

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative

Minutes: August 25, 2008

Members Present: Lois Cairns, Charlene Cunningham, Kim Estes, Rachelle Gorton, Fran Jozefowiz, Kelsey McDonald, Dave Martin, Kimi Mead, Jamie Nixon, Joni Risner, Erin Roll, Ronda Rucker, Heather Sanders, Nikki Selleck, Nancy Sherd, D'Lynn Smith, Kay Sneyd, Donna Turner, Cindy VanNeste, Debra Williamson.

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative met in regular session on August 25, 2008 at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church. Nikki Selleck, GSC Chairperson, opened the meeting at 12:00 noon with introductions from members in attendance. She introduced her new daughter, Elyse, who enchanted the members of the Collaborative.

2. The agenda was accepted by consensus as presented.

3. Minutes from the June 29, 2008 Great Start Collaborative meeting were accepted as printed. Joni made the motion to accept the minutes, D'Lynn supported the motion.

4. Communications Committee:

Debra presented a proposed Communications Plan developed by the Communications Committee. The Plan was accepted by a unanimous vote of the Collaboration with a minor change in wording suggested by Kim Estes. The motion to adopt the Plan was offered by Joni, with support from Heather.

A draft of a letter addressing Domestic Violence Awareness Month, intended for submission to local media in October, was presented for review. Dave made a motion to submit the letter as printed. D'Lynn supported the motion which was accepted by the membership.

Articles are needed by September 5 for the fall edition of the insert/newsletter. The theme of the publication will be literacy. Articles and paid ads can be submitted to debra@eatongreatstart.org.

5. Fair Survey:

Kimi reviewed the results of the survey conducted by the Parent Coalition at the Eaton County Fair in July. On this year's survey, parents indicated their children spend a greater amount of time watching television than was indicated the previous year. It was suggested that an item asking about knowledge of the Earned Income Credit be included in the survey next year.

6. Fund Mapping:

Kay Sneyd, ECC intern from Spring Arbor University, reviewed the fund mapping project and distributed forms which will be used to gather information. Members took forms pertaining to programs with which they work. Kay can be reached at 517-375-2930 for any needed clarifications. She would like to have the forms returned by September 15.

7. Election of Officers for 2008-09:

D'Lynn made a motion to accept the following slate of nominated officers, in full, to serve Eaton's Great Start Collaborative beginning October 1, 2008. The slate includes:

Chairperson: Nikki Sellock

Secretary: Debra Williamson

Chair-elect: Cindy Van Neste

The motion was supported by Fran and was carried unanimously.

8. Great Start Collaborative Coordinator Report and Updates:

Workplan for ECIC grant - Ronda provided a copy of the Workplan submitted with the ECIC grant application as approved by the GSC Executive Committee.

Review of structure and operating procedure - A chart depicting the structure of the GSC was presented and reviewed for possible revision. Joni presented a motion to maintain the existing structure and to continue operations as presented within the chart. The motion was accepted by the membership and supported by Heather.

Review of 2008 Action Agenda progress and setting 2009 Action Agenda Objectives - After a thorough review, by the group as a whole, of each objective outlined in the 2008 and 2009 Action Agendas, Joni presented a motion to accept the 2009 Action Agenda as revised on August 25, 2008. The motion was supported by D'Lynn and adopted by member vote.

Assessing promotion of Great Start by partners - Members indicated that the Great Start Collaborative is promoted by member partners on an ongoing and continuous basis.

Interagency Agreement review - due to time constraints, it was agreed that members will notify Ronda of any revisions needed to the Interagency Agreement.

Dave made the following motion: Eaton's Great Start Collaborative supports and advocates for coordination and teamwork for services and policies as they apply to the Great Start Collaborative Action Agenda. Joni supported the motion, which was accepted by a vote of the members.

9. Other announcements:

Heather shared information about a Lunchtime Film and Dialogue series being sponsored by the Health Department.

“It’s Fun to be Four” schedules were distributed by Cindy. These sessions begin on September 16 and are designed for families with children who will enter school in the fall of 2009.

There is a need for one or more volunteers to facilitate Toddler Time in Charlotte.

October 25 is the date for the “Family Abuse is Child Abuse” conference in Olivet. Registration is through 211.

10. Ronda closed the day’s meeting by presenting Nikki Selleck, GSC Chirperson, a gift to welcome her new baby.

11. Nikki reminded GSC members that the Collaborative will meet every other month, with the next meeting scheduled for October 27, 2008 at 12:00 noon.

Calendar for future meeting:

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.