

Great Start Parent Coalition
Meeting Minutes
Jan. 25, 2010
11:15 AM – 12:40 PM

GREETER: Kevin Cieszlak

SERGEANT at ARMS: Dalia Smith

SECRETARY: Yalonda Freeman

Others in attendance: Jill Armentrout, Julie Kozan, Laura Hill, Maureen Cieszlak

- ❖ **Tabled discussion of setting one-year terms for greeter, sgt.-at-arms and secretary, have some volunteers**
- ❖ **Passed out volunteer and task sign up sheets for Feb. events**
 - Many slots filled, but not all. Jill follow up with members on tasks.
- ❖ **Project Launch update and discussion of environmental scans**
 - Pennie Foster-Fishman, MSU, and Deborah Griffin, Saginaw Launch director/ MSU team
 - Briefing sheet on state grant overview, plans for parent feedback for environmental scans, timeline for each of four domains
 - Scan process will look at services available and assess them, find gaps. New funding over five years will expand and enhance current services based on data. Griffin will interview service providers. Saginaw County is only Launch site in Michigan. State will take information and work on replicating. A state Launch team also is in place. Jill Armentrout is on state-wide Launch Advisory Committee.
 - Domains 1-2 Parent Support and Education/Early Care and Education - have community conversations for each by March 15.
 - Domains 3-4 Mental Health and Social-Emotional Health/Primary Care – conversations by May 17
 - Launch will part of PC meetings until May
 - Questions will come from Launch grant, parents will be able to review and give input
 - Will review data with PC and collaborative in March and May
- ❖ **Community conversations planning**
 - Conversations will take at least an hour for one domain. May not have enough time at events with other activities.
 - Plan to start with Harwood community aspiration questions at Feb. 18 event in Carrolton. With speaker, can give 30 minutes to conversation. This is ongoing communication to help our group look outward.
 - Armentrout and Kozan attended training with Harwood Institute in January and learned about better listening to families and looking outward from organization.
 - Invite attendees of Feb. 18 back for more specific Launch questions at a longer conversation.

- Number of attendees and number of questions for each conversation not determined. Use same questions for each group.
- Need diverse representation of county – include representative of inner city and of rural areas. Combine conversation with Mission in the City early education fair in the works for March. Set up others independently.
- Have a team member from MSU attend to oversee first conversation, watch for bias. Griffin volunteered to record data at conversations.
- Other ideas: Go to meetings of parent groups already meeting (Head Start, Healthy Start Consortium), send them questions. Put questions on Web site, blog for each topic and take comments. Offer questions at outreach booths, use volunteers for recording answers. B-5 educators give questions at visits. Go to PTA meetings around county.
- Can include recruitment for PC in conversations. Participation can include parents of children 0-12.

❖ **Evening meetings plan**

- We need to meet as coalition monthly for planning. Set in opposite months of current schedule meet at 5:30 p.m. last Monday of month – start in February, April, June Aug. Still have evening events every other month. Feb., April Month of Young Child event, June training and August.
 - Need location in out-county area and childcare. KinderCare can help with staff.
 - Ideas: Go to parks in summer months. Pick one location for first meetings. Freeland Sports Zone, check on fee. Kinder Care Freeland Center. Community Christian Reformed Church (Laura’s church) in Kochville Twp has free dinners every other Wed. Hidden Harvest for food. Libraries are free sites, not area for children.
 - Will continue research and decide whether to set Feb. 22 meeting.

❖ **Tabled from agenda**

- Review of year Action Plan for PC
 - Legislative update
 - Presentations to networks, collaborative agencies
 - Outreach to schools