

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative: Programs and Services Committee
Minutes: July 26, 2007

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative Programs and Services Committee met in regular session on July 26, 2007. Ronda Rucker, Collaborative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Two new attendees were introduced, Fran Jozefowicz, from Early Intervention Services, Community Mental Health and Heather Boyer, Legal Advocate for Safeplace and SIREN.

The agenda was accepted as presented by group consensus.

Cindy VanNeste announced that storyteller Carri Wilson will be featured in a free family oriented show on Saturday, August 18 at the Charlotte Middle School Cafeteria. The 10 a.m. show is sponsored by Charlotte Early Childhood Community Action Team, Eaton County United Way, Charlotte Public Schools, and Early Childhood Connections of Eaton County.

Debra Williamson shared that the community parenting classes at SIREN are expected to resume in November.

Due to the discontinuance of the MI-HIP program at the Health Department, WIC staff has been providing additional outreach services for clients, reported Heather Sanders.

Heather Hicks and Barbie Pace asked the group for input into planning for October's *Domestic Violence Awareness Month* activities. Suggested activities include: a Candlelight Vigil - perhaps at a location outside of Charlotte; display of SIREN's Clothesline Project; and a possible workplace training and CD project. The CD would be an inexpensive means of providing information, and would replace the purple packets containing Domestic Violence materials which have been distributed to the community.

One idea discussed is to provide a training on Domestic Violence for daycare providers. Several members agreed to gather information for further discussion at the next meeting. Fran will ask if CMH staff are able to assist as presenters; Cindy will see if the United Way conference room in Charlotte would be available; Nancy will check to see if OYC would like to be involved as a sponsor; and both Debra and Nancy indicated interest in working on the project. Barbie said she could arrange for desserts for the sessions. The Clothesline Project could be displayed at the trainings, as well as at the Candlelight Vigil. A suggestion was made to hold the Vigil in the Conference Room at the Eaton Rapids Community Hospital.

Ronda shared Great Start updates with the Committee.

D'Lynn presented a video advertisement for the Mr. Al event which she has arranged to have shown on several local television stations.

The purpose and format of the Parent Coalition, part of the Great Start Collaborative, was explained by Kimi Mead. She asked the Committee to assist her in enlisting parents to participate in this effort. The members will receive training to become advocates for early childhood issues.

The completed Developmental Benchmark document was presented by Ronda. The document has been sanctioned by the Great Start Collaborative and will be presented to the Human Services Coalition for adoption. The listing of developmental steps represents a consensus-supported document of benchmarks for all Eaton County children, ages zero to five.

The committee workshopped the “Priority Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System,” as revised in 2006. Categories reviewed for revisions were: “Physical Health,” “Basic Needs, Economic Stability and Safety,” and “Early Education and Care.” The remaining categories will be reviewed at a future meeting.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Williamson