

Great Start Collaborative Board

Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2008

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Present:

Nancy Brown	Lakeland Hospital - SJ
Carol Klukas	BCHD
Tom Nelson	Trial Court - Family
Holly Wingard	Parent
Gretchen Hart	Parent
Jenny Miner	YWCA
Joann McMahon, Anna Murphy	United Way of Southwest Michigan
Rachel Wade	United Way of Southwest Michigan
Jane Schnell	Parent
Bonita Walters	Parent
Tia Miller	Berrien County Council for Children
Cindy Wickham	Niles Community Schools
Laurie Schulte	Catholic Family Services / Caring Network
Allen Edlefson	Riverwood
Sara Tisdale	Parent
Jeannette Holton	MI Works
Jeff Siegel	Berrien RESA
Robin Williams	Riverwood
Nellie McCoy	CCR
Sherry Williams	CCR
Jenn Fechter	TCHS
Jennifer Kovack	TCHS
Claudia Vescolani	Berrien RESA

Announcements:

No Announcements.

Approval of October Minutes:

Bonita Walters made a motion to approve the October 27th minutes. The motion was supported by Jeff Siegel. Motion carried.

Director's Report (Rachel Wade):

Rachel attended ECIC Childhood Challenge. Reported that ECIC will be scheduling state-wide "Star" Committee meetings, in which Executive Board Advisory members will utilize local input from Berrien County. Rachel introduced Parent Liasons, Holly Wingard (North Co.) and Sara Tisdale (South Co.), who each presented a brief bio. Holly discussed parent recruitment, parent level advocacy and upcoming first Parent Coalition meeting at First Presbyterian where Special Ed. focus group will be set up. Rachel informed Board North and South Co. Liasons will be collaborating.

Old Business:

Focus Groups: Completed 3 focus groups (Human Services Collaborative, Raising Up Babies and Even Start teen parents (spoke to both Evenstart students and teachers, gleaning very different perspectives). Format of focus groups is to present specific data points & request response. Plan to complete 15 focus groups by March 2009. Suggested groups include: LMC students, grandparents, working parents, childcare providers, Berrien Co. Association of Churches, Cornerstone, elected officials, Hispanic parents. Assessment phase will follow completion of focus groups. Jeanette Holton suggested Benton Harbor religious groups be contacted and combined for faith based focus group. Jenny Miner questioned whether differences between male and female

perspectives had been discerned within focus group responses, as of yet. *(unknown male) raised CPS proceedings/ DHS (Marion)??????????*

New Business:

Rachel discussed Phase 1 projects.

1. Great Start Blue print ECIC 2010 benchmarks strategic priorities ways to incorporate with state
2. Big stapled packet data analysis & indicators geo-mapping community status report needs to be completed for public to access. Hopes to complete by February 2009. second element – strategic review (how well services match needs) third element infrastructure review don't have communications plan

Scheduling Strategic Planning Retreat – possibly May

Rachel presented practical examples from Phase 1 participants

Branch Co. – Economic Development Initiative, created Early Childhood Investment Fund to provide ongoing funding stream.

Kent Co. - ECIC's "Medical Home" concept, Priority HMO Pilot program, increase reimbursement to increase care thereby decrease need for future care

Kalamazoo Co. – PBS "Unnatural causes"

Wayne Co. – Relative & Aide childcare, "Hub" program provides neighborhood resources for childcare, nutrition, developmental tools

Jackson Co. – Dolly Parton , Imagination Literacy program library

Brief discussion amongst unknown participants?? regarding the state of Michigan's childcare issues.

Upcoming Date: Thursday, February 19, 2009 @ 11:30 a.m. Berrien RESA Conference Rooms B&C