

**February 24, 2009 Great Start Collaborative Meeting for Charlevoix, Emmet and N. Antrim Counties**

**Location: Emmet County Department of Human Services Building**

**Those Present:**

Desise Aungst-MSU Extension Office for Antrim Counties  
Carolyn Bleknap-Early On Coordinator  
Kathi Clancy-Petoskey Schools  
Jill Haan-Director of Early Ed-CharEm ISD  
John Norton-Parent Rep./State Parent Rep.  
Judy Wojcik-NMH  
Kaye Frang-Head Start-Ed Coordinator  
Lorraine Manary-HSCB Collaborative Coordinator  
Martha Lancaster-United Way  
Sommer Poquette-GSPC Liaison  
Elaine Roach-Child Abuse Council  
Phyllis Hess-Head Start Program Services Coordinator  
Rev. Greg Brown-Pastor Episcopal Church in Petoskey and as a parent  
Shirley Gillespie-DHS Vice-Chair Great Start Collaborative  
Carol Stephan-4C Council  
Audrey Shapiro-Charlevoix Public Library  
Lynn Slanec-Director of Teaching and Learning for Petoskey Schools  
Kolleen Homuth-Kindergarten Teacher-Petoskey Public Schools

I. Chair: Jill Haan Early Childhood Education Director calls the meeting to order and introduces John Knowles the new Great Start Collaborative Coordinator.

II.

A. John Knowles thanks those who have helped him thus far and he is loving N. Michigan  
Prior Experience:

- Six years in Chief of Staff Michigan House Rep.
- External Affairs of Attorney General
- Press Secretary and Spokesman
- Worked with advocates and was motivated and moved and excited to take a leadership role in this field.

Wants everyone to know-

- Has a commitment to this cause.
- Accessible within 24 hours.
- Responsive and will work hard.
- Listener: Absorb what is told to him.

B. Introductions from the group and quick explanation of what they receive from Great Start and what they need help with.

**Phyllis Hess:** Preschool Recruitment brochures and need help with this

**Carolyn Bleknap:** Early On Birth to three Federally Funded no money from the State. Her goals fiscally solvent this year. Great Start the pocket directories (\$500 per year) and is very helpful. Different activities like Creative Kids Day.

**Jill Haan:** Char-Em ISD preschool programs, home visiting and we are concerned about budget. GS: Think together.

**Shirley Glispe:** DHS and the bad economy is job security for them. 130 people at the

window every day and 1000 applications last month. GS: Birth to 8 Group window clings and GS funded this (5,000).

**Carol Stefan:** 4c community coordinated childcare and we represent 12 counties. Quality Childcare and GS fits in.

**Lorraine:** HSCP State recognized collaborative and voluntary and we have work groups. State recognized collaborative and GS is a funded initiative and there are parallels. Connected thought GS through work groups.

**Kathy Clancy:** Director of Special ED in the public schools. Sits on Birth to 8 group and HSCB. Have an action impact! What could we do better in 2009 and the Fry Foundation initiative

**Kolleen Hommas:** A kindergarten teacher in Petoskey. Luncheon for a legislative lunch with the kindergartens. Share their successes and concerns and have an opinion. Was very successful. Visit to their classrooms and be more powerful voice in Lansing and communicating with them further. Want a one on one.

**Lynn Slanec:** Public school. Works with Patty Loper early elementary and literacy.

**John Norton:** Parent that serves on many boards for legislation representing parents. Effective tool for childcare!!!!

**Densise Aungst:** N. Antrim Voice and cover five counties and traveling voice. Works with MSU extension and better care kid program. Work with family and group homes and centers. Targeting on family members caring for kids. Trainings are full.

**Greg Brown:** Middle daughter was 1 women came to his door and someone represented a early childhood gave her 1 year old daughter book and she want to pay it forward. Parents and Episcopal Church and Catholic and Lutheran Church good relationship.

Elaine Roach: Child abuse counsel and figuring it all out. Aid in the prevention of child abuse. PAM initiative. Funded by children trust fund and then grants and donations. Provide literature **to fellow agencies.**

**Judy Wojcik:** NMH. Child birth educator and breast feeding council and birth to 8 group.

**Martha Lancaster:** United Way we don't participate really actively with GS. Funding two preschools. Strategic where we put our efforts and money. Meet community needs. Nationally success by 6 program through the United Way.

**Kathy Koundrant:** Head Start Director for NM a hand in hiring John and a great addition to the team. Here we go!!!

## II. Great Start Parent Coalition: Sommer Poquette

Sommer reports that the group is become more diversified in membership and growing but still evolving and figuring out it's role and best way to advocate and grow effective leaders and voices in the community. Attended a training in Mt. Pleasant that was very helpful. Some things that the group is working on include:

A: [Facebook Membership](#) and virtual membership for those that would rather interact online and through email. Growing daily and now is at 17 members.

B. Face to Face meeting at Burger King Play Land in Petoskey the last Monday of every month from 10a-11a where kids get free apple slices and milk and parents get coffee or soda. \$5 gas cards are available for parents that attend and need the support.

C. Telephone Conference Call that takes place once per month that last Monday of every month at 9pm and this does cost long distance but it is usually free if you use your cell phone after 7pm.

D. Working on the website and we have a YouTube Channel, Twitter Page, Google Calender and Online Membership form that makes sign up and documentation of membership easy. All of this will be on the website and new material will be handed or emailed to you for further information.

E. We have Creative Kids Day on March 16 from 10:30-12 at the First Community Reformed Church in Charlevoix as a community outreach event coming up as well as the Petoskey

Health Fair in April.

F. We have a plan to at every event really brand ourselves with the star and have children decorate stars with their hopes, dreams, what they want to be when they grow up, ect. on the stars to use to send with advocating letters.

### III. Matt Gillard, Government Affairs Consultant

A. Works with ECIC and was a state legislator 106 district and discussed the budget process and stimulus package.

B. There were many important points addressed and below are some brief and bulleted items addressed.

- 500M dollar estimated from Federal stimulus package. Higher than this depending on the years broken down.
- Leg. takes budget to school aid and general aid and then presented to the leg and they begin debate on this. Usually passed in July or later, presented to Governor and it is signed or vetoed. Will happen similar this year but not the same.
- Win fall of money but they are talking about how to use this money sometime in early to mid march supplement in early 2009. Money has to happen immediately into the State by Federal government.
- New 2010 budget without knowing what to do with the 2009 budget. they will be created together.
- Bob Emerson on Off the Record said there will still be cuts. This is ONE time money and can be spread out. 2011 looks even more bleak so it has to be planned and long term. Can we sustain? Build and then in 2011 we can keep the programs. Departments had to get their plans today!!
- House and Governor office working well together.
- Stimulus Package from the childcare 58-60m dollars, one time money. Broadly geared towards quality of infant and early child care. No narrow, flexibility. Groups working with DHS to create a plan to utilize the collaborative.
- Goal of the ECIC shift locally to utilize research and current programs. ECIC will fight for early childhood funding. Have to stop and think why was it cut? Maybe it is to reconstruct or organize and the ECIC is molding into the roll into the change agent. Would be shocked if they are all actually cut but rather how they will fit in.
- Sommer: What is the ECIC goals? In a nutshell the ECIC goals to coordinate the early childhood funding and through the Great Start Collaborative and what the needs are advocate for the programs. Coordination and collaboration and decisions.
- CCDF on stimulus effort and from an education standpoint it is a different animal. Title 1 set up and the state of MI has zero discretion and the dollars with group the the tile 1 formula. Causing confusion and concern and how to deal with this. 13 billion Title 1 grants and through Title one formulas and targeted. Some grants have to apply for some they will get. 48.3 billion stabilization fund and directed toward education. 1.1-1.2 billion dollars toward education towards fiscal fund. 1st restore fund and then the rest is to the school districts. Debate on how they can use this. 400-500 millions to restore to the levels. The intent of the law is to distribute through the title 1 formula. Dicey situation politically.
- Imperative to make your school board members aware of this money.
- Federal standpoint: strong indication that Obama is very for 0-5 and that the next policy to be addressed is 0-5 agenda. IF they can get this trough but we need to first talk about this and then secondly get it to congress.
- Carolyn: What is the capacity building strategy?

Matt: At some point you have to take a leap of faith but there are indications that there will be increased funding for Early childhood education but nobody can reasonably in vision that we would build head start and not continue.

- 300 million to Title 1 within 90 days and how it will flow down will happen during the summer
- GSRP funding has increased sign. in the last few years but there is a commitment to get into the schools and renovate the rooms, make the space add the programs into the schools.
- Letters to the editor and they have to publish it.
- Sommer: Parent piece is more than just parents.
- ECIC is doing a kindergarten survey and kindergarten readiness survey. Opinion survey.
- Rating system for childcare but a quality care system that has a rating system.

DHS Lisa Brower Wallerson

Survey is to assess the readiness of kindergartners. Compile and argue it and use it to argue for legislation.

#### IIII. Goals for 2009

A. Each meeting there will be a speaker to talk on issues that are relevant to bring great content.

B. Discussed future meeting times and locations and consensus was after 8am and consistent date and time.

C. Goals: personal priority to meet with everyone one on one. My time is best growing this collaborative and there is an under representation. Aaron Beamus at Charlevoix Chamber. More of the Faith community. Bigger and more represented body. Good member of the collaborative or parent please let John know.