



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:06. Present were Scott Ala, Sharon Arend, Jean Ballone, Cathy Benda, Lynnette Borree, Doreen Klingbeil, Cheryl LaRose, Jo Lorichon, Angela Lucas, Taryn Mack, Cheryl Mills, Heather Store, Brad Terhune, Louisa Wills, Dean Woodbeck, and Emilie Krznarich. Marianne Saarivirta-Kolpack, Eva Hatfield, Gail Juntunen and Katie Stanaway attended via ITV.

- 1. The Collaborative welcomed new members Brad Terhune, representing the faith based community, and Katie Stanaway, parent representative from Baraga County.**
- 2. Scott Ala moved and Lynette supported that the minutes of October 1 be approved. The minutes were approved as read.**
- 3. Emilie presented the Director's Report and Committee Reports – see attached. Please note the webinar on engaging the business community to take place on December 16th and the Early Childhood Challenge on December 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Program information will be sent as soon as it is received.**
- 5. Heather presented the Parent Liaison Report. Her focus has been recruitment and she will be continuing to meet with local parent groups. Scott suggested Heather try to contact groups that meet with expectant moms. Jean offered to give information to moms at WIC clinics and Angela offered to give information to moms at childbirth classes. Louisa will also post information in the DHS offices. Heather will also contact Aspirus Keweenaw.
Please note the meeting to take place in Hancock next week that will focus on the website.**

Old Business

- 6. Cathy explained that Eva Hatfield has agreed to be a candidate for the position of Vice Chair for 2009-2010, with the understanding that she would become the Chair in 2010-2011. Cathy asked if there were any others interested in holding office. No one else expressed an interest. The slate of officers for 2009-2010 is Chair-Cathy Benda, Vice Chair Eva Hatfield, Secretary-Jean Ballone. Cheryl LaRose moved to accept the officers and Louisa supported. Motion was passed.**
- 7. The Strategic Plan has been approved by ECIC. A special thanks to those who gave so much time and effort to help develop goals and objectives during committee meetings.**

Our plan has been sent to several Phase III Collaboratives as an example of a good plan. We expect our plan to be a usable document that may change as needs in the area change, such as program cuts. Plan highlights include goals to increase dental health care for pregnant women and children, information on social emotional milestones, access to mental health services, improving early literacy skills in preschool kids, and supporting child care access and training for providers. We also plan to more actively engage the business community.

New Business

- 8. The Work Plan and Budget 2009-2010 have been approved. We will also have the opportunity to apply for \$27,000 of Implementation Funds to assist with implementing our Action Agenda this year. We will apply to use the money to help fund training and materials for Early Literacy as well as materials for social emotional development such as the social emotional wheels and supporting the Dental Task Force and use of the 211 system. The application is due by January 4th.**
- 9. We will be forming a Dental Health Task Force, a System of Care Committee, and will need additional members for the Health Committee and the Early Education Committee. Please contact Emilie if you have an interest or have someone from your organization who can be involved.**
- 10. Last month we circulated a website survey. We have received only three responses to the survey so far. Please fill the survey out by December 18th. We will be using this information to improve our website to better meet the needs of members, parents and the public.**
- 11. Sharon distributed the new logo and Early On contact information.
Taryn announced that the BEARS program is now called the Great Start Childcare Expulsion Program – Upper Peninsula.
Cheryl LaRose announced that Governor Granholm has selected BHK's Center of Excellence Grant to be nominated for funding at the federal level. The focus is on improving health.
Marianne shared that the online childcare application system for parents and providers is now available at Great Start Connect.
Angela announced that the Adolescent Health Center unfortunately did not get funded. The Community Health and Fitness Programs will be moving into the old Blockbuster Video in Houghton. It will be great to have all the programs in the same place.
Cathy told the group that the Treehouse Project is well underway and that it is scheduled to be open in January – date to be determined.**
- 12. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10. The next meeting will be held at noon at the ISD on February 4th.**