



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2007**

Present: Ellen Hatcher, Sabrina Beeman, Lin Dann, Barbara Russell, Karen Sangster, Connie Garcia, Mary Ellen Johnson, Toinette Ingram, Celestine Buckley, Holly Tiret, Ruth Miller, Angelique Riley, Rich Van Tol, Lula Haynes, Willa Haynes, Matt Muempfer, Annie Evans, Julie Kozan, Connie Macek, Suzanne Greenberg, Linda Schneider, Dalia Smith, Carol Cottrell, Phyllis Alexander

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Ground Rules and Program Review

III. Review Agenda and accept Minutes

- No additions or deletions to the Agenda or Minutes.

IV. Program Presentation: Early On

- B. Russell discussed the Early On program.
- She discussed Early Childhood Outcomes & Family Outcomes that the program measures as well as eligibility criteria.
- Many of Early On's referral sources are from the NICU. They also receive referrals from Project Find, parents, pediatricians, public health, mental health, DHS, and education community.
- Early On coordinates the services that exist in the community for families of children with disabilities. They act as a 'clearinghouse'.
- B. Russell will email the PowerPoint presentation to J. Kozan. J. Kozan will send the PowerPoint on to the collaborative.
- Teen Parent Services will be providing the May Program Presentation.

V. Executive Committee Update

- S. Greenberg gave a brief update – many topics discussed at Executive Committee meetings result in agenda items for the GSC meetings.
- The Executive Committee membership will be expanding.

VI. Focus Groups Completed/May 24th

- There will be one more focus group at Houghton Jones on April 30, 2007 from 11:30-1:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please let H. Tiret know.
- C. Macek volunteered to take notes at this focus group.
- R. Miller and H. Tiret are working on coding the data that has been received and hope to present some of this data at the May 24th event.
- Approximately 115 people participated during the 10 focus groups.

VII. Strategic Plan Template Overview

- A meeting/luncheon will be held at the Horizons Center on May 24, 2007 to discuss the findings from the focus groups and discuss next steps in our strategic planning process.
- The ECIC has put together a template that will guide us in developing our strategic plan. R. Van Tol gave copies of this template to the group, which will be discussed again on May 24th.
- A copy of this template will be emailed to the collaborative.

VIII. Website Plan

- E. Hatcher discussed the current status of our GSC website.
- She met with a local web designer last Friday, April 20, 2007.
- She passed out a survey for the group to fill out regarding what goals you want to achieve with this website and what information you want to present to viewers.
- There will be a website meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.
- The current thought is that the website would have general information on the home page and an article that would change monthly. This changeable article would also have a links to the agency websites. There would also be tabs on the home page for parents, professionals, business and faith community.
- E. Hatcher has also been working on the Wikispaces site for professional development providers within Saginaw County.

IX. Operating Guidelines Vote

- There was unanimous consent to approve the Operating Guidelines.

X. Memorandum of Understanding Vote

- R. Van Tol discussed the Memorandum of Understanding.
- A space for dates in the signature section will be added.
- A signature line for Parent Coalition will be added.
- R. Van Tol will make the requested changes and will work with everyone to obtain signatures.
- If another agency joins the Collaborative, we would make an addendum.

XI. Parent Coalition Update

- D. Smith stepped down as the Parent Liaison.
- L. Haynes accepted this position.
- They are looking at bringing in a Birth-5 parent as a co-leader to assist L. Haynes.
- H. Tired will be meeting with the Saginaw Community Foundation to discuss further details of grant application and funding.

XII. Swift Survey February Results/New Survey

- The results will be sent out via email to the collaborative.

XIII. Announcements & Adjournment – Parent Coalition Meeting Follows

- R. Van Tol passed out a flyer for the May 29, 2007 event in Lansing.
- R. Van Tol also passed out a handout “Top Ten Reasons to Think Early Childhood When You Hear about Virginia Tech”.
- This is the last week of Child Abuse Prevention Month and this Thursday, April 26, 2007, Jeannette Walls (author of The Glass Castle) will be speaking at the Temple Theater at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend this event.
- Saginaw on Stage is this Friday, April 27, 2007. This is a fundraiser that the Rotary Club sponsors to benefit the CAN Council and Pit & Balcony Theater.
- Head Start has begun recruiting 3 and 4 year olds.
- There will be a Community Summit on infant mortality on November 2, 2007 at the Transitions Center.
- L. Schneider is asking for input from the community with regard to where there are gaps in system of care.
- The question was asked whether or not we could bring visitors to the GSC meetings. Yes, it would be great if members would like to bring a visitor.
- Positive Beginnings trainings for services providers are currently being held – there are 6 modules in total. They have been very well attended thus far.
- Misty Lauchie (May 12 & May 19th at MSUE) will be holding trainings on the childcare expulsion project.
- Proud Fathers, Proud Parents will be starting again in early May. J. Kozan will be sending this information out to the Collaborative.
- The SISD Parent Advisory Committee is holding training on May 2, 2007 on sensory integration and estate planning at Arrowwood Elementary.

***Next GSC meeting is May 21, 2007 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
at the Transitions Center
Parent Coalition Meeting immediately following***

