. Lisa Lee, Communications Chair and Parent Representative to the Collaborative, has also resigned. Cindy Van Neste will serve as liaison to the GSC for the Communications Committee.

Officers for 2008-09: Cindy presented a motion to instruct the Executive Committee to develop a slate of officers for fiscal year 2008-09, including a chairperson, a chairperson-elect, and a secretary. The slate will be presented and voted on at the August 2008 GSC meeting. Kim Estes supported the motion and it was approved.

Literacy Week Events: Ronda reminded the group that she needs *Literacy Week* applications on or before June 29.

Foster Care Backpacks: The Myers family has designed a project to provide backpacks for children entering foster care. They will be volunteering through ECC to implement the project. Dave suggested a "stuff a bus" event at a local retailer. D'Lynn will check if community grocery stores are willing to have collection boxes. Kim suggested churches as community drop-off sites. Additional items suggested for inclusion in the bags were pajamas, socks, and underwear.

Fund Mapping: Kay Sneyd, ECC intern working with Ronda, is developing the forms needed for the GSC mapping of funding for local early childhood services. Ronda asked for suggestions for the "snapshot" of time to be used for data collection. October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 was agreed upon as an appropriate time frame for the project. The group discussed various options regarding data to be collected and

agreed that the project should include only organizational funding, not individual funding. Eligibility criteria will be an included aspect of the final report. To avoid multiple inclusion of funds, a model developed for Statewide use will be followed. Delineating and distinguishing services delivered only to Eaton County residents by multi-county agencies was a concern raised by some in attendance.

Dale Barr presented a motion to request Kay develop a matrix for data collection, which will be reviewed by the GSC Executive Committee for their final approval. Additionally, Ronda will forward the matrix to GSC members for their comment prior to final approval. Kim Estes supported Dale's suggestion. The motion was approved by those present.

Ronda requested that members review the *Existing Assets and Resources* document and provide her with any available up-to-date contact information for local service providers.

ECIC Continuation Grant: The Early Childhood Investment Corporation application for 2008-09 is due August 15. Requirements for receiving the grant include a fund mapping project and a minimum of \$10,000. of the granted funds designated for the Parent Coalition. The grant amount from ECIC for next year is projected at \$165,000. Ronda and the Executive Committee will be working on the proposal.

5. Committee/Group Reports:

Communication Committee - Cindy: This committee continues to develop the GSC Communications Matrix of group and agency representatives and their contact information.

Early Care and Education Committee - D'Lynn: This group has developed an activities calendar for the summer season. It is being distributed to families and care providers.

Parent Coalition - Kimi provided a report on the recent *Star Power Rally*. The Parent group is collecting information on health care opportunities in the county. The Coalition is also planning a Fair booth, in conjunction with the ECC office. The booth will focus on voter education. Kimi reported on information learned at a recent ECIC Technical Assistance meeting she attended. The GSC Parent Coalition is for the "primary caregivers of children ages 12 and under."

Program and Services Committee - D'Lynn: A request for presentations for the October 25th *Domestic Violence is Child Abuse* conference has been forwarded to local agencies. GSC Collaborative members were encouraged to consider presenting at this fall event. She also distributed copies of the recently updated *Early On Yellow Pages*.

School Readiness and Kindergarten Transition Committee - Ronda: The SR & KT Committee has completed a 0-5 Book List which will be distributed through local libraries. This group is also working on developing a library card initiative in cooperation with libraries. A third project is a universal "transition form" to accompany

children from any pre-school setting into kindergarten.

Website Committee - Debra: A new Training Calendar now lists local training opportunities on the GSC website, eatongreatstart.org. The parent/child activity page accepts contributions of age-appropriate activities to share with parents through the website. D'Lynn advised the group that the *Book of the Month* page will post books which will be used during the *Literacy Week* events.

6. Other Community Reports:

Community Coordinators - The summer's *Toddler Time in the Park* events have been very well received, with thirty-two children attending the recent Potterville event. Bellevue's *Fun To Be Young in Bellevue* team has developed a *Play It Safe Outdoors* event scheduled to be held on August 15. The *Charlotte Community Action Team* recently hosted a train ride luncheon that has received rave reviews. They will host repeats of this event and the train company is planning to offer a similar program on an ongoing basis, based on the community response. The *Build My Brain* classes are ongoing and will start over soon.

Office of Young Children - Barb Monroe reported on four new parenting classes which will be offered in Delta Township this summer through a Strong Families Safe Children grant. She provided brochures.

7. Ronda closed the day's meeting by presenting new members Dale Barr, Heather Sanders, and Joanne Lucier with GSC coffee mugs.

8. In closing, Nikki reminded GSC members that the Collaborative will meet every other month, with the next meeting scheduled for August 25, 2008 at 12:00 noon.

Calendar for future meeting:

August 25, October 27, and December 15, 2008. Meetings will be held at 12 noon, at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church, directly across from Meijers, located just east of exit #60 off I-69.