

Great Start Collaborative Board

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2010

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Present:

Pat Adams

Angel Ash

Craig Blasko

Mona Borowicz

Nancy Brown

Darla Campbell

Kim Celmer

Jeannette Holton

Kevin Ivers

Sandra Jimenez

Jenny Miner

Amy Mitchell

Marti Perry

Jennifer Van Beek

Claudia Vescolani

Rachel Wade

Bob Wagel

Stephanie Wagner

Bonita Walters

Curious Kids Museum

Intercare

Berrien RESA

Head Start

Lakeland Hospital

South Elementary School

Berrien County DHS

First Presbyterian Church

Berrien RESA

Parent

YWCA

Parent Liaison

MI Works!

Parent

Berrien RESA

United Way of Southwest Michigan

Representative for Senator Jelinek

Early Childhood Investment Corporation

Parent

Approval of March Minutes:

Bonita Walters made a motion to approve the July minutes. The motion was supported by Rachel Wade. Motion carried.

GSC & ECIC Report (Amanda Williamson):

Amanda introduced herself as the new GSC Director.

Amanda discussed that she was working on meeting with each board member individually. She asked that if she has not met with you, please email her to set up a time to meet. She will come to you.

Amanda shared a budget update by Matt Gillard. An agreement has been made between the Governor, Senate and House to complete the fiscal year 2011 General Fund budgets. Target numbers for each individual department budget have been set and the chairpersons of the House and Senate budget sub-committees are beginning to meet to negotiate final spending plans. As the agreement provides for a reduction in spending in both the Department of Human Services and Department of Community Health budgets, there is concern that some early childhood programs could be in jeopardy.

Parent Coalition Update (Amy Mitchell):

Amy shared that the Candidate Meet-n-Greet Potluck Picnic held on July 27th was a huge success.. Eight candidates attended, with the other two sending representatives to speak on their behalf. Parents Sandra Jimenez and Jennifer Van Beek shared their thoughts on the Potluck.

Amy discussed that the Sandbox Party was held on August 26th at the Breslin Center. Ten parents and 15 children from Berrien County attended. ECIC said between 5000 and 6000 people were in attendance. Both gubernatorial candidates attended and spoke. The convention showed both gubernatorial candidates the growing strength of parents across the state.

Amy reminded the Board that the next Parent Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 28th. She also encouraged the Board to attend any of the meetings. She reminded Board members that it is important for parents on the coalition to get to know the members of the collaborative in order to join forces.

Partner Sharing:

Amanda shared that United Way of Southwest Michigan has moved. A moving notice was passed out with the new address, phone number and the new Foodlink phone number.

Rachel Wade discussed the United Way/Andrews University data collection project that they are working on. The project is designed to have all children enrolled in early childhood programs across the county being assessed in the same way (Brigance) and entered into one system (Data Director). A training will be occurring on Wednesday, September 29th.

Old Business (Amanda Williamson):

Amanda shared that the Michigan State University Evaluation has been sent out again in hopes of gaining a larger response. The board has less than a 50% participation rate. The hope was to give each county an individualized summary report, but cannot do that if the participation rate does not go up. The Parent Coalition is at 100%. Amanda asked the board members to complete the survey if they have not already done so.

New Business (Amanda Williamson):

Amanda shared that we are now in a time crunch. Implementation funds will have to be spent by December 31st. Because of the time crunch, and due to the fact that the training for the Parent Café is not available until next year, it was proposed that we switch gears to the 40 Developmental Assets. Amanda shared a video on the assets and the idea behind the concept. It was discussed to have a "Training of Trainers" day, in which representatives of various home visiting projects come to a ½ day training on the assets. They would then take their knowledge back to their organizations and train their staff on how to share the assets with families. The changing from Parent Café to Developmental Asset project was put to a vote. Claudia Vescolani made a motion to approve the change in projects. The motion was supported by Angel Ash. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. Berrien RESA Conference Rooms B&C.