

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

Minutes: October 26, 2009

Present: Dale Barr, Lois Cairns, Fran Jozefowicz, Barb Monroe, Tim Price, Ronda Rucker, Heather Sanders, D'Lynn Smith, Donna Turner, Cindy Van Neste, Debra Williamson

Cindy welcomed everyone and facilitated member introductions. The agenda was approved as presented. Heather asked to present agency information at the beginning of the meeting, as she had to leave early. September 2009 minutes were accepted, as corrected, with a motion introduced by Dale, along with support from D'Lynn. Motion carried. Corrections: 1) add Fran to those offering to serve on the Executive Committee; 2) correct Joni Reisner's last name.

Infrastructure:

\*Election of Secretary for 2009-10: Dale Barr nominated Debra Williamson for the secretarial position, supported by D'Lynn. The motion was approved and Debra accepted, but indicated she would be limited to providing GSC and Executive Committee minutes and would not be able to provide committee minutes during the next fiscal year.

\*2010 ECIC/Great Start Collaborative Workplan: Ronda directed the members through a review of the FY2010 GSC Phase 1 Work Plan/Progress Report. The nine goals and accompanying annual objectives of the Workplan, are provided to the GSC by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, explained Ronda. She has applied the previously adopted activities, listed within the Action Agenda, to the various goal statements within the document. Included in the document is both the name of the person or the group responsible for each activity and a timeline for completion. This document will also be used for reporting purposes to the ECIC. Ronda also provided the FY10 Priorities list, for review purposes. Donna made a motion to adopt the Workplan as an official GSC document. This motion was supported by Fran and received full support of the membership.

\*Collaborative Structure: A new format was suggested and discussed for Committee work. In addition to the Executive Committee, five committees will form, each reflecting through its focus, one of the five "points of the ECIC Star logo." Members selected which of the various committees they wished to work with and offered suggestions for additional membership. Committee chairs were also selected. These include: Pediatric and Family Health (Heather); Social and Emotional Health (Fran); Child Care and Early Education (Charlene -- pending); Parenting Leadership (Kimi); and Family Support (Cindy).

It was suggested the five committees meet every other month, alternately to the GSC meetings, on the last Monday of the month. Furthermore, it was suggested the Parent

Coalition meet prior to, and interfacing with, these meetings. This suggestion was adopted by a consensus of the members present.

Reporting by STAR area:

\*Pediatric and Family Health: Cindy has attended the Health Department's ACCESS group meeting, as a representative of the GSC. Debra indicated she would not be able to participate in these ongoing meetings, which she previously had offered to as a GSC representative.

\*Child Care and Early Education: Barb Monroe provided a detailed explanation of the new online childcare data system and the restructured referral and reporting system known as the Regional Resource Centers. Although format has changed, many of the same people and agencies are still a part of this newly designed structure. OYC will provide assistance with the transition to the new structure through November 15.

D'Lynn explained her recent discussion with Don Tuski, of Olivet College, about expanding the College's offerings to include an early education endorsement option for graduating education students. As this opportunity would not only benefit students graduating from Olivet College, but also the local community, Debra offered a motion to support D'Lynn's proposal to the College through a letter from the GSC to Dr. Tuski. This motion was supported by Dale and accepted by the membership.

\*Parenting Leadership:

\*Social and Emotional Health:

\*Family Support: Ronda outlined the integration of the *Parents as Teachers* program into the Great Parents, Great Start parent education effort. More information will be available as details are worked out. Currently, Debra, Cindy, and Kimi are all trained to provide PAT services.

Partner sharing:

\*Heather: The Barry-Eaton Health Department is currently taking appointments for administration of H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccinations to certain high-risk groups. There are a limited number of applications available throughout the two county area at the present time.

\*Lois: Head Start is offering the following classes both in Lansing and, soon, in Charlotte: *Proud Fathers, Proud Parents, Reflections for Women*.

Next GSC Meeting: January 25, 2010