

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 November 16, 2011

Attendees: Elaine Brown, Jane Clark, Laura Coatsworth, Gina Coopersmith, Candice Davies, Jean Garratt, Linda Herbert, Courtni Holst, Pam Leach, Polly Mallory, Amy Mason, Ann O'Reilly, Joyce Powers, Rhonda Relitz, Robin Schutz, Carla Sharp, Sarah Smith, Elizabeth Stahl, Kathy Virden, Cheryl Wickham

MINUTES

1. **Barnes & Noble Event Update 11/15**
 - Holiday Book Drive to help LESA Early Childhood Programs.
 - Representative Bill Rogers & Representative Cindy Denby were there reading stories.
 - Purchases through 11/20 - Items can be purchased at Green Oak Barnes & Noble through November 20 to support LESA Early Childhood Programs. Make sure to tell the cashier you would like your purchase to benefit LESA Early Childhood Programs.
2. **New Co-Chair**
 - Amy Mason has been unanimously elected as the new GSL Collaborative Co-Chair for the 2012 term. Congratulations Amy!
 - 55 invitations were delivered to Collaborative Members via e-mail.
 - 73% of the e-mails delivered were read by the recipient.
 - 31 people completed their ballots for a response rate of 56%.
 - 100% of the casted ballots were for Amy Mason.
3. **Great Start Information (Gina)**
 - Gina asked questions at the meeting to involve members in better understanding Great Start. Volunteers received fun prizes for answering questions.
 - a. Name the 5 points of the Great Start Star? Social & Emotional Health, Pediatric & Family Health, Childcare & Early Education, Parent Leadership, Family Support.
 - b. What is our vision statement? A Great Start for Every Child in Livingston County: Safe, Healthy, and Eager to Succeed in School & in Life.
 - c. Name 3 organizational components of Great Start Livingston? Collaborative, Parent Coalition, and Sub-Committees
 - Gina will have more fun questions at the next Collaborative meeting!
4. **Work Plan Update (Robin)**
 - Contract is October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.
 - Still have not received confirmation that the Work Plan has been approved. Looking at the partner piece between the Collaborative and Parent Coalition.
 - In-Kind Funding – Working to keep this updated. Includes volunteer time, meeting space, donated items/materials, etc. Make sure to note any In-Kind donations you have given on the Collaborative Sign-In sheet each meeting.
 - a. Volunteer Time – If members are not being paid while at a GSC meeting by their organization, the value of their time can be counted as 'In-Kind'.
6. **GPGS Funding (Great Parents Great Start) (Robin)**
 - Grant was completed and submitted. This funding supports parent education and home visiting.
 - 3 members from GSL (1 from Collaborative, 1 from the Parent Coalition, & 1 from the GSC & GSPC) reviewed 3 proposals and recommended the following 2 for funding in Livingston County:
 1. LESA/Head Start – Home Visiting Project: \$ 42,028
 2. Family Resource Center – Healthy Families \$ 32,000
 - Jean Garratt made a motion to approve this grant. Joyce Powers seconded the motion. All approved. No one disapproved.

7. **Parent Recruitment** (*Gina*)

- Collaborative Parent Representatives – Gina discussed the need for more parents to be involved in our Collaborative. We need to have at least 20% of our Collaborative membership to be parents.
- Partner Agencies – Please look within your own agency or department for parents who are involved, currently receiving services, and/or who have received services in the past. Looking for someone who would be an asset and bring the needed parent voice to the Collaborative Meetings.
- Our parents receive an honorarium for attending meetings for child care costs.
- Let Robin or Gina know if you have a parent who may be interested & they will contact them.
 - i. Robin Schutz 517-540-6829 robinschutz@livingstonESA.org
 - ii. Gina Coopersmith 517-214-7272 ginacoopersmith@livingstonESA.org

8. **Communications Plan Update** (*Gina*)

- This is completed & an updated copy will be put on the website and emailed to members.
- This document is a great tool to utilize in explaining Great Start to various audiences.
- We will review this again in six months.

9. **Newsletter Schedule** (*Gina*)

- Quarterly publication. December 1, March 1, June 1, September 1
- December 2011 Issue – Currently working on this issue.
- If you have any changes, highlights, or discussions in your department or agency which will be occurring in December or Jan/Feb 2012 that you would like included in this newsletter, please send to Gina at ginacoopersmith@livingstonESA.org by 11/23.

10. **Parent Coalition** (*Laura Coatsworth & Sarah Smith*)

- Parent Coalition Flyers – Flyers (rather than brochures) will now be used as a recruitment tool. Changes were approved at the Steering Committee Meeting.
- Friday Folders - Brighton Schools has approved putting these flyers in the Kindergarten classes Friday folders. We will start with one or two schools and see what kind of feedback we receive before we start at more schools.
- Parent Café - We will have an impromptu Parent Café at the 11/17 Parent Coalition Meeting.
 - i. Parent Café –Gather parents in the community and by utilizing the Parent Café card game ask questions about parenting which gets the parents talking, sharing stories, getting involved. Goal is to provide places throughout the community to gain input from parents and provide education.
- Working on scheduling out our meeting topics for 2012.
 - i. December – Parent Café
 - ii. January 2012 – Kindermusic Speaker
 - iii. February 2012- Carrie Shrier – “Requirement for Kindergarten from a Social/Emotional Perspective”
 - iv. March 2012 – Anne Richardson “Importance of Family Advocacy”
- Suggestions for future speakers for Parent Coalition Meetings – Contact Laura Coatsworth at lauracoatsworth@livingstonESA.org or Sarah Smith at sarahsmith@livingstonESA.org

11. **Partner Highlights/Sharing**

- **Community Sharing for Healthy Caring Conference 11/12 (Linda Herbert)** – 1400 attendees representing 58 MI counties. Kimberly Johnson, keynote speaker, did a fantastic job!
- **Early Childhood & Community Partners Professionals Committee** – Jean Garratt handed out the K Observation preliminary results. 858 kindergarten students (47% of county kids) were surveyed. Lowest scoring items were: ‘Staying focused’ and ‘Controlling impulses’. Looking to get information summarized by district. (Howell did not participate.)
- **Pregnancy Helpline** – Have 10 dads willing to mentor. Participants receive Baby Bucks for participating in this one-to-one mentoring program. Dads currently receiving mentoring are 16-32 years old. Contact the Pregnancy Helpline for more information at 866-611-8897.
- **Preschool Importance** – Joyce Powers passed around an article titled “The Death of Preschool”. It was an informative article describing the trend in early education moving from play-based curriculum to a more school-like environment of directed learning. Discussion again about the importance of social and emotional readiness versus just academics.
- **Post Partum Support Group** – Meetings are the first Wed. every month from 10-11:30am at First United Methodist Church in Brighton. Struggling to get mothers to a meeting as they often don’t want to leave their home. We encourage moms to bring their support person. Please share the attached flyer with your clients and/or partners.
- **St. Mary’s (Pinckney) Christmas Assistance for Special Needs Children** – They will provide toys or clothes. Contact Rhonda Relitz for an application or more information. rhondarelitz@yahoo.com

12. **Collaborative Schedule**

- **January 25, 2012** - K Observation Survey (Jean Garratt & Candice Davies)
- **March 28, 2012** – QRIS (Linda Herbert)
- **May 23, 2012** – Great Parents Great Start/Home Visiting, Family Support (Candice Davies)
- **July 25** –
- **September 26** -
- **November 21** -

13. **Upcoming Schedule**

- November 17 – Parent Coalition Meeting
- January 28, 2012 – Community Connect @ Parker Middle School
- March 20-22, 2012 – ECIC Great Start Conference, Grand Traverse Resort
- May 16, 2012 – Star Power Day

Next Meeting: January 25, 2012 in the Innovation Room