

COPPER COUNTRY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Thursday, February 4, 2010

Technical Assistance

There were numerous opportunities for Technical Assistance during December and January. Thanks to technology we were able to participate in several of the opportunities via videoconference or webinar. This is a cost saving effort by ECIC and is greatly appreciated.

The Early Childhood Challenge was held on December 15th with over 20 sites, including the Copper Country, tuning in via videoconference. Eva Hatfield, our vice chair, and I participated. The Challenge focused on the importance of maintaining support for early childhood with the continuing threat of a budget crisis. On the 16th of December a webinar on ideas for involving the business community was held. Business community involvement is a focus for our Collaborative this year. On January 14th a Smart Start conference call focused on building Collaboratives. Fund development was the focus of a January training sponsored by the Strong Organizations Strong Youth Program. The next day ECIC presented a webinar on creative funding ideas from the Shiawasee Great Start Collaborative – creative ideas for leveraging funding.

Heather is attending a Parent Liaison Conference in Lansing today and tomorrow.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on January 11th with a full agenda including discussion of the Implementation Funding, the agenda for today's meeting, new committees, and Great Start accomplishments.

Health Committee

The Health Committee met on the 4th of December and the 8th of January. Formation of the Dental Health Task Force and social emotional health were foremost on the agenda. We are working on coordinating a U.P. wide public awareness campaign on social emotional milestones with the U.P. Infant Mental Health group and the other Collaboratives. We are waiting to hear from ECIC as they were very excited about the idea and we are hoping that they will develop the materials and we can customize them to meet our needs.

Early Education and Child Care Committee

The Early Education and Child Care Committee met on January 4th and Feb. 1st. We are in the process of organizing training and Implementation of Get It Got It Go

(the precursor to the DIBELS program that is used to improve literacy skills in all of our local elementary schools. We are also working on an area wide parent survey that will be distributed in March and annually thereafter. It will help to inform us about parents' awareness of child development information and early childhood programs and services.

Fund Development Committee

We are in the process of forming a Fund Development Committee and would welcome volunteers to serve on the committee. The task of the committee will be to develop a funding plan by the fall of 2010. The committee will receive fund development training as well.

Agendas and Minutes from all the committees are available on request.

Meeting with Representative Lahti

I met with Representative Lahti on January 7th to thank him for his support of early childhood. I also gave him a copy of our Accomplishments Report for this past year. He complemented the Collaboratives and ECIC on their advocacy efforts during this past year and stated that this is the kind of effort that really makes a difference with legislators.