



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
EXECUTIVE MEETING
MARCH 20, 2007
MINUTES**

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

1. Focus Group Update

- J. Kozan reported that the focus groups have been well attended and the feedback has been very useful.
- Excellent focus group at Heritage High School on March 8th.
- R. Van Tol reported that there was a strong consensus at the Superintendent's meeting that birth-5 funding needs to continue.

2. Parent Coalition & Parent Facilitator Update

- Should there be a co-facilitator to assist Dalia? Dalia's schedule is very busy and having a co-facilitator may insure attendance at all meetings.
- May need to think about the frequency that we have the GSC meetings. Maybe less frequent meetings and more frequent smaller meetings/subcommittees might work more effectively. Maybe this structure will come out of the Strategic Plan. Right now it doesn't seem that the monthly meetings are run the most efficiently.

3. ECIC Update

- The ECIC is broken up into 4 different subcommittees: Pediatrics and Family Health, Childcare and Early Education, Early Childhood Social Emotional Health, Parent Education & Family Support. They are working on a statewide blueprint. They are meeting later this week to finalize this. The bulk of the work is really being completed within the subcommittees. We might want to replicate this model in Saginaw. We could even use their blueprint model and utilize what's most applicable for our County.
- You can find the blueprint on www.ecic4kids.org website.

4. Operating Guidelines & GSC Structure

- Missing word on page 4, Article 8, first sentence. This sentence needs to read: Members present constitute a quorum except for changes to the bylaws, which will require approval by 2/3 voting members. Delete the second sentence.
- We need to delete Roberts Rules of Order (under Article XI) from the wording and readjust outline format.
- Funding Decisions (page 5) needs to become 'B' rather than '3'. Readjust outline format.
- The last sentence under part 1 under Funding Decisions, "The prioritized list will be reviewed at the semi-annual planning meetings and then forwarded to the Strategic Planning Committee", needs to be deleted.
- At next Executive Meeting we will review the Memorandum of Understanding.
- We still need faith-based and business members on the GSC. First concern is funding to continue future work and framing the work. This will detail how we want to engage people, how we'll sustain their interest, etc.
- There was discussion of replicating the 4 subcommittees at the state-level ECIC in Saginaw County and adding a 5th subcommittee (Executive). We would still have a business coalition and parent coalition.
- Looking at the education of the workforce is another area we need to consider looking at – led to discussion of professional development and making it more seamless and cost efficient.

5. Teen Parent Counseling Program

- We received a letter from Randy Barst. He is requesting that the GSC write a letter requesting that the teen parent counseling line item remain on the DHS budget.
- This is an opportunity as a GSC to advocate.
- This line item funds 23 programs in 20 counties across the State. The line item in total is 3.8 million. This line item has proven through evaluation to pay for itself.
- M.E. Johnson went into detail about the great benefits of continuing this funding and how this funding affects the community.
- Important to note the children born to teen parents have been proven to enter kindergarten with lower levels of school readiness.
- If this line item is not approved, Teen Parent Service's shelter will close.
- We will make a motion to approve and take to the meeting on Monday.
- S. Greenberg will draft a letter of support that will be mailed out on Monday, along with documentation in the minutes denoting support of motion.

6. On August 14-15, 2007 SVSU is holding their annual Prevention of Early Learning Failure conference.

- R. Van Tol discussed the GSC being involved in this collaboration. Currently, Midland ESA and Saginaw ISD, Bay-Arenac ISD, and SVSU are interested in bringing Art Rolnick or his colleague Rob Grunewald to SVSU to speak on

- August 13, 2007. This would be a 1 1/2 hour presentation (approximate) – mainly orientated to the business and philanthropy.
- Rich is requesting that the GSC be a sponsor – SVSU would donate the space – remainder of partners would help with promoting the event in their communities.
 - To find out more about Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald's platforms go to www.minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/03-03/earlychild.cfm.
 - R. Van Tol will have more firm details at the next Executive meeting and then bring information to the April GSC meeting.

7. GSC Website

- S. Greenberg gave brief update. Ellen Hatcher is working on getting prices, etc. for the development of a website.
- Oakland's website (www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org) is the model we would like to achieve.
- The idea is this would be an independent website that would be owned by the collaborative and have hyperlinks to the other websites, etc.
- Maintenance of the website by one person would probably be best. We need a proposal put together that includes costs, etc.
- At the next Executive meeting we'll determine how we want to proceed.
- We would like Ellen to show Oakland's website at Monday's meeting and get feedback.

8. Agenda for March meeting

- Deb – program presentation.
- Make resolution to support continuance of TPS in line item budget.
- Parent Coalition.
- Focus Group Update.
- Operating Guidelines – vote to adopt.
- Professional Development Committee – Ellen/Connie.
- Adoption of Application for Membership form.

9. Future Executive meeting schedule

- Next meeting – April 18, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.