

Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative: Programs and Services Committee
Minutes: October 25, 2007

1. Eaton County's GREAT START Collaborative Programs and Services Committee met in regular session October 25, 2007. Peg Cameron and D'Lynn Kowalk, Co- Coordinators, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. The agenda was accepted without additions, by group consensus.

3. Introductions and Information Sharing:

- Kimi shared information about an upcoming Great Start Collaborative Parent Meeting entitled: "Who's Who," scheduled for November 2. The Collaborative's Parent Group will also meet on November 28. This group, under Kimi's leadership, meets regularly, every other month, opposite of the Great Start Collaborative meetings.
- The Committee was informed that D'Lynn is now teaching in the Potterville MSRP program, which is up and running. Potterville Schools have provided a classroom for the program. The Potterville program has a capacity for sixteen children. Enrollment currently includes eight four-year-old children. D'Lynn announced she is collecting toys and other appropriate items to furnish the classroom. She would appreciate donations.

4. Domestic Violence Awareness Month Update: It was reported that the two-part Childcare Provider Training on Family Violence, held in October, which was the collaborative effort of several agencies, including: Office of Young Children, SIREN, ECC, Eve's House, Domestic Violence Task Force, CMH, and others, was well attended. Approximately forty individuals completed the five hours of training. One concern raised at the training is that licensed childcare providers must turn children over to parents, regardless of the perception of possible impending danger, unless legal documents are on file with the provider.

5. ECC Update:

It was reported that the recent Literacy Character Events were very well received and well attended throughout the County and local area. These positive events are an asset for area families with young children.

Information was presented about the activities of the local Community Action Teams. Community Coordinators are currently focusing on the Olivet, Bellevue, and Maple Valley groups.

A Springtime early childhood Author Event is in the planning process for April 12, 2008. This event will feature Leslie Helakoski, the author of "Big Chickens." Agencies were asked to begin thinking about possible crafts to share at the event and to add the date to their calendars.

6. Strategic Plan:

The Great Start Collaborative is in the planning stage of developing Eaton County's

Strategic Plan for Early Childhood. The community is currently being canvassed for ideas and concerns for the plan. An overview of the recently developed ECIC Great Start Report was provided to the Committee. The Committee accepted, with some additions, the strategies for the Strategic Plan as presented.

7. Benchmarks:

The Benchmarks document has recently been endorsed by the Eaton Co. Human Services Collaborative with some changes, which were noted. The Program and Services Committee accepted the changes proposed by HSC. Nancy will report on the status of the Early Childhood Benchmarks document to the Collaborative on October 29.

8. MSRP Advisory Committee:

It was suggested that the MSRP Advisory Committee combine with the Program and Services Committee to avoid duplication and maximize the use of members' time. The MSRP group meets three times per year, but must meet on Fridays. This suggestion will be discussed further at the next Program and Services Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6. No meeting will be held in November, due to the Holiday calendar.

The October meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Williamson and Rachel Gorton