



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2007
MINUTES**

Present: Rich Van Tol, Suzanne Greenberg, Mary Ellen Johnson, Sarah Byam, Linda Schneider, Julie Kozan

1. Review Agenda, add items

2. Treetops Retreat Update and GSC Coordinators

- R. Van Tol shared what was discussed at the ECIC Technical Assistance Workshop in Gaylord.
- Gerrit Westervelt, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Build Initiative) was the national speaker at this event.
- There are a number of states that are working on a similar initiative as Michigan.
- After looking at what other states are doing, Dr. Westervelt is very intrigued with what Michigan is doing and believes Michigan is off on the right foot and feels our model is set up for success.
- There was discussion about a communication plan. There was a little reluctance by the Collaboratives to participate in a communication plan at this time. R. Van Tol will keep us posted on this as it evolves.
- There are currently 21 Collaboratives. There was thought by the ECIC to expand to more Collaboratives. But, because of the state budget and the work that still needs to be done, the ECIC is going to hold off on expanding and focus on enhancing the current 21 Collaboratives.
- The state-wide ECIC website is evolving.
- We'll have a new contract effective October 1, 2007.

3. Scope of work & contractor responsibility – Review

- They have changed what they want the membership to look like.
- We need clarification on whether or not we need directors or CEOs of agencies/organizations to attend meetings. Getting the CEO of some of the larger agencies to attend (i.e., Covenant, etc) would be hard to do.
- R. Van Tol is going to ask Cherie Barber if we can put this membership requirement into our work plan (flexibility to put into work plan because we can not meet this requirement by October 1, 2007).

- Another question for Cherie is to ask if we can current an Advisory Council that would include these individuals.
4. **eNews ECIC Newsletter**
 - R. Van Tol passed out a copy of eNews (ECIC's newsletter).
 - Some members of the group are receiving this newsletter electronically and others are not.
 5. **Blueprint & Strategic Plan progress – review & update**
 - R. Van Tol passed out the latest version of the Blueprint. This is the document of what we will try to accomplish over the next year. This will also be part of the Strategic Plan.
 - A strategic plan has to be submitted by September 15th in order for us to proceed on October 1st. R. Van Tol is about 80% done with the entire document.
 - The document will be out to the entire Collaborative on Monday (August 20th) and he is hoping to talk with the group regarding this document on August 27th. That would leave us a month to make any needed changes.
 - J. Kozan will send history information to R. Van Tol.
 6. **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan update**
 - A state level organization (law enforcement across the state).
 - There's going to be a Community Conversation held tomorrow. Essentially, they are trying to get legislators there to talk to law enforcement and members of the GSC and why we need to be invested in children's program.
 7. **Parent Coalition update**
 - There is a disconnect amongst the members of the Parent Coalition.
 - Some members do not feel the numbers reflected in the Data Assessment are accurately representing the County.
 - Some members question the lack of diversity at the full-body GSC meetings.
 - The parents need to be open to discussing their concerns to Holly Tired and other members of the Collaborative.
 - The Parent Coalition could benefit from training in cultural sensitivity.
 - After the August 27th meeting, R. Van Tol, S. Greenberg, and Cherie Barber will attend the Parent Coalition meeting and clear up some of the questions regarding the data and reports.
 8. **Need for broader parent participation and closer monitoring**
 - Need broader participation from the out-county areas.
 9. **Website update**
 - Sam Livacoli has been very busy and the website is coming along.
 - J. Kozan will check with Ellen Hatcher to see if he will be attending the GSC meeting on August 27th.

10. FY 2008 Grant Application & Budget

- The grant application is due September 12, 2007. R. Van Tol is going to begin working on this.

11. Nomination process for ECIC Executive Board & October 22, 1007 “Cosmic Celebration”

- The ISDs get to appoint one person to the ECIC Executive Board.
- The first meeting with this group is October 11, 2007 in Lansing – this event is going to be called ‘Cosmic Celebration’.
- The GSC will make a nomination and the ISD Board will receive this nomination and appoint this person.
- In order to meet this deadline, we will have to do our nomination at the August 27th meeting so the ISD Board can receive this nomination during their September meeting and appoint this person.
- Between now and August 27th we need a list of 5 people (in order of most to least) that we should consider for this nomination.
- Kim Houston-Philpot, Brenda Vincent, Leola Wilson, Carl Williams, Ellen Crane, Judge Faye Harrison, and Dr. Kristin Outwater were all suggestions.

12. MOU Update

- J. Kozan gave an update on the progress of the MOU. All signatures have been collected except two. She expects the document to be complete by the August 27th meeting.

13. Future demands of the GSC Coordinator and need for 1.0 FTE dedicated to this work

- R. Van Tol cannot continue to serve as the GSC Coordinator due to other commitments with the SISD.
- We need to hire a full-time person to dedicate their time to this work who could begin on October 1, 2007.
- He perceives this to be a contracted service and CAN Council would be the employer.

14. Sub-committee structure and ad hoc workgroup structure. GSC meetings to convene every other month?

- We would like to make GSC meetings bi-monthly.
- The new Coordinator would convene subcommittees based on the Great Start components. The majority of the work would be done within these subcommittees.

15. Agenda for August 27, 2007

- S. Greenberg will complete the agenda and pass along to J. Kozan to distribute.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.
Transitions Center**