



**GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, February 4, 2010**

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 12:10. Introductions were made and two new parent members were welcomed. Thank you to Lynn Gaunt and Kristin Zubiena for agreeing to join our Collaborative.**
- 2. Scott Ala moved and Sharon Arend supported to approve the minutes of December 3. Minutes were approved.**
- 3. Emilie reviewed the Director's Report. (see attached)**
- 4. Emilie reviewed the Committee Reports. (see attached Director's Report)**
- 5. The Parent Liaison Report was distributed. (see attached)**

**Old Business**

- 6. Implementation Funds have not received final approval. Emilie will notify the group when approval is received.**
- 7. We are in need of a few more members for the Fund Development Committee. The Committee will receive training in Fund Development this spring and will then be charged with writing a Fund Development Plan by the fall. Brad Terhune and Lynn Gaunt have volunteered to be a part of the committee. Barb Rose has offered to assist with the committee as well.**
- 8. The website survey of Collaborative members rated all areas almost equally. Parent Coalition members reviewed the website and had a number of suggestions. Changes will include drop down menus, a news area and calendar improvements. During the next few weeks suggestions will be implemented. We ask that if your organization has a calendar on your website, please send Peggy the link so we can put it on our site. If your organization has events that they would like posted, but do not have a website calendar, you will be able to submit the events to Peg and we will post them by the month. Peggy will send out reminders for both items.**
- 9. The brochure for 211 with new early childhood additions was shared with the group. It is suggested that your organizations check their listings on 211 to make sure that early childhood programs, services and activities are included. This is all part of our effort to improve program information for parents as well as service providers.**

## **New Business**

- 10. Ray Sharp reported that the committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Grant will begin meeting soon. Some of our Collaborative members are on the committee and preventing obesity in young children is one of our Action Agenda goals.**
- 11. Kelly Kaczmarek of Aspirus Keweenaw reported on the new Federally Qualified Health Center that will be starting soon on Quincy Hill in Hancock. The Center will be offering medical and behavioral health services and will soon add dental services. The services will be provided on a sliding scale for low income patients. This center will be a very welcome addition as patients now must travel to Ewen for dental and behavioral health care. Emilie will be getting further information about the project from Donna Jaksic who is coordinating the effort. This will be another wonderful opportunity for collaboration as improved access to behavioral and dental health are also Action Agenda goals and a high priority for the Copper Country area.**
- 12. Emilie distributed information to the group from the Early Childhood Challenge which was held in December. The materials include a position paper entitled “Never Again: Michigan’s Babies, Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers on the Precipice”. It lays out a case for the importance of continued investment in early childhood programs in terms of the affect these programs have on children and their families as well as long range benefits to Michigan’s economic and financial future. Please read and share this material and information with your colleagues and contacts. Advocacy for young children will continue to be a major focus for the Collaboratives and Parent Coalitions across the state. These issues are not only important for young children and their families, but for all of Michigan’s citizens.**
- 13. Member Updates:**

**Jo announced that the Homeless Surveys are being distributed. Please complete them as requested. Cheryl requested support for the upcoming Even Start grant application. Only 3 will be awarded this time. The application is due March 19th. Parenting classes through BHK and KFRC will begin soon.**

**Cathy announced that the Treehouse is set to open in March. Stop by and see this wonderful center for pre-school aged kids in our community. Having access to an active, age appropriate indoor play space will help young children to be physically active especially in the winter months. This will also support the goal of reducing childhood obesity in our area.**

**Lynn announced that Finlandia hosted a “meet the Lions” day – lots of family activities. A sports clinic will be held in May.**

**Just a reminder also that Star Power will be held this year on May 19th. We will do the Bridge Walk and other family activities to highlight the importance of young children in our community.**
- 14. The next meeting will be held on April 1st here at the ISD at noon. Lunch will be provided. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.**