

COPPER COUNTRY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 2011 – January 2012

Progress Report and Budget

December saw the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2012. We were able to complete our Progress Report and Statement of Expenditures and submit these to ECIC by January 27th. We are on track for meeting or exceeding all contract performance measures including: a physician's survey and follow-up to improve referral rates to Early On; advocacy efforts with local legislators; and a community needs assessment as step one in the strategic planning process.

Meetings

I have been conducting individual Collaborative member meetings throughout the months of December and January. The purpose for these meetings is to introduce myself to members; familiarize myself with the programs and services offered by member organizations; and to obtain updated Memorandums of Understanding. The meetings are going well and have helped me to gain a greater understanding of the benefits of Collaborative participation while also determining what we can do to make participation more meaningful to our members. Some suggestions that have come out of these meetings include a desire to coordinate fund-raising efforts among Collaborative members and the need for a centralized resource for professional development opportunities. We are already working on centralizing professional development information and we will be re-convening the Fund Development Committee soon.

I continue to attend the Human Services Coordinating Body, LICC, and Superior Child Abuse Prevention Council meetings. Attending these meetings provides a great opportunity to learn about projects that other agencies are involved in and to coordinate efforts when possible.

Strategic Planning

We're currently in the process of updating our Strategic Plan and have contracted with the WUPDHD to have Ray Sharp complete a Community Needs Assessment for the Collaborative. The Community Needs Assessment is almost complete and findings will be presented to the Executive Committee and full Collaborative over the next two months. A summary of the data will be used to conduct Focus Groups across the three counties in an effort to gather community input to further the strategic planning process. We have also contracted with the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development to facilitate the Strategic Plan. We are looking forward to working with the GLCYD in this capacity.

Technical Assistance

In November I met with Lisa Temple to complete an individual orientation session and in January our Parent Liaison and I attended training for new staff provided by Michele Chenier. Both sessions were very informative and provided helpful introductions to the Great Start system. I will be requesting support from Technical Assistance staff to present a summary of the MSU Evaluation at the next full Collaborative meeting in March.

Communications Committee

In December the Communications Committee met to work on updating our Communications Plan. A new template for the plan was introduced by the ECIC this year and the new format required much more detail than in previous years. The added information will make it easier for us to promote Collaborative activities and to access media and community contacts. The Committee held one meeting to complete the plan and useful suggestions were generated related to how best to market, promote, and capitalize on our efforts.

Social-Emotional Committee

The Committee has not met in the past quarter but Cathy Benda, Committee Chair, continues to work on the social-emotional promotional activities: billboards have been up in Baraga and Houghton counties and postcard size advertisements have been printed to promote positive social-emotional interactions between parents and their children. Additionally, Cathy and Katrina Carlson, Early On Coordinator, have been working together to compile information on social-emotional development for our website.