

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative

Minutes: November 26, 2007

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative met in regular session on November 26, 2007 at the Charlotte Assembly of God Church. Joyce Nickle, Collaborative Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting began with introductions of all who were present.

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Kinship Care Support Group
- Participation Agreement
- Great Start Parent Meeting

Committee Reports:

Great Start Website Committee: Ronda reported for the Committee that both a business card size and a half-page size promotion piece for the website are available for distribution.

Great Start Program and Services Committee: Peg reported that the Committee has completed their work on the "Existing Assets and Resources" document. This document will be presented later, for adoption. The next Program and Services meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Southridge ECC office.

Kinship Care Support Group: Joyce advised the group that the next Kinship Care Support meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced.

Great Start Collaborative Coordinator Updates:

Ronda asked those present to sign a participation agreement. By doing so, representatives committed to their continued participation in the activities of and to the vision of the Great Start Collaborative. They also provided contact information and names of alternative representation.

A new brochure for Early Childhood Connections was presented to the Collaborative Council.

The following changes were recommended:

Add "Imagination Station" program under the "opportunities" section

Add: "Check the website for locations and local opportunities"

Add: A contact name and a contact phone number in "for more information" section

Add: "for parents, " as in "A variety of opportunities *for parents* are available..."

Add: "Kinship Care Support Group" under opportunities

Change: Alter the order of the "committed to" section, so that the collaborative point is listed last

Change: "Build My Brain" to a sub-group of "Parent and Caregiver Classes"

Several suggestions were made for formatting the brochure.

Ronda presented the “Existing Assets and Resources” document for approval as part of the Three-year Plan for the Collaborative. Debra offered a motion to approve the document with the following corrections/additions:

Change: Charlotte Public Schools Southridge to Charlotte Public Schools Early Learning Center

Change: Eaton Rapids Montessori to Eaton Rapids Public Schools Montessori

Add: Eaton Rapids Public Schools Childcare Center

Add: Angel Food Distribution

Add: Alcoholics Anonymous and E.R.A.S.E., as well as any similar community programs that notify ECC about desiring inclusion in the document

Add: the word *Program* to all references to Parent Young Child

Add: the County dental program to the insurance section

Add: Housing Services Rental Assistance and Budgeting Assistance services

Change: Long sentence under DCH about applications by appointment to “application assistance” and move this entry to the BEHD section

Add: Consultation for parents and providers to the OYC section

Add: Licensed childcare referrals to the OYC section

Add: 211 phone service to the Family Support section

Add: Highfields to the Business section

Add: Pennock Hospital in Hastings

Add: “disaster relief” to Red Cross

Add: YMCA to Business section

Remove: Healthy Families

Remove: CAN Council Real Men posters

Corrections:

CACIL, change E to I

OYC: use a small f

CACS: Capital, not Capitol

Car Seat, correct spelling

Head Start: always 2 words

The motion was then supported by D’Lynn. The document was approved by a vote of the Collaborative body as corrected.

Also necessary as part of the Collaborative’s Three Year Plan is the adoption of the “Gaps, Needs, and Weaknesses” document, explained Ronda.. Fran moved to adopt this document with the following changes:

Physical Health:

1. Some families are under-insured or have no insurance.
7. There is a lack of education on issues of second-hand smoke.

Basic Needs, Economic Security, and Safety:

2. There is a need for a food assistance program and outreach.
3. There is a shortage of housing and shelter beds for victims of domestic violence.

Add: There is a need for more prevention services related to domestic violence.

Early Education and Care:

3. There is a need for more caregivers for non-traditional hours.
4. There is a high turnover rate of caregivers.
6. There needs to be increased communication between caregivers when there are multiple childcare arrangements for a child.
11. There is a lack of support groups for caregivers.

Family Support and Parent Education:

3. Promote the importance of Early Childhood. (Move this sentence to Early Childhood and Care.)
3. Change to: Need to build parent understanding of the importance of Early Childhood.

Add: Need increased support for fathers.

Add: Need parent education for single parents.

Social Emotional Health Care:

4. Remove
7. Capitalize
9. Increase Foster Grandparent/Parent Aide/Mentor programs

Joni supported the motion and the Collaborative voted to adopt the “Gaps, Needs, and Weaknesses” document.

The next document presented for review and adoption was the “Early Childhood Infrastructure Review” document. Joni offered a motion to approve this document with the following changes/corrections:

- Correct spelling
- Remove Healthy Families
- Add OYC to the Referral Team
- Correct the definition for Parent Young Child Program
- Add Extension to MSU

Pat supported the motion to approve the “Early Childhood Infrastructure Review” document, which then carried.

Ronda read a “Signature Letter” required for the Plan. She asked each Collaborative member present to sign the letter.

The process for developing the “Strategic Plan Objectives” was explained by Ronda. Several of those present expressed the desire to reconvene at another time to complete this step, as the meeting was now entering a third hour. It was agreed that members will review the handout listing community comments and come prepared with one objective for each of the five areas on December 7 at 9:00 a.m. The location of the meeting will be announced. Ronda will email directions and forms for members to use for this preparative work.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next Collaborative meeting is scheduled for December 7, 9 a.m.