

Great Start Collaborative
November 18, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Those present: Jenilee Whisler, Shirley Gillespie, Jill Haan, Marcia Campbell, Carolyn Belknap, Bill Lovett, Sommer Poquette, Ashley Reid, Martha Lancaster, Mandy Peterson, Dr. Robert Wertkin, Carolyn Penniman and Theresa Simons.

1. The 09-10 budget for the Great Start Collaborative has been approved by the ECIC. The budget dollars that were proposed to be cut (.75 million) will be restored by funds provided by private donors.
2. The Great Start Collaborative is still in need of a chair. Anyone that is interested or knows of someone who may be interested should contact Sommer Poquette.
3. Charlevoix, Emmet and Northern Antrim Counties Great Start Collaborative Budget:
 - a. Anyone that would like a copy of the budget can obtain one by contacting Sommer Poquette.
 - b. There have been changes to the budget and the scope of work for the new year.
 - c. Some items that we have been able to fund in the past had to be taken out i.e. Early On Directories and the Great Start funding for the Great Start Network.
 - d. There are infrastructure dollars that the collaborative can apply for but they need to tie into the strategic plan and the birth to five population that the collaborative represents.
4. Charlevoix, Emmet and Northern Antrim Counties Great Start Collaborative Work Plan:
 - a. The work plan has been approved with the stipulation that some revisions take place. Two items that need to be revised is plans to obtain funding for the Great Start Network and the creation of a Grant Committee for finding other sources of revenue.
 - b. There are performance measures and criteria that will be monitored on a continual basis in the Work Plan.
5. The New Great Start Network/Parent Coalition Brochures are ready for distribution. The brochure is combined to inform parents of children birth through age five of community resources and about the parent coalition.
6. Jill Haan presented at the HSCB meeting and requested a new Memorandum of Understanding and a letter of support from the HSCB. These should occur at the December meeting.
7. 211 update:
 - a. Great Start paid dollars toward 211 out of the 08-09 budget. The Frey foundation is planning on providing matching funds for the 1st three years. \$4500 is still needed, determination from local community foundations on whether they will be able to provide the dollars.

- b. Great Start Collaborative and the Char-Em United Way have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 211. When the MOU is received from Muskegon it will be shared with the group.
8. Project Connect:
- a. Forms of participation can be completed and turned in to Sommer Poquette.
 - b. Lots of donations have been obtained for the upcoming event. Books will be provided by DHS and the Charlevoix Public Library. Canvas bags are available for families to put their items in. \$1,500 worth of baby bottles, sippy cups, diapers, and pacifiers. \$8,000 worth of personal care baby products.
 - c. A kid's area meeting for Project Connect will take place at the next Great Start Meeting on January 14th, 2010 in Boyne City.
 - d. Money saving ideas and recipes would be helpful to provide for parents at the event.
 - e. Bill Lovett is interested in getting local Kiwanis Club Members to participate in Project Connect by volunteering or donating funds. A list of the types of materials that would be purchased with the funds is needed as well as a contact person for people who wish to volunteer. Sommer Poquette provided a list to Bill and will connect Bill to the volunteer coordinator.
 - f. There will be a table for Project Connect at the Alternative Giving Day on Dec. 5th, 2009 at the First Presbyterian Church in Harbor Springs.
 - g. Char-Em United Way has a new website for community volunteering that will be up and running in December.
9. Great Start Collaborative By-Laws:
- a. The Executive Committee has proposed a change in the By-Laws. The current By-Laws state that the vice chair will automatically become the chair after one year. It is the Executive Committees recommendation that this be taken out.
 - b. Other proposed changes were brought up by the group: Page 2 Section 4.1 B; take out the part where Members-at-large are not required to attend 5 out of 6 meetings. Page 3 Section 4.3; change wording to say Members agree to attend 50% of the meetings. Page 5 Section 8.1 A; change to A quorum will equal 2/3rds of standing/alternate GSC members.
 - c. The motion to approve changes in the By-Laws was made by Jill Haan and seconded by Shirley Gillespie.
 - d. The motion passed with no opposition.
10. MSU Extension Update:
- a. Denise Aungst will be working for the extension in the afternoons and teaching at Boyne Concord in the mornings.
 - b. The MSU Extension training videos are not able to be given out or used for trainings.
 - c. The on-line trainings are still available thru MSU Ext. Better Kids Care through December 2009. MSU Ext. is unsure about the on-line trainings after that.
 - d. A new parenting class is starting up January 12, 2010 in Petoskey.
 - e. A Child Care Resource website is up and running and can be accessed through the greatstartforkids.org website.

- f. The Charlevoix Library has had requests for child care provider training. Denise Aungst will be contacting Audrey Shapiro regarding trainings.
 - g. A Nurturing Parenting Training will be taking place in Flint Michigan March 2010. It is a two day Train the Trainer Training.
 - h. MSU Ext. is in the process of redesign and has received flat funding for this year. The redesign is still in the planning phases and should be in effective by July 2010.
11. Community Resources and Early Childhood Conferences:
- a. The Early Childhood Conference will be held at NCMC in Petoskey October 2010.
 - b. DHS has videos etc. that can be checked out around child development and parenting.
 - c. Discussion occurred about compiling a Community Resource List of videos etc. and putting it on the website.
12. Longitudinal Evaluation Overview:
- a. Dr. Robert Wertkin gave an update on the longitudinal study being conducted.
 - b. Char-Em ISD has been collecting data and had a longitudinal evaluation conducted in 2004.
 - c. The current evaluation will be utilizing surveys completed by parents at Kindergarten Round-up; Teachers of Kindergarten and First grade students as well as MEAP scores in math, reading and writing.
 - d. The evaluation will compare children who had a preschool experience to children that did not have a preschool experience.
 - e. The final product will be ready by December 2009. A similar longitudinal evaluation is being conducted by St. Joe County.
 - f. Questions arose about using free and reduced lunch information in the study and interviewing parents at round up. The free and reduced information is reported but by numbers not individual student and round-ups are too large to do individual interviewing.
 - g. The local Char-Em ISD Even Start program was mentioned due to its control group that has been created to compare participant's scores on the TABE versus non participant scores. This data has proven very beneficial and has been presented at the state and national level.
13. Michigan Now:
- a. GSC applied for the Michigan Now Program. A 501c3 agency was needed to be the fiduciary and the agency could not have a budget larger than \$500,000. The United Way agreed to be the fiduciary.
 - b. The collaborative has been accepted into the program. The first phase of the program was to complete an organizational assessment which has been completed. The second phase which we are just entering into is to have a consultant come in and assess the organization and help with locating funding streams. 25 hours of consultant time is available to use as the GSC sees fit.
 - c. Professional Development is also part of the program. The GSC has received a voucher for \$200 worth of PD and collaborative members are welcome

to attend the PD and utilize the voucher. Most of the PD fees are around \$10 to \$30 per opportunity. The collaborative will also be able to reimburse travel to and from the PD site. Contact Sommer Poquette if you or a member of your agency is interested in utilizing these opportunities.

d. The collaborative needs to decide how far into the program they would like to go. We can remain in phase 2 or continue on to phase 3 and/or 4 if we choose.

14. A Parent Coalition update was given by Mandy Peterson, Parent Coalition Leader:

a. The Mary Poppins Bags are ready and have been utilized at an Early On Playgroup recently. The bags contain toys that promote social/emotional and physical play. The bags are able to be taken to playgroups and events in the community and used to make connections with parents.

b. A clothing drive that was sponsored by the Genesis Church of Petoskey took place on November 7th, 2009. The Parent Coalition was a part of the event giving out gloves to children birth to five as well as information about Great Start. It was a very busy event with lots of clothing being given away as well as some of the mittens.

c. The Business Friendly Window Clings are ready for distribution. 15 applications have been handed out to various businesses and at least 1 business has already been approved and received the window cling. The group is getting the word out to parents and businesses on what the window clings represent as well as educating them about the Great Start Parent Coalition.

d. The Coloring Contest for 3-5 year olds has ended and the winners were selected by Mark Eckhardt of the Char-Em ISD. The 3 winners each receive winter boots, a sled and the family receives a \$50 certificate for a turkey dinner. A picture was taken and will be submitted to Petoskey News Review.

e. The Parent Coalition will be partnering with East Jordan Public School to promote public will and provide an activity at the event. The event is December 1st from 4:30 – 7 p.m.

f. A January sledding party is in the planning phase. More details to come.

g. The Parent Coalition December meeting will take place before or after the December 1st East Jordan event due to the busy schedule of the holidays.

h. December 11th at the United Methodist Church in Petoskey the Creative Kids Day is taking place. The Parent Coalition will be there to provide an activity.

15. The meeting broke up into groups and revisited the action agenda.

16. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on January 14, 2010 beginning at 9a.m. at the Boyne City ISD.