



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 2007**

**Present:** Rich Van Tol, Deborah Gibson, Annie Evans, Anniece Harris, Karen Sangster, Sabrina Beeman, Linda Schneider, Lula Haynes, Toinette Ingram, Celestine Buckley, Matt Muempfer, Ellen Hatcher, Mary Ellen Johnson, Ruth Miller, Holly Tiret, Willa Haynes, Latasha Williams, Carol Cottrell, Julie Kozan

**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.
- R. Van Tol made a motion to accept the minutes, this was seconded by R. Miller.

**IV. Program Presentation: Saginaw County Department of Public Health**

- D. Gibson discussed programs available at the Saginaw County Department of Public Health for children age 0-5: WIC, MIHP (Maternal and Infant Health Program), Immunizations, Blood Lead – free screenings for any child, Community Resource Nurse on site, Healthy Start Program, Children Special HealthCare Services (insurance and case management services), Early On, Bereavement Services, FIMR (Fetal Infant Mortality Review Coordination), Infant Mortality Coalition, DHS Nurse, Hearing and Vision Screenings – free to any child, Dental program – there is an income eligibility level for this program.
- D. Gibson handed out brochures with more complete information.

**V. Focus Group Update**

- H. Tiret updated the group. The focus groups have been going very well.
- There has been a lot of good input at each group.
- All focus groups have been well attended.

## **VI. Website Discussion**

- E. Hatcher discussed the possibility of using Oakland County's Great Start website as a model for our County's website. We would have links to websites that we currently use as well.
- We are currently waiting to hear back regarding how much this website will cost to create.
- M. Muempfer made the suggestion of getting information out to the entire county through a message board in an attempt to have one central location. Parents or other professionals could access this.
- We need to make sure we use universal language if we have a message board, making sure we use language that both parents and professionals would understand and relate to.
- R. Miller suggested a 'Child Care Resource' tab so providers could go there for resources and training opportunities.
- E. Hatcher will be hosting an ad hoc meeting to specifically review and plan the content of the future GSC Saginaw County website.

## **VII. Operating Guidelines**

- The Executive Committee met last week and made some edits to the Operating Guidelines.
- Between now and the next meeting in April, both the Operating Guidelines and Memorandum of Understanding will be sent out to the group for final review. We will vote on these at the April meeting.

## **VIII. GSC Membership Application**

- It was agreed upon by the group that we accept the GSC Membership Application as it is.

## **IX. Great Start Collaborative Letter of Support**

- This is concerning the Teen Parent Counseling line item within the DHS budget.
- R. Van Tol received a letter from Randy Barst and correspondence from Ron Spess.
- R. Van Tol gave a brief background to the importance of Teen Parent Counseling within our community and why we do not want to see this line item cut from the budget.
- M.E. Johnson shared a one-page fact sheet with the group.
- L. Haynes asked whether or not Teen Parent Services does anything to prevent subsequent pregnancies. M.E. Johnson reported that they are very active in working with teen parents to prevent this.
- The group decided to support an advocacy attempt for Teen Parent Services. While the GSC may not lobby and is not able to ask the legislature to vote either way, as a GSC we are able to advocate our support of the program.

- M. Muempfer made the motion to accept, seconded by S. Beeman. There was unanimous consent by the group to accept this letter of support.

**X. Executive Committee Update**

- L. Schneider gave an update to the group.
- R. Van Tol discussed the Prevention of Early Learning Failure Conference at SVSU – August 14-15, 2007. There has been discussion of having a pre-conference on August 13. We would bring in a national presenter to discuss the importance of Early Childhood Education. The plan is to invite a wide range of people, including business and faith-based. Art Rolenick is the speaker we are thinking of inviting.

**XI. Parent Council Update**

- H. Tired gave an update on the last Parent Council meeting. They are currently working on writing their Vision and Mission statements.

**XII. Updates & Adjournment – Parent Meeting Follows**

- R. Van Tol discussed the Even Start grant. As a result of all the planning that has been involved, the result is a very high quality grant. R. Van Tol mentioned being very proud of the collaboration involved in this process.
- L. Schneider gave an update on the Mental Health budget. They are optimistic that they will be funded at the same rate this year as they were last year. They are also currently writing a grant that will allow them to work with older kids.
- E. Hatcher gave an update on April's events. April is Prevent Child Abuse Month. Blue ribbon campaign will be taking place.
- M.E. Johnson thanked everyone for their support for Teen Parent Counseling.

***Next GSC meeting is April 23, 2007 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
at the RESC on Gratiot  
Parent Council Meeting immediately following***