



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, April 1, 2010

Present were Sharon Arend, Jean Ballone, Cathy Benda, Lynn Gaunt, Dennis Harbour, Joseph Hernandez, Ruth Kellar, Doreen Klingbeil, Cheryl LaRose, Taryn Mack, Dave Olsson, Erin Ross, Heather Store, Louisa Wills and Emilie Krznarich.

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 12:10. Our new parent representative, Joe Hernandez, was welcomed to the group. We also welcomed Erin Ross, the new Child Care Consultant for the Great Start Child Care Regional Resource Center.**
- 2. Lynn Gaunt moved to accept the minutes from the February 4th meeting. The motion was supported by Dave Olsson and the minutes were approved.**
- 3. Emilie gave the Director's Report and the Committee Reports (see attached). We could still use more committee members, especially parents. We could use another parent on the System of Care Committee. Please let Emilie know if you are interested.**
- 5. Heather gave the Parent Liaison Report (see attached).**

Old Business

- 6. We received final approval for our Implementation Funds. We are very pleased to have an additional \$27,200 to help us accomplish some of our goals.**
- 7. The Fund Development Committee has been established and the Fund Development Training has been scheduled for April 22nd in the ISD Board Room from noon to 4p.m. Lunch will be included. We are opening the training up to any members of our collaborative who are interested. I am encouraging interested members to come and help us determine our priorities and options for funding. We will address funding needs and funding opportunities for our Action Agenda Goals as well as other funding issues.**

New Business

- 10. The Wilder Collaborative Factors Inventory has been distributed. Eight have been completed so far. Members should use the link sent in my previous email to fill out the survey and return it as soon as possible. We will review the results at our June meeting.**

- 11. Cathy has sent out a form for the Director's Evaluation. Please fill this out and return to Cathy by April 8th.**
- 12. Emilie shared information about the upcoming Star Power state and local events. We will hold our 2nd annual Bridge Walk and Ice Cream Social. Please encourage everyone to attend. Visit the website cgreatstart.org for more info. Posters are available to distribute. Please email Emilie if you need more. We are hoping to increase our participants to 200.**

We are also looking for interested people, especially parents, to attend the event in Lansing. Expenses will be paid for by the Collaborative. ECIC is hoping to have at least 2010 participants this year and expects each Collaborative to be represented. Please let Emilie know if you are interested in attending the Lansing event. Check out ECIC4kids.org for more information about Star Power. This is really a wonderful opportunity to get our voices heard.

- 13. The Survey of Early Childhood Services and Community Resources is ready for distribution. Blank surveys will be sent to those groups who have previously not filled out a survey.**
- 14. We will be having welcome cards with magnets printed for newcomers to our community with our website highlighted as a place to go for resources for young children and their families. We also hope to include a coupon for Playgroup or the Treehouse. These will be distributed to HR Departments and to realtors to give out.**
- 15. Cathy announced that the Treehouse has opened with resounding success. Stop by to visit and check it out.
Erin informed the group that the trainings for relative care providers and aides are up and running. Visit the greatstart4kids.org website for more info. Portage Library will serve as a resource center for parents and caregivers. They will have resource books, children's books and a few toys. Materials will also be available through inter – library loan at smaller libraries in the area.**
- 16. The next meeting will be held on June 3rd at noon at the ISD.**