



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, March 5, 2009

Present were Sharon Arend, Jean Ballone, Denise Van Dyken, Dennis Harbour, Eva Marie Hatfield, Judith Heath, Arne Kinnunen, Cheryl LaRose, Jo Lorichon, Taryn Mack, Dave Olsson, Linda Reynolds, Barb Rose, Marianne Saarivirta-Kolpack, Lisa Schmierer, Ray Sharp, Heather Store, Rosemary White, Dean Woodbeck and Emilie Krznarich.

- 1. Introductions were made. The Collaborative welcomed Denise Van Dyken, the new Director of BHK Child Development.**
- 2. A motion was made by Eva Hatfield and supported by Cheryl LaRose to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The minutes were approved.**
- 3. Emilie presented the Director's report. See attached.**
- 4. Heather presented the Parent Liaison's report. See attached.**
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Emilie proposed a change in the July meeting to accommodate the writing of the Strategic Plan and the approval of the Work Plan for 2009-2010. The new date for the July meeting would be July 23rd at noon at the CCISD. Emilie also proposed changing the months that the Collaborative meets to better correspond to the Collaborative's fiscal year, which runs from October 1 through September 30. A motion was made by Barb Rose and supported by Jo Lorichon to change the meeting dates. The motion passed. A new schedule is attached.**
 - b. Emilie will email the Wilder Collaborative Factors Inventory to each member to fill out and return via fax (906-482-1931) or mail (Attn: Emilie Krznarich, CCISD, 809 Hecla Street, P.O. Box 270, Hancock, MI 49930) by April 10th. We will be compiling the results and discussing this at the meeting on May 7th. The information from this Inventory will help us to assess our strengths and weaknesses as a Collaborative.**
 - c. Heather informed the group of the Parent Coalition plans to participate in the Family Fair at the Copper Country Mall on Saturday, April 4, 2009.**
 - d. Emilie and Heather and a few other members will attend Star Power on May 21st in Lansing. Emilie asked for volunteers to plan a local Star Power event. Sharon**

Arend suggested that we do something to inform local elected officials about the Great Start initiative. Denise VanDyken commented on the importance of contacting legislators and policy makers regarding funding cuts for Early Childhood. Her concerns are well taken that our purpose as a Collaborative could be compromised if many of the programs that serve young children in our area are cut or eliminated.

- e. Discussion regarding co- sponsoring an event with Fight Crime Invest in Kids was tabled until we get further details.**
- f. Taryn reported on the local initiatives of the Poverty Summit. At the regional meeting it was decided to hold a Services Fair, which will be open to the community, and a Poverty Simulation. The next meeting of the regional group will take place on April 20th at the Lakeside in Baraga. This date may need to be changed to accommodate Rep. Lahti's schedule.**
- g. Lisa Schmierer requested a letter of support from the Collaborative for the Even Start Grant application for Houghton County. Since one of the Data Indicators that our Report to the Community will focus on is the number of children born to parents with less than 12 years of education, the group felt it was important to support the application. Several statements attesting to the benefits of EvenStart were made. Taryn Mack moved that we write a support letter and Linda Reynolds supported. The motion passed. Emilie will submit the letter to Lisa.**
- 6. Emilie reviewed committee activities for the past two months, and invited members to join a committee if they have not yet done so. Emilie also suggested that we change the name of the Data Committee to the Strategic Planning Committee. Barb Rose made a motion to change the name and Linda Reynolds supported. The motion passed.**
- 7. Emilie presented the Work Plan Calendar for next six months. The activities listed on the calendar correspond to our Work Plan for 2008-2009.**
- 8. The Report to the Community will be done at the end of next week. Presentations will begin on March 17th.**
- 9. The next meeting will be held on May 7th. This will be a critical meeting, as we will review and give input on the Report to the Community, and we'll discuss the Wilder Collaborative Factors Inventory.**
- 10. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.**