

COPPER COUNTRY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Committee Updates

The Executive Committee met on February 12. The group reviewed the Work Plan Progress Report, the six month calendar and the Communication Plan. The First Trimester Progress Report and Budget were submitted last week. Phase 2 of the Strategic Review was discussed and it was agreed that the Wilder Collaborative Factors Inventory be sent out to the group to be completed and returned prior to the May meeting. The meeting schedule for the summer and the next year was discussed and will be submitted for approval at the March GSC meeting. The tentative agenda for the March meeting was also discussed. The Executive Committee will meet again in early April.

The Communication Committee met on February 2. The group previewed the Power Point, website and the Communication Plan. The Committee concurred with the schedule and audiences for presentations. The website is up and running. Peggy will be gathering information for the calendar and we will be updating the resource page and the Director's information. I have scheduled to meet with the Health Department staff as a stakeholder's group on March 17.

The Data Committee met on January 23. Information to be included in the Report to the Community was finalized. The next step in the Strategic Review was discussed. The group will meet following the March meeting. The group will move from a focus on data collection and review to a focus on Strategic Planning

Technical Assistance Conference Calls

Monthly technical assistance conference calls were held on January 15th and February 19th. The next call will be on March 19th and will focus on the Social Emotional Area of the Great Start Strategic Priorities. If you are interested in sitting in on part or all of this conference call, please let me know. Each call has been better than the previous one – they are trying very hard to get the “bugs” out and we appreciate their efforts to save us travel time and money.

Professional Development

The Copper Country ISD served as a video conference site for “The Protective Factors of Parental Resilience; Social Connections; Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development; Concrete Support; and Healthy Parent-Child Relationships”. The session focused on the Strengthening Families and Protective Factors approach to supporting children and families with evidence based programs and services. We had four participants from our Collaborative, including myself. There were a few technical issues,

but it was a good opportunity to discuss what we are doing locally using a strength based approach to parenting. We will be receiving several extra copies of the manual that accompanied the presentation. Please let me know if you would like a copy.

Upcoming Events

Heather and I will be attending the Regional TA meeting in Escanaba on Thursday, March 12. We will also meet on April 21st in Iron Mountain.

Kindergarten Teacher's Survey

ECIC has sent out an online survey to kindergarten teachers to get feedback on their opinions about how prepared their students were to enter kindergarten. The results of the survey are confidential and will be tallied and aggregated results will be distributed this spring.