



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, July 23, 2009

Present were: Sharon Arend, Jean Ballone, Cathy Benda, Jo Lorichon, Taryn Mack, Cheryl Mills, Dave Olsson, Linda Reynolds, Cheryl Ritter, Marie Sarchet, Ray Sharp, Heather Store, Kevin Store, Louisa Wills, Dean Woodbeck, and Emilie Krznarich.

- 1. Introductions were made. Welcome to our Technical Assistant from ECIC, Marie Sarchet. Welcome also to new member Kevin Store, representing the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce; and Cheryl Ritter from 4C's.**
- 2. Minutes from the May 7th meeting were read. Taryn moved and Jo supported that they be approved. Minutes were approved.**
- 3. Emilie presented the Director's Report (see attached).**
- 4. Heather presented the Parent Liaison Report (see attached). The Parent Coalition and Great Start will have a lot of visibility this summer with parades and the county fairs and other activities. Thanks Heather.**
- 5. Emilie reported that the Executive Committee and the Communication Committee met on June 26th. Meetings focused on the need for advocacy for early childhood programs in light of the most recent budget proposal from the state senate. We will be putting together information for the website and the newspapers. Heather has also been informing parents of the proposed cuts and encouraging them to contact our legislators and the governor. Emilie will be sending out emails to update as she gets them from ECIC.**
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. Emilie distributed a schedule of meeting dates for the next year as a reminder of the schedule we agreed to in January.**
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Emilie informed the group of the planning for a possible Great Start Collaborative member conference in Marquette on the 15th of September. The planning for this conference was originally begun in March before the current budget problems. Emilie will have more information about whether the conference will be held after her meeting in St. Ignace next week.**

b. Formation of new committees and the discontinuation of the Data/Strategic Planning Committee were discussed. It was decided to form two new committees to correspond to the areas of focus on the Strategic Plan. The new committees will be the Physical and Social Emotional Health and Safety Committee; and the Child Care, Early Education and Parent Support and Education Committee. The Executive Committee will remain as is and will include the extra duties of Collaboration, Coordination, System Integration, Funding, and Sustainability. The Communication Committee will remain as is, working closely with the other committees to get the messages out. Emilie will contact Char Kangas to see if the Baraga County Human Resource Council would be willing to serve as the Baraga County Task Force. Several Collaborative members are already part of this group and would help to serve as liaisons between the two groups. We will be seeking volunteers for the committees in the next few weeks as we will be finalizing the Strategic Plan and Action Agenda before the end of September. Committee members need not necessarily be Collaborative members. These committees are work groups and we welcome people who have expertise in the above areas to participate. Please contact Emilie via phone or email to inform her of additions to the committees or if you are interested in being on one of the committees. (see attached sheets for a list of committee members so far)

- 8. The next meeting will be on October 1st and will be a reorganization meeting. We will also be approving the Strategic Plan.**
- 9. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.**