

Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2009

Attendees

Kolleen Homuth, Denise Aungst, Pam Ward, Kerry Baughman, Marie Sarchet, Stacy Conrad, Carolyn Belknap, Ann Chastain, Elaine Roach, Ashley Reid, Kathy Kundrat, Pat Fralick, Kaye Frang, Jo Anna Kolodziej, Shirley Gillespe, Carol Stephan, Marcia Campbell, Nicole Lindwall, Audrey Marvin, Sommer Poquette, John Knowles Dianne Litzenburger, Maggie Sprattmoran, Jill Haan

Scribe

Sommer Poquette

Agenda

- **Call to Order**
- **Marie Sarchet/ECIC Update**

-All counties have a great start collaborative

-Marie helps all the GS collaborative in NM and the UP

-Communications Director for the ECIC has been hired and it will help our collaborative with the messaging.

-Matt Gillard will have a republican counter part joining them. Working on 0-5 funding reinstated but has a long way to go. MSU funding reinstated.

-Kindergarten survey to compile data has been sent out and collected.

- **Dianne Litzenburger/Great Start Communications Plan**

-Reinforce the mission

-Name-Mission-Purpose out there 0-5 Branding Soft Sell

-Increase the number of people and branch out to other than HR

-Partnership-Name out there-recognition of what Great Start is

-Elevator Speech

-Next why the early years matter

-Radio-long term, cost effective, get message out there

-Begin in June

-Press Releases one every other month

-Money spent on strategic areas

-Multi strategy

-Who to call-figuring out????? Where to direct and the follow-up

- **Maggie Sprattmoran/Leelanau Family Coordinating Council**

-35% below the state average in Leelanau County that work there and live there

-Formed in 1996 and when we found gaps, what parent want to be good parents is what we deliver.

-Five protective factors: 1) parental resilience 2) social connection 3) knowledge of parenting and child development 4) concrete support times of need

5) social and emotional competence of children 70% of Americans kids are in childcare

-Staff of 6 serve 95% of the parents and families under 0-5

-2003-Leelanau Baby Pantry (59), Child Care Fund, Laundry Project (2,476)

-Quality Enhancement Project (daycares, childcare centers, unlicensed relative providers)

-Peer review of childcare centers

-Quality enhancement (school readiness) is they doing well. Longer term. Do not want to test our preschoolers.

-What you want and then the best practices and bring the two together.

-Spend very little money on when the brain is less likely change. Better bang for our buck.

-Anecdotal data and quantitative

-100% graduation, special ed down, test scores up

-\$1 million invested in parenting programs prevents 258 crimes a year

-Juv. Down 50%

-Probation down, teen pregnancy down 33%, immunizations have increased 21%

-Decreased child abuse 66%-steady decline

-Feel that it is the family support system

--Specialized support-head start partnerships

Maggie@leelanauchildcenter.org

- **Nicole Lindwall/WRC**

Discussed the cycle of childcare. Explained the WRC program and how her staff is dependent on parents paying tuition for them to be employed and how they have to cut hours and make tough choices as well. Mentioned Jan finding money for a scholarship program to help parents pay tuition. More requirements mean time away from the center, money to replace staff and money to attend training but where does the money come from. It would help centers and parents if there was money to help support the centers so they could do upgrades, make trainings and attend meetings such as the Great Start Collaborative.

- **John Knowles/Star Power 2009-May 21 in Lansing**

-Online registration www.ecic4kids.org

-Please contact John Knowles to RSVP

-Ask a Friend to Join

-Think of questions for your legislator

-Cost is Free! Transportation, food and materials are provided.

-Attached is the information for you to pass out to your families.

- **Sommer Poquette/Great Start Parent Council**

-Attached are the minutes from the last parent coalition meeting. The group is growing from 3 members to over 35 Facebook members and more that are registered online to participate, attend meetings, volunteer and receive

newsletters. The coalition communicates with it's group through Facebook, Twitter, Email Newsletters, face to face meetings, phone conferences in the evening and through mailing newsletters. The communication and involvement is very diverse.

-Members are concerned about not enough developmental kindergarten our three counties, childcare licensing not being strict enough and health care for special needs. All of this is reflected in the meeting minutes attached.

-Join signing the online petition (<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/zerotofive/>) that will go to legislators to support 0-5 programming and find out more about connecting with us at www.greatstarforkids.com

-A letter was sent to the PNR and several radio stations signed by parents to urge those in our community to support the petition.

New Business

- **Vote: Resolution in Support of the MSU Extension Program: All in Favor for the letter to be signed by John Knowles for the Great Start Collaborative**
- **Kolleen Homuth/ Great Start Legislative Forum will take place in September of 2009.** Kolleen will be heading a committee to plan this for the community. The event will be for parents, teachers and community members to discuss 0-5 and make a name for early childhood. If you're interested in being on the committee please email Kolleen at homuth.km.t@petoskeyschools.org

Next Meeting

TBD

Adjournment

-Health Fair Saturday, April 18 from 9am-2pm