

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative: Programs and Services Committee
Minutes: February 28, 2008

Present: Ronda Rucker, D'lynn Kowalk-Smith, Fran Jozefowicz, Donna Turner, Cindy Van Neste, Nancy Sherd, Heather Sanders, Debra Williamson, and guests: Spencer Winters, Jim Vermillion, Clare McCarthy

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative Programs and Services Committee met in regular session on February 28, 2008. Co-chair D'Lynn opened the meeting by having the guest MSU nursing students, Spencer, Jim, and Clare, introduce themselves. They are working in the County learning about public health and completing community assessments.

2. No additional agenda items were presented, therefore, the agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Agency/Program Information Sharing:

- the upcoming Proud Fathers Program to be held at the Charlotte CACS building
- Hayes-Green-Beach Hospital Health Fair, March 15 (Early Childhood Connections will participate in this event)
- a conference sponsored by the State Court Administrative Office focused on children and domestic violence, planned for April 9 and 10
- pancakes with the Easter Bunny fundraiser for SIREN, April 15, Charlotte *Applebees*
- a CMH conference focusing on fatherhood issues, scheduled for April 21 and 22 in Okemos
- the renewal of the Eaton County Juvenile Justice Millage will be placed on the August 2008 ballot

4. Early Childhood Connections Updates:

- April is *Month of the Young Child*. An author presentation is planned for two sites, the EISD building and Dart Bank in Grand Ledge, on April 12. Children's author Leslie Helakoski will read her book Big Chickens at the free family-oriented events.
- The recent "Family Fun" events sponsored by Early Childhood Connections have been very successful. The most recent event was held at Willow Ridge School in Grand Ledge. There was excellent community participation.
- A childcare provider recognition event is being planned for April.

5. Strategies from the Great Start Strategic Plan - Ronda presented and reviewed the now completed *Great Start Strategic Plan*. The Committee reviewed the following objectives from the Plan and assigned action steps as follow:

2008 Areas:

- Environmental checklist - A checklist for use in medical offices will be developed. Heather will contact Environmental Health at BEHD for resources. The three MSU nursing interns will assist with this project. Heather will bring a recommendation back to the Committee in March. The checklist will focus on lead, radon, and smoking.
- Healthcare options, eligibility document - The GSC Parent Coalition is currently working on completing this objective.
- Sensory integration training - Fran will head up an exploratory committee to begin to develop this training for implementation in 2009. Cindy and D'Lynn will work with Fran on this project.

2009 Areas:

- Work with retailers - the GSC Communications Committee has begun to work on this objective.
- Child safety information packet - this objective will be discussed at a later meeting and may be combined with the environmental health project.
- Family violence emphasis - Debra and Ronda will collaborate with the Domestic Violence Coalition and SIREN to develop a recommendation for October 2008 implementation.
- Promotion of Benchmarks - The Early Care and Education Committee will work on a training concerning the Benchmarks Document, perhaps in coordination with the provider recognition event.
- Toddler Time awareness - all agency members of the Program and Services Committee will continue to promote Toddler Time gatherings. Nancy will promote the weekly events through the OYC newsletter. The Communication Committee will include this objective in the GSC Communications Plan.
- Intern to survey support groups - the MSU nurse interns have already begun work related to this objective and will provide the Committee additional resources to complete the survey.

6. The meeting adjourned by group consensus and will re-convene on March 27, 2008. The March meeting will be a combined Early-on Advisory / GSC Program and Services meeting.