

Great Start Collaborative  
May 5, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

Those present: Lyn Jenks, Jill Haan, Marcia Campbell, Carolyn Belknap, Sommer Poquette, Mandy Peterson, Phyllis Hess, Meagan Krzywosinski, Judy Wojcik, Kaye Frang, Heather Pemble, Bill Lovett, Lisa Temple, Candice Case, LuAnn Amaluxen, Jessica DeRosa, Kelli Fenlon, Theresa Symons, Lorraine Manary, Elizabeth Watts, Martha Lancaster, and Robert Wertkin.

- I. An Action Agenda Update Form was distributed for people to write in updates and progress.
  - II. The copy folder and minute update form was distributed.
  - III. Dr. Robert Wertkin gave an update on the Longitudinal Study that was conducted. The study looked at children that were in the Be-4 centers, Be-4 in-home, Even Start and Head Start versus children that were not in these programs. Three areas were looked at school readiness for kindergarteners, academics and behavior for first graders, and third grade MEAP scores. The following questions/comments were brought up during the review of the report:
    - a. A comparison by income, mainly poverty would be useful. Data would have to be obtained for this to happen.
    - b. It appears that students in first grade still had a good attitude toward school and their teachers. It would be interesting to see if this carries over into third grade. The difference in reporting per school district would make this challenging.
    - c. Adding a third cohort of those that had college education and do a comparison was suggested.
    - d. What would Great Start want to do with these results: Char-Em newsletter; share with ECIC; give it to Char-Em media person; create a fact sheet (one page) to share with legislators, school board, etc; chamber boards, TV 7 & 4 Fact Finder.
  - IV. Lyn Jenks gave an update from the Fund/Revenue Development Plan. The following things were reviewed with the group:
    - a. A fiduciary is needed for 501C3 capabilities.
    - b. A fund development committee needs to be created.
    - c. A case for support needs to be developed. Why would people want to give us money? Describe the mission and good that we do.
    - d. A plan for board members to solicit funds need to be created.
    - e. Members need to be willing to give money before asking others to donate.
    - f. Specific messages that target different donors need to be created such as business, faith based etc.
    - g. An annual appeal process needs to be created.
    - h. Identification and targeting of major donors.
    - i. The parent coalition should create a signature event.
    - j. Integration of fund development with marketing
    - k. Create a donor stewardship plan.
    - l. As grow planned giving should be developed.
    - m. A follow up format to track how things are going should be created.
- Questions/concerns that were expressed:
- a. Would this divert funds from agencies providing direct service: The hope is that new sources of funding would be sought out instead of taking away from partner agencies.

- b. What would the range of cost be for services provided by the fiduciary? The cost is generally based on the amount of money and responsibilities, generally it is between 1-6%.
- c. Who would authorize payments? This is something that would be spelled out in a contract.

A motion to move forward with the Fund/Revenue Plan was proposed to the group. It was motioned by Meagan Krzywosinski and seconded by Theresa Symon. All were in favor and non were opposed.

- V. Candice Case presented on Great Start Connect.
  - a. The mission is to improve quality in the area of child care.
  - b. Referrals are now available on line. It is not the main focus of the agency.
  - c. The focus is on providers and quality.
  - d. Trainings are being offered for Relative/Day Care Aides and Licensed Providers. This is happening in traditional classes being offered at various locations or if there is several staff members the training can be brought to the provider. Trainings can be customized to meet the needs of the providers.
  - e. Provider Groups is something that is being worked on. The purpose is for providers to be able to offer each other support etc.
  - f. They are in the process of hiring a child care specialist for Charlevoix and Emmet counties.
  - g. It would be helpful if everyone would get the word out to child care providers about training opportunities.
  - h. Lending and Resource Libraries are being created along with ways to get the items to providers.
  - i. The agency is working with 211 by having their phone number listed in regard to child care.
- VI. Parent Coalition Update:
  - a. June 16<sup>th</sup>, Ice cream Social from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Boyne City Park.
  - b. Family Friendly Business needs to be promoted.
  - c. Star Power is on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Great Start is collaborating with Cadillac and Traverse City to charter a bus for this event to take everyone to Lansing.
  - d. The Opportunity Conference was a great success. Child care was provided to allow parents to attend. Many of the children had never been left in child care.
- VII. The possible merging of the Birth to 8 workgroup and Great Start was discussed. It was decided that those present from the Birth to 8 workgroup will meet after the meeting to discuss this.
- VIII. A 211 update will be sent out by Sommer to everyone.
- IX. Carlin Smith from the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce has expressed an interest in participating in the Great Start Collaborative as much as possible.
- X. Text for Baby posters was available for people to take and distribute. The teen school was given a presentation on the opportunity and was assisted in registering.
- XI. Yard signs from ECIC are available for agencies/members/partners to take a display in support of Early Childhood.
- XII. Sharing Item: Don't forget about the MSU Extension- Project Fresh Farmer Market Program for WIC moms.

