

Great Start Collaborative
July 7, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Those present: Shirley Gillespie, Jill Haan, Marcia Campbell, Carolyn Belknap, Sommer Poquette, Mandy Peterson, Theresa Simons, Kolleen Homuth, Susan Chowen, Meagan Krzywosinski, Nina Wager, Beth Watts, Mary Martincheck, Tina Shawno, Kathi Clancy, Jo Anna Kolodziej, Audrey Shapiro, Rachel Mellema., Judy Wojcik and Cynthia Carpenter.

1. Introductions.
2. Cynthia Carpenter, an outreach specialist from the Michigan Primary Care Association shared about the program. It is a 2 year community based enrollment program. 211 partners with MPCA by referring families for services. The program assists families either on-site or over the phone in enrolling into MI-Child or Healthy Kids. They also connect them to Health Centers and Medical Homes as well as make referrals to other programs and services. They are able to provide on-site registration assistance if any agency is having an event and would like MPCA to participate. Written materials are available for distribution so contact Cynthia for these materials at (517) 899-4944 or ccarpenter@mpca.net.
3. Birth to 8 Workgroup Update: It was decided by Birth to 8 to dissolve into the Great Start Collaborative. The group requested a meeting with the Great Start Executive Committee to ensure a few items will not be lost in the merge. This meeting will occur after the Great Start meeting convenes.
4. An Early On grant update was provided by Carolyn Belknap. The following was shared:
 - a. Early On provides services to children age birth to three who have a disability or delay.
 - b. Each year the member list for the grant is updated. There are two new parents joining Early On.
 - c. A change in eligibility has changed from having any delay to having to have a 20% delay in at least one area.
 - d. The grant is doing very well in relation to grant compliance.
 - e. The grant was cut from \$125,000 to \$89,000. Char-Em has assisted by providing supplies and support for the grant.
 - f. The grant has been able to use the Health Dept. Nurses and Early Head Start as service coordinators but is no longer able to.
5. Michigan Now Grant Update:
 - a. We have received \$6,000 in funding with United Way being the fiduciary.
 - b. We will be working with North Sky to proceed with the fund development plan for Great Start.
 - c. Sommer Poquett and Martha Lancaster have met several times over the possibility of United Way being the permanent fiduciary for fund development. United Way has concerns about confusion with the community in regard to fund raising so meetings and information gathering is occurring.
 - d. The money needs to be used by the end of September 2010.
 - e. Conversations are occurring with the Berrien Great Start since they operate as an arm of their local United Way to explore how they are making things work.

6. Implementation Fund Update:
 - a. 4 Net Books have been purchased for the purpose of increasing work flow, internet access to families, and resource/referral. They have been given to Early On, Head Department, Char-Em Home Visitors, and Early Head Start. Each month a survey of usage questions will be answered.
 - b. Connecting Pediatricians to Early Childhood is taking place through meetings with doctors and staff. Sommer Poquette and Carolyn Belknap will be conducting these meetings. The doctors will receive a notebook filled with information about early childhood. This will allow the collaborative and the medical community to share their knowledge with each other.
 - c. Obesity On-Line Training is slowly being developed. It is very time consuming. The focus will be on healthy meal planning on a budget as well as connecting people to resources. It is designed for child care providers. The goal is September 2010 to have this up and running.
7. Great Start Parent Coalition Update:
 - a. The following successful events have taken place so far this summer: Recycling Center event, Ice Cream Social, 4th of July Parades.
 - b. The following events are upcoming: Raven Hill Discovery Free Day, Saturday July 10th, The Sand Box Party- a bipartisan early childhood candidate and celebrity event August 26, 2010 in Lansing. For a complete calendar check out the website.
8. Great Start Regional Resource Center Child Care Specialist, Susan Chowen presented on her new position. The purpose of the resource center is to improve quality of child care centers, in-home daycares, and relative providers. Professional Development training is provided at no cost. They are working on peer to peer learning and establishing social groups. A new assessment tool that will be available in August has been adopted. It is the ECERS and ITERS. Her office is located in the Char-Em ISD Boyne City office. She is planning some meet and greets.
9. Strategic Planning 2011. It is time to write a new three year plan for 2011-2013. Suggestions were taken from the group on how to best accomplish this. Suggestions were as follows: work in small groups on certain areas and then report back, we have to have a vision and ask ourselves questions like where are now and where we want to go, look at past, present, and future. The following was decided:
 - a. It will be a ½ day meeting with lunch provided.
 - b. Audrey Shapiro will provide an outline from the library strategic plan process that occurred recently.
 - c. It will be held at the NCMC library meeting room on November 17th from 9a.m. till 1 p.m.
 - d. People who can't be there in person will have an opportunity to join us via the web or phone.
10. Round Table Sharing:
 - a. Health Department, Mary Martinchek: The Adolescent Health Center is up and running in Pellston. There is an Immunization Initiative taking place in regard to new immunization requirements for children entering school. People are urged to go to one of the Health Department Clinics provided over the summer.
 - b. NCMC, JoAnna Kolodziej: The Regional Early Childhood Opportunity Conference will be taking place on October 1, 2010 at the college. Jim Gill will

be the presenter. He will also be doing a free family concert on September 30 at the Charlevoix Public Library. If anyone is interested in manning a table with program information let JoAnna know.

- c. Char-Em ISD, Nina Wager: She has created a presentation on Infant and Baby Sign Language focusing on educating people on the development of language. This will be presented at the Oct. 1, 2010 Opportunity Conference.
- d. Parent Coalition: Don't forget about the Family Friendly logos. Businesses can go online to complete an application. They receive a window cling stating they are a Family Friendly Business if they meet certain criteria. Also, we have partnered with a restaurant in East Jordan and provided them with crayons with the Great Start Logo on it and coloring sheets.
- e. Even Start, Marcia Campbell: We have openings for families with children birth through age 8 where the parent or parents are in need of obtaining their GED or High School Diploma. It is a program that works with the whole family on literacy and school readiness.
- f. Great Start Resource Center, Susan Chowen: a post card went out to all Charlevoix and Emmet providers outlining summer trainings being offered. Also a flyer of on-site trainings is available. These trainings count toward license requirements.
- g. Charlevoix Public Library, Audrey Shapiro: Please email any programs or services happening to Audrey@charlevoixlibrary.org. She will post this for families. Also, the library has a Michigan Humanities Council grant working with families for 6 weeks, 3 sessions with child care provided. It consists of story time and they take a book home with transportation and meal provided. It is for ages 0-8. Schools make the referral to the program. They are starting with Charlevoix School and will add Ellsworth later. The goal is 25 families.
- h. Early On, Carolyn Belknap: The Human Services Summit will take place on September 17th, 2010 at the Methodist Church in Petoskey. They have a keynote speaker and break out sessions as well as a resource fair. Contact Lori O'Neil from the Red Cross if you would like to present or have a table.
- i. DHS, Shirley Gillespie: DHS has lots of new workers so families may be moved around a bit. She still has window clings targeting children being left in cars unattended if anyone would like some. Leaving kids in the car is now a misdemeanor. The group is wondering about doing some public service announcements or something regarding this issue.
- j. Northern Michigan Hospital, Judy Wojcik: The Healthy Families Healthy Children Series is having Infant/Baby Massage for children 2 months and up at the Community Health Education Center behind the hospital in Petoskey on July 8, 2010 from 6:30 – 8p.m. There will also be a presentation in August or September about selecting Day Care.
- k. The following people are Car Seat Safety Certified: Sommer Poquette, Judy Wojcik, and Tina Shawno.
- l. Public Schools of Petoskey, Kolleen Homuth: All of the information that is shared at these meetings is taken back to Petoskey and shared with the district. Keep up the good work.
- m. There will be a Business Lunch on September 24th, 2010 from 11- 12:30 p.m at the Perry in Petoskey. Charlie McGinnis and Naomi DeWinter will be presenting. The focus will be on early childhood and it's impact on business. More information will be provided.
- n. July 29th, 2010, the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Candidate Roundtable at NCMC. Check the website for more information.

- o. The Regional Launch for 211 will take place on Feb.11, 2011 with it's 800#. This information has been shared with local county commissioners etc.

11. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting taking place on September 15, 2010 at the Char-Em ISD Boyne City office from 9a.m. till 11a.m. The November meeting will be on November 17, 2010 from 9a.m. until 1p.m. at NCMC.