

COPPER COUNTRY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thursday, June 3, 2010

Technical Assistance

Heather, Eva and I attended the Great Start State Conference on April 15th and 16th. Presentations were geared to the roles of members who attended. They focused on advocacy, connecting with the community, and building the parent coalition as well as other topics.

Meetings

I have been attending several planning meetings for the Poverty Reduction Initiative. The Initiative is planning to bring nationally know speaker, Donna Beagle, to the U.P. in early September. We are working on the details and will get more information out as soon as it is set.

I attended the Bill Millet presentation in Escanaba sponsored by the Delta Schoolcraft GSC. It was well attended and Mr. Millet gave a very practical presentation that focused on the importance of early childhood programs to economic development.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on May 3rd. The agendas focused on progress on the Action Agenda, the agency survey, the Director evaluation, the Wilder, and Star Power. Also discussed was the importance of coordinating information about possible grant applications from partner agencies to maximize our chances of funding and improve collaboration.

Health Committee

The Health Committee met on May 21st. Jenny Salesa, Health advisor for ECIC met with the group via conference call to discuss possible upcoming grant opportunities with the new health care initiative and other federal programs. Jean Ballone, Brenda Lahti and Emilie met with the Dental Association to inform them of the dental health goals in our action agenda and to get their input on hoe these could be accomplished. They were supportive of the goals, but critical of the lack of Medicaid reimbursement for adult dental care. They offered to bring our concerns to the U.P. dental association meeting at Copper Harbor this month. We will continue to communicate with them. They were also willing to see pregnant women for emergency dental care.

We met with Mary Mackrain this morning to begin to discuss out outreach for social emotional awareness.

Early Education and Child Care Committee

The Early Education and Child Care Committee met on May 10th. We received almost 300 parent surveys. Results will be discussed at the next meeting on June 22nd. We will also focus on the objectives for child care and parenting education for teen and at risk parents.

System of Care Committee

The System of Care Committee met for the first time on May 12th. The focus of this committee is to improved collaboration and coordination among service providers. To help with planning, coordination and collaboration we sent our agency surveys. These surveys were last completed in June 2007. We felt the surveys needed to be updated in light of budget cuts and agency changes to give us a more current idea of the services that exist in our community as well as the gaps and needs. We have received almost all of the surveys back. We still need surveys from the ISD, Aspirus Keweenaw, Dial Help and Life Outreach.

Fund Development Committee

Fund Development Training was held on April 22nd from noon to 4:00 p.m. It was well attended. We began to set funding priorities as well as to identify possible funding sources. Part 2 of the training will be held on June 29th.

Communication Committee

The Communication Committee met on April 19th. The welcome cards and magnets have been completed and will be distributed throughout the community. We will also be doing additional outreach through Gazette ads that focus on issues from our Community Report and how we are working to improve conditions for kids. We would also like to do some stories on families that illustrate each of our focus areas. Let me know if you have some examples that people are willing to share. We have already increased our media exposure over last year, but we still have a lot to accomplish.

Baraga County Task Force

The Baraga County Task Force has met twice and is in the process of prioritizing our action agenda goals to focus on the unique needs of Baraga County.

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

