

Great Start Early Care and Education Committee
February 21, 2008

1. Early Care Committee and its purpose

Attendance:

D'Lynn Kowolk, Lois Cairns, Charlene Cunningham, Ronda Rucker, Nancy Sherd

Chairperson – DyLnn

Minutes – Nancy

The purposed purpose of the Early Care and Education Committee was accepted. The Early Care and Education Committee group is one of the subgroups of the Great Start Collaborative. Purpose of the group is to guide the collaborative in accomplishing the Early Care and Education goals and objectives of the Eaton Great Start Strategic Plan.

We will be meeting on the last Mondays of the month at 12:00pm at the Assembly of God, (bring your lunch) before the Great Start Collaborative meeting at 1:00pm.

Next meeting is Monday March 24th, 2008.

2. Areas to be promoted from the Strategic Plan

A. Awareness of CDA – 9/2008

Nancy put together an article on Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program that will go in the Office for Young Children's March 2008 Newsletter. This newsletter is sent to all licensed providers in Eaton County as well as Ingham, Shiawassee and Clinton county. The article addresses: What exactly is a CDA? What will a CDA do for me? How do I go about getting a CDA? and Are there Scholarships available to help with the cost?

Charlene has put together a CDA brochure that will go into the Early Childhood Connections Insert April/Spring edition. Charlene will take the brochure and put it into an article format for the insert. The insert is distributed to all of Eaton County.

The committee decided that it would be a good idea to supply contact information for looking into a CDA at Kellogg Community College (KCC) for those individuals who live in the far south west side of Eaton county. The website is for KCC is

www.kellogg.cc.mi.us/socialscience/childcare. Contact person is Dawn Larsen at 269-965-3931, ext. 2399 or e-mail larsend@kellogg.edu

B. Awareness of Quality Care – 9/2008

Nancy will provide an article with information on "Quality Child Care" to be placed in the Early Childhood Connection Insert April/Spring edition.

Nancy will provide an article on the "Benefits of Becoming Licensed" which could also be placed in the Early Childhood Connection Insert April/Spring edition. The committee would like to try to get the mailing list of all the Day Care Aids and Relatives, in Eaton County, from DHS

so a mailing could go out to all of them to try to entice them to become licensed which in turn would increase their quality of care that they provide.

Ronda is going to check with DHS to see if we can get the listing/ mailing labels of the Day Care Aids and Relatives in Eaton County.

Lois is going to send a copy of the Head Start Calendar to Ronda. Specific activities will be pulled off it so that it can be placed in the Early Childhood Connection Insert April/Spring edition. Also these activities will be included in the mailing "Benefits of Becoming Licensed" to the Day Care Aids and Relatives if we can get the mailing list from DHS. Purpose is to supply activities that will create a learning environment and increase the quality of interaction between the child and the day care aid/relative.

C. Promotion of Benchmarks – 9/2008

ECC is planning on putting on a recognition event for the Eaton County providers. DyLnn is trying to get a guest speaker (Governor Jennifer Granholm or Lupe Izzo) to give a speech on the importance of early childhood and to recognize and thank the providers.

DyLnn is going to check around to find a catering business that would give us a bargain price for dinner in exchange for advertising their business.

Benchmarks would be passed out to the providers at this event and some training would be done by going over them, providing an explanation and overview. A question and answer session would follow. This should be able to count for training (upon approval from licensing) and a certificate for training hours would be issued at the end of the event. Ronda would like the help of the Early Care and Education Committee to help out at the event.

Benchmarks will also be passed out in the baby bags (6months and 1yr only) for the Eaton County new moms.

D. Information on the website – 9/2008

DyLnn will keep the website up to date with recent information on it. She is going to put the Infant, Toddler and Preschool activities from the Head Start Calendar on the website.

This will be a great resource for all parents, providers, grandparents and anyone who is involved with early childhood.

Ronda is going to check with the webmaster to see if the website can have a counter on it as to how many times the site has been logged onto. Also find out the number of hits it has had so far. D'Lynn is going to check to see if the website has links to LCC for the purpose of searching for a CDA and OYC for the purpose of learning what Quality Care is.

E. Tracking of CDA and training – 9/2008

Ronda learned that 211 will take care of registration for an event so she is going to check into this and let us know how that would work. Would be nice to use this service for the recognition event.

Nancy will run a report of Eaton County family and group providers to see the percentage of educational levels. (Looking at the % that hold a high school diploma, have some college, CDA, Associates, Bachelors degree)

F & G. Recognition event – 9/2010

This would be a different recognition event that would happen at the end of the time frame of the Strategic Plan. Thought being that we would be able to capture all the new providers that have become licensed and all the new CDA candidates from within the last few years.

The talk of the recognition event was to have a early childhood guest speaker who would talk about a topic that would be interesting to both parents and provider. A few topics thrown out were challenging behaviors and brain development.