



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2007**

Present: Willa Haynes, Latasha Williams, Rich Van Tol, Sabrina Beeman, Lula Haynes, Linda Schneider, Dalia Smith, Barb Russell, Trish Burns, Connie Macek, Celeste Buckley, Toinette Ingram, Angelique Riley, Sarah Byam, Mary Ellen Johnson, Ruth Miller, Carol Cottrell, Suzanne Greenberg, Ellen Hatcher, Cherie Ross-Barber

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: Teen Parent Services
(Brochure)**

- Mary Ellen Johnson discussed Teen Parent Services Program
- Goals: getting teens through high school, work and independent living as well as prepare their children for school
- Age range of teens, between 12-20: Average age 17
- 200 families served in a year, 50 families at any one time
- The Teen Parents program has two sites:
 - Gratiot site
 - Veteran Memorial Parkway is a residential facility
 - Residential for 24 months max
 - No couples
- Teen Parent Program is part of many Collaborative efforts (GSC, Healthy Families, Birth- Five etc.)
- Many contracts including: Even Start and DHS reunification
- Call Mary Ellen Johnson for more information

Angelique Riley will be providing the June Family Presentation.
Trish Burns of the Saginaw Libraries will provide the July Program Presentation

V. Executive Committee Update

- Planning for the May 24th Meeting and Component Meetings

VI. Review agenda for May 24th Meeting and follow-up dates for

- This meeting will review the tasks that the ECIC required including: Local Assessment, focus groups, strategic planning and community action agenda. This meeting will take place on May 24, 2007 Horizons Conference Center 11:30 to 1:30--call Ruth Ruby to RSVP.
- Agenda (see Handout) will include: Welcome/Introductions, Overview of the local assessment and focus group and a frame work for the strategic plan. Participants will be invited to sign up for component meetings.

Component Meetings

Physical and Dental Health Care Component

- June 11, 2007 at RESC 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Social Emotional Health Care Component

- June 12, 2007 at Transition Center 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Early Care and Education Component

- June 18, 2007 at RESC 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Parent Education & Family Support Component

- June 19, 2007 at RESC 5:00 p.m. to 7: 00 p.m.

- In the future, these component work groups will be come standing committees and eventually the GSC Meeting will meet less often while these committees meet more often.

VII. Website Plan

- A contract has been signed with Sam Livacoli to design our website.
- The design will be signed off on every two weeks
- Ad hoc web committee will meet to review the website progress.
- Additional members for the ad hoc committee signed up during the meeting including participation from parents
- Ellen Hatcher will review the website progress with the parent coalition

VIII. Memorandum of Understanding Update

- A lot of support for the GSC across the county

IX. Parent Coalition Update

- Star Power Rally May 29, 2007
- A bus load of parents and children will go down to Lansing to represent Saginaw. Maybe in the Saginaw Spirit Bus! The day has many events planned. At the latter part of the day, the parents will meet with the state representatives.
- CONGRATULATIONS!!! Parent Coalition wrote and was awarded grant for Parent training which will be entitled "Living Literacy" June 13, 2007 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Transition Center. This training will address literacy and social emotional development. There will be a parent component and family-friendly materials for parents. Flyers were distributed at the meeting and will also be distributed at childcare centers and schools.
- The Parent Coalition also met with many state representatives for the ACMH (Association for Children's Mental Health)—Representative Ken Horn was very supportive.

X. ECIC updates

- ECIC Technical Assistance regional meeting will be June 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rich will arrange for all members who want to attend to participate via conference call.
- June 20th regional non-funded SISD collaborative
- October 11: Former NC Governor, Governor Hunt will be a guest speaker at an event regarding the importance of early childhood services— Smart Start Birmingham Evening Event. Details are still being determined.

XI. Review of last Swift Survey results

- What we do?
 - We are here to collaborate
 - Our focus is on Early Childhood Education – which must include the whole family
 - Importance of Education includes the whole child—physical, social, emotional, etc.
 - Bottom line--we want our children to be ready
- How did you learn about GSC?
 - Through a connection with an agency or members
 - Existing members should continue to invite new members
- Why do you come?
 - Better understanding of what exists in Saginaw County and be part of the solution
 - Want to solve the problem that children can't read, write
- What do the meetings accomplish? (much frustration)

- I'm not sure what we do
- A lot of chatting not a lot of action
- Need more community members involvement
- What we will be next year
 - More people need to know about GSC
 - Place mats
 - Word up – Parents are invited to sign up to write articles
 - Newsletter goes out. And website is being developed

We are figuring out a lot right now—Strategic plan will drive our actions. Strengthen and expand what we agree to do.

XII. Announcements/Adjournment – Parent Coalition Meeting Follows

- Rich – we will have products on Thursday 1) local assessment and Community 2) Report Card – Synopsis of what and why we do this work. These documents will drive our Strategic plan and what action we will take in the future.
- June 27, 2007 5:00 -7:00 p.m Horizons Center
Bill Millet Economic Development NC
The Economic importance of Early Childhood programs
Reach out to Business Partners.
- Sabrina Beaman – Head Start brought materials for everyone to distribute (Door knockers and flyers and sheet of locations – locations may change Sabrina will keep us updated).
- Linda Schneider - follow up with grant submitted with meeting – 50+ people came and grant is 98% written. Grant will provide a Coordinator to system of care, and train DHS workers in CAPTA evaluation screening tool. Mental health needs are being identified for kids in foster care.
- “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” Rally is being planned to go to Lansing. Mental Health Rally– bus load from Saginaw is planning to go.
- Barb Russell for Early On –Important meeting tomorrow for Early On.
- Trish Burns: Summer reading program begins for ages 0-99. Over 8,000 participated last year. Help families continue reading through the summer. Call or visit the Library or check out the website. List of recommended reading list per age Rhonda Butler will get them out to people Sight words-- first hundred sight words by first grade and second hundred. Contact Library for more information. Trish's representative will bring to next meeting.

- Connie Macek: MSRP using a lot more of Preschool spots this year with the collaboration with Head Start. Positive Beginnings: Social Emotional training having good attendance. Next fall will present to quality care day care centers.
- Angelique Riley– will become foster parent—the group thanked and congratulated her!

***Next GSC meeting is June 25, 2007 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
at the Transitions Center
Parent Coalition Meeting immediately following***