



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, August 5, 2010

Present were Scott Ala, Lynn Barrette, Cathy Benda, Lynnette Borree, Deb Dupras, Joseph Hernandez, Doreen Klingbeil, Ruth Keller, Angela Lucas, Taryn Mack, Cheryl Mills, Cheryl LaRose, Erin Ross, Ray Sharp, Louisa Wills and Emilie Krznarich.

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 12:04. Introductions were made. The group welcomed Deb Dupras to the meeting. Deb is the new director of the Great Start Regional Resource Center.**
- 2. Minutes of the June 3, 2010 meeting were read and approved.**
- 3. Emilie gave the Director's Report (see attached) and the Parent Liaison Report (see attached) as Heather is at the Regional meeting for the Parent Liaisons. The new Technical Assistant for the Region 1 parents is Michele Chenier. Michele is the former Parent Liaison for Delta County.**
- 4. Scott reported that the Communication Committee met on June 7th. The website usage for the month of May showed that visits increased from 271 in March to 324 in May respectively. This is a significant increase in actual visitors. He also reported that the Welcome Cards, magnets and Treehouse coupons will be ready to give out to HR Departments and the magnets are being given out at events in the community. The Communication Plan and goals were also reviewed at the meeting.**

Ruth reported that the last Health Committee meeting was on July 16th. The group will be working on revising some of the health goals in the Action agenda in the areas of smoking, childhood obesity and dental health care. Emilie will be getting an update on the Rural Health Clinic. Emilie is requesting to be notified of numbers for those groups who wish to use the Social Emotional Wheels so they can be ordered.

Lynette reported on the last Early Education and Child Care Committee meeting on July 26th. She gave a short summary of the parent survey results and explained briefly the purpose of the upcoming Get It Got It Go training which will take place on October 8th.

Louisa reported the System of Care Committee met on July 12th. The System of Care Committee has been reviewing information on agency services and eligibility requirements and updating our Survey of Community Services and Resources.

Cheryl M. reported on the newly formed Baraga County Task Force. The Task Force is still gathering members as well as reviewing the Action Agenda and prioritizing the Goals that are unique to Baraga County.

Cathy reported that the Executive Committee met on the 12th of July and had a conference call with Karen Ray to discuss a possible working meeting with the Collaborative in October. The group decided to have her do 3 presentations on October 7th.

Old Business

- 6. Emilie reminded the group to please fill out the member surveys that were distributed by MSU for ECIC. All answers are confidential and each GSC will be given a customized report. These surveys will provide critical information. The data will be used to report the impact that the Great Start System has had as well as to identify successes and recommendations for improvement. Information will be shared with legislators and could be used for grant applications.**

At least five people have completed the survey and have reported that it is long (takes about 30 minutes), but they have been able to leave it and get right back in.

- 7. The Candidate Forum will be scheduled in September or early October. This is a joint venture with the League of Women Voters, Superior Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the U.P. Children's Coalition.**

Emilie invited members to attend the Sand Box Party convention in Lansing on August 26th. The Collaborative will help to cover expenses. It will be held at the Breslin Center from 1-4 p.m. This is a terrific opportunity for a family event. Please contact Emilie or Heather if you are interested or would like more information. Visit the website ecic4kids.org for more information.

New Business

- 11. SAVE THE DATE! Karen Ray (see attached), nationally known author and presenter/facilitator will work with our Collaborative on October 7th to move to the next level in the collaborative process. She will present a one hour program from 8-9 a.m. for superintendents, agency directors and key community members, a working meeting from 9:30-noon with collaborative and committee members and a work session in the afternoon with the Executive Committee.**

- 12. A number of announcements were made.**

- Eva shared with Emilie that Little Huskies is now NAEYC accredited – congratulations.**
- Lynn shared Finlandia's newsletter highlighting their graduates.**
- Angela announced that Portage Health System's annual Labor Day walk will be held on September 6th –this is a wonderful opportunity for families to get out and stretch their legs together.**

- Lynnette asked the group to visit the new website for SKY Simple Kindness for Youth www.simplekindnessforyouth.org to learn more about how small gestures can be a big help for local school children in need.
- Scott announced that Houghton County has \$60,000 in a revolving loan fund for small business start ups – contact Scott to find out more.
- BHK has applied for additional ARRA money for Early Learning Mentoring, for a Head Start Center of Excellence Award, and a renewal for Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Cathy announced a fund at the Community Action Agency for kids to participate in activities such as soccer or hockey. Cathy has received some scholarship money for Treehouse memberships. This is also ARRA money.
- Taryn announced that Donna Beegle will be presenting a program at the Rozsa Center on September 16th from 10 to 3. Donna will address service providers and community members on supporting people in poverty as they attempt to improve their lives.

13. The next meeting will be on October 7th for the session with Karen Ray. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34.