

Early Childhood Connections - Eaton County's Great Start Collaborative
Great Start Collaborative Council

Minutes: September 28, 2009

Present: Dale Barr, Lois Cairns, Charlene Cunningham, Christine Gottleber, Fran Jozefowicz, William Kennedy, Joanne Lucier, Kimi Mead, Tim Price, Heather Sanders, Nikki Selleck, Nancy Sherd, D'Lynn Smith, Kim Thelen, Cindy Van Neste, Loretta Williams

Nikki welcomed everyone and facilitated member introductions. The agenda was approved as presented. August 2009 minutes were accepted with a motion introduced by Dale, along with support from D'Lynn.

Infrastructure:

1) Evaluating Our Collaborative – A report was presented on the recent evaluation of the Collaborative's progress and efforts. Most respondents reported being happy with the work that has been done and the direction being taken by the body. The lowest score was for the ability to attract funds as needed. Ideas to improve this area of work will be presented at the next GSC meeting.

2) Action Agenda– The Committee reviewed the proposed, up-dated Action Agenda. Fran noted that the date on the document needed to be corrected. One item was added: under focus #13: Mailing, email, news inserts. D'Lynn moved to accept the 2009-10 Action Agenda as corrected. Fran supported this motion, which was approved by the body.

3) Election of Officers – The following proposed slate of officers was presented:

Chair elect: Nikki Selleck

Chair: Cindy Van Neste:

Secretary: open

A motion was made by Kimi Mead to accept the proposed slate of officers as presented. Dale supported the motion, which carried. Election of the Secretary position was tabled until the next meeting.

4) Executive Committee – Since Mona Ellard is retiring and Joni Reisner has resigned her position at United Way, the Executive Committee needs additional members, reported Nikki. Heather and Fran offered to serve on this committee, contingent on approval from their agencies. Ronda would like the members to continue to suggest community members who may be interested in membership in the GSC, advised Cindy.

Reporting by STAR areas:

1) Pediatric and Family Health –

a) Heather announced the local flu shot schedule.

b) Cindy reminded the GSC of the planned car-seat safety check event.

c) Nancy suggested that the WIC program should work within this area.

2) Child Care and Early Education –

a) Charlene advised the group about scholarships available to assist daycare providers in continuing their professional education.

b) Nancy provided information about data available on educational attainment of providers.

3) Parenting Leadership –

a) Kimi explained a new method the Parent Coalition will be using to collect data from parents.

b) This group is in the process of re-structuring, reported Kimi.

4) Social and Emotional Health –

a) Fran reviewed the upcoming changes impacting the KEEP program.

5) Family Support –

a) The following suggestions were made regarding the website: add LaLeche League, add LCC Childcare, alter OYC, which will now be called Central Region.

b) Four GSC staff members have been certified in the Parents as Teachers curriculum. Ronda is working on efforts to keep the certifications active through the next year.

c) Tim initiated a discussion about the Family Friendly Business Award effort. The nomination form, to nominate area businesses, is available on the greatstart.org website.

Partner Sharing:

Heather discussed recent Safe Sleep promotional efforts within the county.

Lois and D'Lynn reported on the Ruby Payne lecture attended by several members.

Bill discussed the success rate of drug-free births in Safety Court participants.

Nancy shared about flu vaccine distribution through schools.

Chris reported that cognitively impaired EISD students would like work chores as part of their weekly activities.

The meeting was adjourned by a consensus of members. The next GSC Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2009 at the Charlotte Assembly of God, at 12 noon. No meetings are scheduled for November or December 2009. The first scheduled meeting, following the October 2009 meeting: January 25, 2010.