

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative:

Programs and Services Committee and Early On Interagency Coordinating Council

Minutes: June 26, 2008

Present: Peg Cameron, Fran Jozefowicz, Shelley McCall, Dotty McDougal, Kimi Mead, Susan Morris, Kathy Roberts, Ronda Rucker, Heather Sanders, D'Lynn Smith, Nancy Sherd, Janie Tharp, Donna Turner, Debra Williamson

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative Programs and Services Committee met in regular session, and participated in the regular session of the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council, on June 26, 2008.

2. One item was added to the agenda: Parent Volunteer Proposal.

3. Participant Introductions:

- Nancy: Office of Young Children Childcare Consultant
- D'Lynn: Potterville MSRP Teacher and ECC Community Coordinator
- Ronda: Great Start Collaborative Coordinator, Michigan School Readiness Consortium Coordinator, and Strong Families Safe Children Coordinator
- Kimi: GSC Parent Coalition Coordinator
- Shelley McCall: Department of Human Services Family to Family Facilitator
- Dotty: Early On Nurse
- Heather: Barry Eaton Health Department Health Educator
- Debra: ECC Great Parents Great Start Parent Educator
- Janie: Charlotte Community Nursery Director and Early On Council Member-at-large
- Kathy: Parent Representative to the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council
- Susan Morris: Parent Representative to the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council
- Donna: MSU Extension Educator, Building Strong Families
- Fran: Community Mental Health Early Intervention Supervisor
- Peg: Early On Coordinator

4. Early On Report:

Peg provided a quarterly update for Eaton County Early On services. The FY 2008-09 grant application has been completed and submitted for funding. The budget for next year is \$121,794. This represents a reduction from the current year of \$7,000.

Early On has been concentrating on two performance indicators this year and has made progress on both. Summer services are available currently. All Early On services are voluntary.

The next Early On ICC meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

5. Early Childhood Connections Updates:

D'Lynn provided information on various ECC activities.

Community Action Teams: The Eaton County United Way has provided funding for some recent Team events. The Bellevue Team is sponsoring a "Play It Safe Outdoors" event on August 15, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. The Charlotte Team is hosting a "Train Ride" the morning of June 28. This event has been very well received and is sold out. The Coordinators are working to develop and implement a Community Action Team in the Grand Ledge community.

Literacy Events: Fall storybook character Literacy Events are scheduled for October 20 through November 3. Agencies are encouraged to schedule events through the ECC office.

Car Seat Safety: ECC staff members D'Lynn and Kim Thelen have completed 32 hours of training to become certified car seat inspectors. They will provide this service for families at events such as the September "Home Expo." D'Lynn answered questions from the Committee members regarding car seat requirements and provided educational literature and resources.

Eaton County Fair: Early Childhood Connections, as well as the Great Start Collaborative's Parent Coalition, will have booths at the Charlotte-based Fair in July. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for a shift.

6. GSC Parent Coalition:

Kimi reported that the Parent Coalition will focus on voter registration at the Fair. They are collecting health care options and eligibility information. This group is developing an event for fathers. She reported on member participation at the Star Power Rally.

7. Parent Volunteer:

Michelle Myers has submitted a proposal to develop backpacks for children entering foster care. The "Connecting Kids" project will provide an opportunity for residents to collect needed items for children who have been removed from their parental homes and are entering foster homes. ECC will be a drop-off point for this project.

8. Sensory Integration Training:

Fran provided the Committee an update on this project which will be implemented in 2009.

9. Other:

Donna advised the Committee about the status of a proposal to eliminate Eaton County MSU Extension agency. Eaton County government has a 1.6 million dollar shortfall for fiscal year 2008-09. It has been a recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee to eliminate funding for MSU Extension services. At a recent Board of Commissioners meeting, 370 residents attended and thirty spoke in favor of maintaining these services as part of the County budget.

Peg Cameron is retiring from Early On and from education after thirty-nine years of

service to the Eaton County community. Members thanked her for her leadership and wished her well in her retirement.

Next Meeting: July 24, 2:00 p.m.

4. Strategies from the Great Start Strategic Plan - Ronda reviewed the now completed *Great Start Strategic Plan* and the role of the Program and Services Committee in the development of the plan. The Committee then reported progress on the various objectives assigned to the Program and Services Committee at the February meeting

2008 Areas:

Environmental checklist - Heather is working on making connections to proceed with this project. The interns have been on Spring Break.

(From 2/28: 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 - Kimi asked the Committee for clarification on expectations for this task. The Parent Coalition has begun to gather data.

(From 2/28: The GSC Parent Coalition is currently working on completing this objective.)

Sensory integration training - Fran reported that an organizational meeting is scheduled to work on development of this project and that CMH staff person Cathy Vogel will be able to provide four hours of training.

(From 2/28: 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 Communications Committee hopes to coordinate with local Chambers of Commerce on this objective and are in the process of gathering information about each Chamber.

(From 2/28: The GSC Communications Committee has begun to work on this objective.)

Child safety information packet - No report.

(From 2/28: This objective will be discussed at a later meeting and may be combined with the environmental health project.)

Family violence emphasis - Debra and Ronda are working with Nancy Oliver on this objective. Plans will be developed over the summer months.

(From 2/28: Debra and Ronda will collaborate with the Domestic Violence Coalition and SIREN to develop a recommendation for October 2008 implementation.)

Promotion of Benchmarks - The ECE Committee has hoped to present an initial training in April 2008. It is uncertain at this time if a training will occur in 2008.

(From 2/28: 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 - Ongoing.

(From 2/28: 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 - Ongoing.

(From 2/28: the MSU nurse interns have already begun work related to this objective and will provide the Committee additional resources to complete the survey.)

5. Other Business:

Donna requested information on the structure and funding sources for the Great Start Collaborative. Ronda reviewed a flowchart which explained the GSC system and how it relates to County structures. She also reviewed the funding sources and fiduciary agency for each of the GSC elements.

6. The meeting adjourned by group consensus and will re-convene on April 24, 2008.