



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Present: Lula Haynes, Latasha Williams, Toinette Ingram, Matt Muempfer, Annie Evans, Anniece Harris, Holly Tiret, Ruth Miller, Rich Van Tol, Linda Schneider, Suzanne Greenberg, Mary Ellen Johnson, Willa Haynes, Sabrina Williams, Celestine Buckley, Carol Cottrell, Karen Sangster, Sabrina Beeman, Connie Garcia, Barbara Russell, Ellen Hatcher, Cherie Ross-Barber, Trish Burns, Angelique Riley, Deborah Gibson, Julie Kozan

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Ground Rules Review & Importance of GSC

III. Reviewed Agenda and Minutes

IV. Program Presentation – R. Van Tol (SISD)

- R. Van Tol gave an overview of the ECIC and the tasks we have to accomplish by September 2007. He also briefly discussed other programs offered through SISD. These programs include:
 - Great Parents, Great Start (parent education)
 - Quality Preschool Consultation and Early Childhood Professional Development services
 - Even Start Family Literacy
 - Saginaw Valley Regional 4C
 - Early On (ages 0-3) and Michigan Special Education
 - Partnership in Character Education Program
 - Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP)
 - Saginaw County Head Start
 - Birth-5
- Good websites for more information are www.ecic4kids.org and www.greatstartforkids.org.

V. Final Video Debut

- R. Van Tol and Mike Arnold presented the finalized version of the GSC video.
- You can watch the video online by going to www.sisd.cc . Once at the SISD homepage, click on Department/Services and then click on Early Childhood and Parenting. Once there, you will find a hyperlink to the video.
- Great job to Mike Arnold and R. Van Tol for all their work on this!

VI. Professional Development Website

- This will be tabled until the March meeting.

VII. Focus Group Update

- H. Tiret reported that the feedback from the first two focus groups has been great and very helpful, and thanked everyone for their help.
- Everyone from the Collaborative is encouraged to stop by to one of the focus groups.

VIII. Executive Committee Update

- Currently, the Executive Committee is looking at planning for the future of GSC.
- They are creating the Memorandum of Understanding, and hope to have it completed in the near future.
- They are looking at adding new member to the Collaborative.
- If you have suggestions regarding the 'Application for Great Start Collaborative Board' document, please email L. Schneider at lschnieder@sccmha.org.

IX. Parent Council Update

- The members of the Parent Council submitted a grant application to the Saginaw Foundation. If funding is received, the Council will hold a training on Early Literacy Skills and Socio-emotional Skills.

X. Research Highlights

- L. Schneider reviewed the important aspects of the handout that was circulated, "The Science of Early Childhood Development".
- If you do not have time to read the entire article, the first two pages are the Executive Summary.
- Page ten of the handout is particularly important, as it explains the damaging effects of toxic stress.

XI. Survey

- S. Greenberg asked everyone to answer five questions regarding the GSC.
- The Executive Committee will be reviewing everyone's input.

XII. Wrap Up and Adjournment

- R. Van Tol announced exciting news. B. Russel and Dr. Kristin Outwater recently went to a meeting regarding pediatricians conducting developmental screenings during well-child visits. From this meeting came the decision by Partners in Pediatrics to conduct Ages & Stages Questionnaires when children come in for their well-child visits.
- Next month the Department of Public Health will be providing the Program Presentation.
- Early On will be providing April's Program Presentation.
- J. Kozan asked for agencies to sign-up for a month to provide a 350-400 word article for Word Up Magazine. Thank you to those that signed up!

***Next GSC meeting is March 26, 2007 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Transitions Center
Parent Council Meeting immediately following.***