

## **Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative: Programs and Services Committee**

Minutes: September 27 , 2007

Present: Kimi Mead, D'Lynn Kowalk, Marianne Fant, Debra Williamson, Dotty McDougal, Heather Sanders, Lois Cairns, Cindy Van Neste, Donna Turner, Peg Cameron, Ronda Rucker, Fran Jozefowicz

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative Programs and Services Committee met in regular session on September 27, 2007. Ronda Rucker, Collaborative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Ronda thanked Peg for including the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council in the day's meeting. Heather provided information about an upcoming Health department symposium on Norovirus.

2. The agenda was accepted by group consensus with the addition of "Parent Awareness Conference" as item 7a.

3. Introductions and Information Sharing:

- Peg introduced the members of the Early On Interagency Coordinating Council: Dotty, Mary Ann, and Janie.
- Cindy VanNeste reminded the group about the upcoming Mr. Al concert and workshop, as well as the Literacy events to be held throughout the County.
- Donna discussed the State budget crisis.
- Lois spoke of Head Start's literacy events. She also informed the group that Head Start classrooms are at full capacity.

4. Ronda presented a history of the Program and Services Committee of the Great Start Collaborative. She shared an organizational chart depicting the structure of the Great Start Collaborative. She reviewed the vision and mission of the Collaborative, as well as the Benchmarks document, and the Priority Framework document, both having been developed through the Program and Services Committee.

5. Peg reviewed the Summary Notes of the previous Interagency Coordinating Council quarterly meeting. These were approved by a consensus of Council members present. She explained the services provided through Early On and the collaborative efforts of the program. Dotty is now working through EISD, not through the Health Department as she was previously. The local Improvement Plan was presented and discussed. Early On is currently serving 73 families. Last year, 176 families were provided services. A State awareness campaign is underway which includes billboards and other materials.

6. Ronda asked for a volunteer to serve as the chairperson of the sub-committee. Peg and

D'Lynn will co-chair future meetings.

7. The upcoming Domestic Awareness training for childcare providers was promoted. Brochures were distributed.

7a. Debra suggested that sub-committee members attend the upcoming Parenting Awareness Conference and consider ways that the Program and Services Committee could promote Parenting Awareness Month, a Statewide event, in Eaton County during March of 2008.

8. The list of early childhood home visit services, prepared at the last Program and Services meeting, was recently presented to the Human Services Collaborative after being formatted by staff at MSU Extension. (Attach same to minutes.)

9. Updates:

- Toddler Time: the Vermontville group is now meeting at the Congregational Church; Charlotte Toddler Time now meets at 10 a.m.
- Ticket sales for Mr. Al are going well. A videotape of the workshop will be prepared and will be available.
- The MaryBeth Hicks presentation in Eaton Rapids, the "Fun To Be Four" events, and the Literacy Events were discussed and brochures distributed.
- Lois shared that the Proud Fathers class may be delayed due to low registration.

10. The group went into work session to review the Priority Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System. The total document was reviewed and a draft of the proposed changes will be available at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. The November and December meetings will be combined and held on December 6.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Williamson