

Great Start Collaborative

January 14, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Those present: Jenilee Whisler, Shirley Gillespie, Jill Haan, Marcia Campbell, Carolyn Belknap, Bill Lovett, Sommer Poquette, Mandy Peterson, Theresa Simons, Kolleen Homuth, Candice Case, Phyllis Hess, Meagan Krzywosinski, Kelli Fenlon, Tina Precup, Karen Moon, Beth Watts, Monique Dean, Mary Martincheck, Tanya Drinkall, Jessica Blacktop, Renee Beyette and Lisa Tempel via web cam.

1. November meeting minutes were approved.
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. Renee Beyette from Child Care Enhancement Program (formerly child care expulsion) presented an overview of CCEP. Renee is the consultant for the Northwest and Northeast Region. The presentation power point explaining the program and referral process can be viewed and shared via the [Great Start CCEP page](#).
4. An update of the Frey Foundation Social/Emotional Grant was given. The Frey Foundation is interested in providing support and infrastructure dollars to work with families that have children with social/emotional issues. The focus of the group working on the proposal has been parent involvement and focus groups have been held.
 - a. The Executive Summary: Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative Charlevoix and Emmet Counties was distributed.
 - b. A large part of the proposal has a parent component on how to connect parents to each other.
 - c. They are also focusing on how to bring in infant mental health services and where to find funding.
 - d. A 19 page proposal was submitted to Frey.
 - e. Early Head Start has a vision of running community workshops and since Social/Emotional is part of their initiative they expressed an interest in connecting with the Frey Proposal.
5. An overview of the Great Start Collaborative ECIC Fund Request of \$15,000 was provided. The request includes the following:
 - a. Boot Camp for new dads – It is a national program out of California. It is a mentor program for new and expectant dads.
 - b. The purchase of the updated Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) for development and social/emotional that is needed for both the Health Dept. and Char-Em ISD Early Education.
 - c. Dollars for Great Start Network newsletters and assist with the cost of the phone number.
 - d. When information regarding the proposal is received it will be passed on to everyone.
6. The MI-AIMH conference is taking place April 26 and 27th, 2010. The Great Start Collaborative is sending Carolyn Belknap and Kelli Fenlon. This conference with the social/emotional focus ties into our action agenda. The ladies will present to the collaborative after attending the conference.
7. Friday, January 15, 2010 there will be 3 commercials shot that will highlight parenting, get the phone number and website information out to people, and inform them about the importance of Early Childhood. The commercials focus on the following areas:
 - a. The Fatherhood Initiative

- b. Future Work Force
- c. Parenting Stress

If anyone would like copies of the updated communication plan approved by the executive committee please ask Sommer. Also, radio advertising is currently taking place.

8. Meeting locations, times and dates for the combined meetings of the Great Start Collaborative and the Birth to 8 workgroup took place. It was decided that having the meetings at 9a.m., the first Wednesday every other month, at the Boyne City office will work.
9. If you are traveling or unable to leave your office but can access a computer you can participate in the meetings via web cam. Contact Sommer Poquette for more information.
10. Parent Coalition Update:
 - a. Monday, February 1st in Boyne City at Avalanche Hill there will be a sledding party plus pizza dinner from 5- 6:30 p.m. It is a get to know the parent coalition event.
 - b. March 20, 2010 there will be a Parent Leadership Conference from 10a.m. to 2p.m. It will be held at the Char-Em ISD in Charlevoix. There will be door prizes, lunch and more. To register call 582-8070. The focus is on celebrating parenting and parent leadership. A conference committee meeting is taking place on January 25th, 2010 beginning at 11:15 a.m. in the Char-Em Boyne City office.
 - c. The parent coalition is looking for more parents to become part of the core group. The target number is ten parents.
11. Agency Updates:
 - a. The Great Start Network/Parent Coalition brochure was reviewed. It looks similar to the now obsolete Stepping Stones to School brochure because the graphics were kept the same.
 - b. An update on the Great Start Regional Child Care Resource Center, Northwest Michigan 4C Council. The 800 # is still in existence. There is also web availability for locating child care etc. A cheat sheet for parents on how to access the web is being distributed.
 - c. Early Head Start has immediate openings for families that are pregnant or have children up to age three. A referral can be made by filling out the form distributed or by calling 547-1141 ex. 16. The form can also be used to make referrals for the upcoming preschool school year.
 - d. Health Dept.- over 13,000 H1N1 vaccines have been given from October thru December 2009. The vaccine is still available at the Health Dept. For locations and to make an appointment call 1-800-432-4121. Health Dept. staff will be giving H1N1 vaccines at project connect.
 - e. Pregnancy and Resource Center- There are no qualifiers or residency restrictions and the services are free. They offer: pregnancy verification and referrals, family counseling, baby & maternity clothing and supplies, parenting classes (these classes are accepted by the court system), a nurse on-site. Coming soon there will be ultrasounds and an on-site OB- Gyn.
 - f. NMCAA, Head Start- is having a full day Conscious Discipline training on January 22, 2010 from 9-3 at the NMCAA office in Traverse City. RSVP to Aimee at 1-800-632-7334.
 - g. NMCAA, Head Start- is having a "Bully Prevention" training on January 29, 2010 from 9-3 at the NMCAA office in Traverse City. Lunch is on your own from noon till 1p.m. RSVP to Aimee at 1-800-632-7334.
 - h. 2-1-1 Update sent via email from Martha Lancaster:

We've received grants for start-up of \$2,000 each from both the Charlevoix County and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations. The Frey Foundation has awarded us a \$30,000 challenge grant toward the first three years of operation, beyond the start-up period.

I participated in a Michigan 2-1-1 Board meeting yesterday and learned that the state is contracting with 2-1-1 for various services including H1N1 information and referral, MSDA service referral, EITC and VITA info and referral. As the system grows to include all of Michigan, these contracts will provide a core of ongoing funding system-wide and should lower the local match.

Please let me know any questions, concerns, or ideas you have.

12. Sommer share the Great Start Accomplishment report required by the ECIC and approved by the executive committee. If members have any feedback on this report please let Sommer know by Wednesday, January 20, 2010. This report will be published online and shared via a press release. You can view the report here:
<http://greatstartforkids.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Great-Start-Accomplishments-2009.pdf>

13. **The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on March 3, 2010 from 9a.m. till 11a.m. at the Boyne City ISD.**