

A Great Start for Every Child in Livingston County: Safe, Healthy and Eager to Succeed in School and in Life.



Great Start Livingston – Collaborative Meeting
May 25, 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT: Elaine Brown, Jaclyn Cronin, Candice Davies, Jean Garratt, Donna Gehringer, Joy Greer, Lynda Herbert, Jeri Lea Kroll, Holly Ward Lamb, Jennifer Lange, Pam Leach, Polly Mallory, Amy Mason, Scott Menzel, Patti Nowak, Ann O'Reilly, Kris Resseguie, Lynda Roberts, Robin Schutz, Melissa Sell, Elizabeth Stahl, Kathy Virden

1. **Early On Grant** – *Kris Resseguie*

- a. We've been approved for \$158,077.
- b. Forms need to be signed by the end of June. Waiting for them to come in.
 - Motion to approve by Elaine Brown. All were in favor. Motion approved.

2. **Project Impact** – *Kris Resseguie*

- a. Improving Parents as Communications Teachers
- b. Kris discussed this parent training program. LESA worked with MSU's psychology department to present and teach intervention strategies to teachers, ancillary staff, Early On Staff and parents when working with children with autism from ages 2-5 years old.
- c. This took place during 2010-11 school year. The program was considered successful in helping children gain social communications, teaching parents new interventions, and parents reporting decreased levels of stress. The program will continue with the 2011-12 school year.

2. **Great Start Readiness Grant** – *Jean Garratt/Candice Davies*

- a. We have been approval for 18 full-time slots for the competitive grant which was approved at the April Steering Committee. The total amount is \$122,400.
- b. Motion to support the grant by Elizabeth Stahl. All were in favor. Motion approved.

3. **Legislative Breakfast** – *Robin Schutz*

- a. June 6th 8-11:30 a.m. This is an early childhood tour to educate legislatures about services provided to families with young children in Livingston County. Continental breakfast will be served before departing on the bus tour at 8:15.
- b. Sites we will be visiting: Heart of the Shepherd Preschool, Department of Public Health WIC Program and Early On Playgroup.
- c. Once back at LESA, legislators will listen to Parent Coalition and Great start partners speak about various areas of the Great Start system.
 - Jaclyn Cronin – Parent Coalition
 - Jennifer Lange – Parent Education
 - Jean Garratt – Kindergarten Readiness
 - Donna Gehringer – Education and Work Readiness Connection
 - TBD – Productive Work Force

5. **Champion for Children Award Recipient** – *Holly Ward Lamb*
 - a. Congratulations to Jean Garratt who was honored as the recipient this year! The Great Start Collaborative and Child Abuse Prevention Council of Livingston County presented the 2011 Champion for Children Award at The Power of One Celebration held April 29 at Cleary University's Johnson Center. The annual award recognizes people who strive to make a difference in the lives of Livingston County children.

6. **Review of Great Start Evaluation** – *Robin Schutz/Jennifer Lange*
 - a. During last summer, some of you participated in a Great Start survey. Robin attended a meeting last month in Lansing for the review. ECIC hired MSU to complete the analysis. The detailed survey was meant to assess the impact of the Great Start initiatives in every county in Michigan on local and state levels. Details for Livingston County were reviewed with the Collaborative.
 - 33 of 41 surveys were returned for a response rate of 80%.
 - The good news is our county has a history of working together for the benefit of early education, our partner organizations have a commitment to Great Start providing active involvement, most of our stakeholders are ready for change, and our Collaborative and Parent Coalition partner well with each other.
 - We do have some work to do as we continue to build capacity, improve networks and community context, and work to improve services for our families.
 - We need to have more benefits of participation. Not just benefits to Great Start Livingston, but for partners in the community.
 - Continue to build our parent leadership and voice.
 - b. ECIC would like to complete this survey again in the summer of 2012.

7. **Posting of Staff Position** – *Robin Schutz*
 - a. Candice Davies – Director of Head Start & Great Start Readiness Programs.
 - b. Robin Schutz – Great Start Livingston Coordinator
 - c. New Contract Position Posting – Because of taking on GPGS in June, Robin's position as GSL Coordinator will be at .75, which opens up .25 as a contracted position. This position will be responsible for Goal 3 of the Great Start Work Plan which, in addition to other responsibilities, needs to provide evidence that the GSL membership reflects the demographic diversity of the county. Robin and Jean are working on a job posting.

8. **Steering Committee Update** – *Holly Ward Lamb*
 - a. Working on a communications flowchart.
 - b. Need to review action agendas of each committee. Need to streamline much of the work being done within the committees. Much has changed since the original action agendas were created. We are bringing in a facilitator to help with this planning meeting.
 - c. Meeting on June 20, 8 - 12 noon in the Spartan Room.

9. **Meeting Schedule** – *Holly Ward Lamb*
 - a. After the summer, we may need to move to meeting monthly rather than every other month, at least occasionally. Sometimes, with meeting every two months, there are too many things that occur that need to be addressed.

10. **Parent Coalition** – *Jennifer Lange*
 - a. Diaper Drive - Collected over 10,000 diapers from various locations at local businesses, churches and schools! Thanks to Gleaners for the bins, storage and distribution of diapers and Kiwanis of Howell for dropping off empty bins and picking up full bins. We made some great new connections and already asked for feedback from individuals about what we can do differently next year.
 - b. Star Power – About 20 people from Livingston County attended the Rally in Lansing on May 19. We were able to meet with Senator Joe Hune, Representative Cindy Denby and Representative Bill Rogers. All the legislators seemed receptive to our message, engaging in conversation and answering many questions. We were also excited to have new parents attend and ride the bus with us.

11. Great Start Membership

- a. We had discussion on how we can get new parents to join the Collaborative.
- b. Ideas to bring in speaker or author that parents would want to hear.
- c. Discussion about the time it takes to get parents involved: getting them to take the first step to get to a Parent Coalition meeting, then building the relationships and being able to have them commit and possibly get them involved in the Collaborative. For many, it is intimidating to come to a Collaborative meeting. Why not go to them to get their voice? At the pregnancy help clinic, their home, Internet Café, etc.
- d. Do we need to look at a different meeting day and/or time to get more participation? For example, the state representatives could meet on Monday or Friday, but not during the week because they are in session.

12. Other

- a. Call for Workshop Proposals - Community Sharing for Healthy Caring: Regional Early Childhood Conference – November 12, 2011 at Howell HS. Presented by Child Connect for Family Success. They need workshops for this conference. Please sign up by June 3rd! <http://childcare4c.com/workshopform.php>
- b. ABC's of Early Literacy & What Children Need to Know to Start Kindergarten– Carrie Shrier of MSU Extension can offer these classes to community agencies as a 2-hour session, ½ hour session, or a one-page handout for a booth. There are also print resources available, as well as story stretchers for common children's books for children infancy – age 5 and a limited supply of free children's books. She will be doing both educational sessions as a professional in-service at the Howell Library on July 29th from 10am – 3pm. For more information, contact Carrie at shrier@msu.edu or at (517)552-6904.
- c. Cooking & Nutrition Class - \$250 value! Free for parents of Head Start and/or lower income families. You do *not* have to show proof of income. Focus is on healthy cooking on a budget. This class is sponsored by Gleaners and Cooking Matters on Wednesday's June 15 - July 20, 10am - 12pm at LESA. This class is also free for GSL Parent Coalition Members. To sign up for class contact Jamie Gendron 517-540-6827
- d. CAP Fair – June 4th Pinckney Art in the Park
- e. New Dad's Babysitter Boot Camp – June 14th 7 – 8:30. Sponsored by Pregnancy Helpline. For any new dad or expectant dad.

Next Meeting: July 27, 2011 in the Spartan Room