

# **COPPER COUNTRY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

### **Introduction**

Hello, I'm Shelly Smith, the new Director of the Copper Country Great Start Collaborative. I started this position at the beginning of October and so I'm still just getting oriented to the Great Start system and the amazing work that is being done, both by the Collaborative and the Parent Coalition, here in the Copper Country. The former Director, Emilie Krznarich retired effective September 30, 2011. Emilie had been the Director of the Copper Country Great Start Collaborative since its inception about three years ago and she has been instrumental in its growth and success. She will certainly be missed!

During this period of transition I hope to maintain the momentum that exists for current projects and to continue to foster positive working relationships between our community partners and parents as we work toward improving the lives of young children and families in the Copper Country. Over the next several weeks I plan to meet with each of the Collaborative members to introduce myself and to review membership expectations. I'm also looking forward to discussing the importance of early childhood programs at a meeting with our Legislators which is being hosted by the HSCB and is scheduled for early November.

### **Progress Report and Budget**

We just submitted our Year End Report and Budget for fiscal year 2011. The Collaborative has consistently received positive reviews and we are hoping to continue this pattern. The ECIC extended a six month contract for the current fiscal year, meaning that our current scope of work runs from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. ECIC has applied for a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant. Award notification is due by December 31, 2011.

### **Meetings**

I attended an excellent training in Marquette earlier this month that was offered by the Upper Peninsula Association for Infant Mental Health. The topic was "Neurodevelopmental and Neurobehavioral Impact of Traumatic Stress and Prenatal Alcohol Exposure on Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children". The training was presented by two doctors from the Children's Trauma Assessment Center at Western Michigan University.

I also attended meetings for the Superior Child Abuse and Prevention Council and a Regional Director's Meeting hosted by the U.P. Regional Child Care Resource Center. Additionally, there are two upcoming HSCB meetings that I will be attending as well as an ECIC Advocacy and Communications Training in Escanaba on November 8, 2011.

### **Technical Assistance**

As part of ECIC's comprehensive orientation program for new Directors, I have been in contact with Lisa Temple who provides Technical Assistance for our area. She and I are planning to meet in person at some point in the next few weeks as an adjunct to the online training and orientation.