

# 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 September 28, 2011

### Minutes

#### 1. **Introductions**

- New Superintendent – Dave Campbell – From Olivet.
  - a. High school principal and superintendent for 11 years.
  - b. Supports the development of the whole child, not just the academic.
- New GSL Staff
  - a. Gina Coopersmith – Co-Coordinator
  - b. Sarah Smith – Parent Liaison
  - c. Laura Coatsworth – Parent Liaison
- New Parent Representative – Rhonda Relitz

#### 2. **Change in Role**

- Jennifer Lange – New Mental Health Coordinator, Head Start

#### 3. **New Chair Positions**

- Holly Ward Lamb – Past Chair
- Courtni Holst – Current Chair
- Nominations Needed for Co-Chair – Send any to Robin at [robinschutz@livingstonesa.org](mailto:robinschutz@livingstonesa.org)

#### 6. **Work Plan / Contract Period October 2011 – March 2012** – *Robin Schutz*

(Excerpts from Work Plan)

- **Goal 1-** Need to provide evidence of and progress toward at least 2 measurable goals.
  - a. #1 – Develop common Kindergarten enrollment form to be used county wide which includes preschool experience. A transition form will be presented to child care/preschool directors for adoption. This form will help with K placement.
  - b. # 2 – Implementation of K Readiness Survey of Kindergarten students, completed by Kindergarten teachers in Fall 2011 in 4 of 5 school districts. This survey will be used to monitor K Readiness in the county every year.
  - c. Increase cash & In-kind donations. – Discussed the importance of reporting our in-kind donations to ECIC. (i.e. meeting space, supplies, advertising, etc.)
- **Goal 2** – Building an informed public.
  - a. Robin needs to meet with current State Representatives and Senators by 12/31/11.
  - b. Earned media credits. (articles, press releases, Op Ed's, Etc.)
  - c. Identify 2 businesses and/or community leaders who will support Great Start and early childhood investment by signing an Opinion Editorial in the Press & Argus, speak with legislators, or speak on local radio station (WHMI).
    - 1. Livingston Promise Member
    - 2. Robin will ask Mike Hall from Cobb-Hall Insurance.
    - 3. If you have any other suggestions of business or community leaders, please email Robin at [robinschutz@livingstonesa.org](mailto:robinschutz@livingstonesa.org).
- **Goal 3** – Membership
  - a. Minimum of 20% should be parents of children ages 0-12.
  - b. Diversity – GSC should reflect the demographic diversity of Livingston County.
  - c. Leadership – New members serve in leadership roles in GSC, GSPC, or subcommittees.
  - d. Input – Need input from parents in diverse sections.
- **Parent Coalition**
  - a. Core Members - Need to have at least 15 core members who help the Parent Liaison and GS Coordinator support the GSPC to achieve its four core purposes.

- **Effective Partnerships**
    - a. Between the GSC & GSPC.
    - b. Between the GSC/GSPC and the Regional Resource Center.
    - c. Examples: Kindergarten enrollment form, update 211 card with parent input, Parent Leadership Academy starts in October on Thursday evenings.
7. **Child Connect for Family Success/ECIC Quality Enhancement Update – Linda Herbert**
- October 1 - New quality program (High Scope Assessment tool) will go into effect.
  - ‘Race To The Top Federal Grant’ – There will be no pilot program with this new assessment tool as ECIC must have the new quality program in place to apply for this federal grant.
  - Training
    - a. ECIC has mandated we charge for all trainings.
    - b. Training hours for centers has increased from 12 to 16 hours.
    - c. Workforce Advisory Committee - Working on which conferences/trainings will be accepted for credits.
    - d. Licensing consultants will be at the next Child Care Directors Meeting in October.
  - Ideas to help Linda/RRC – Forums for Directors; Help paying for some curriculum.
8. **Steering Strategic Planning Session Update – Holly Ward-Lamb/Robin Schutz**
- Committee Structure
    - a. Planning Meetings – Met in June with Facilitator Susan McGraw and again in September.
    - b. Target Populations – Decided to restructure the committees based on target populations. The new committees will be:
      1. Health Care Professionals
      2. Parents & Families
      3. Early Childhood & Community Professionals
      4. Parent Leadership (will remain the same)
    - c. The Social & Emotional Committee/Action Agenda will be within each of the above committees.
    - d. We will still have similar action agendas and targets.
    - e. There may be times when there will be Ad Hoc committees. (i.e. - Getting the ASQ on-line)
9. **Review & Update of Operating Guidelines and By-Laws for November Approval**
- Linda Herbert & Holly Ward-Lamb have volunteered to review & update
10. **Parent Coalition**
- Parent Café – Provide places around the county to gain input from parents and to provide education. The idea is from Strengthening Families.
    - a. Locations - Ideas to hold Café’s at the Pregnancy Helpline, Library, coffee shops and Family Resource Center.
    - b. Card Game - Purchased Parent Café card game to help facilitate conversation.
    - c. Susan and Laura will visit the successful café’s in Oakland County to see how they are run.
  - If you have parents or parent groups in your organization, let Laura or Sarah know.
  - Parent Honorarium - To reduce barriers, if a parent attends a Collaborative or sub-committee meeting they receive an honorarium.
11. **Other**
- Home Visiting Program/Family Resource Center – Polly Mallory reported this program, which used to be thriving, is now in danger. Many grants are expiring or are due to expire at the end of the year and because of financing/ budgets issues many organizations are facing, the grants are either not being renewed or are significantly less. Because of this, the referrals are increasing and there is no funding right now for prenatal.
  - Post Partum Support Group – The group has now met twice. Have not had any attendees, but have received a call from a woman referred from the Family Resource Center. Meetings are the first Wednesday every month, 10-11:30am at the First United Methodist Church in Brighton. If you know anyone who needs support, you can contact Gina Coopersmith (517-214-7272) or Jeri Lea Kroll 810-623-5737. See attached flyer.
  - Head Start MSU Science Research Program – The LESA Head Start program has been selected as a part of a new research effort to increase participation in science to low-income children. MSU is leading this program under a grant titled ‘Head Start on Science’. It’s designed to get educators more comfortable teaching science to kids ages 3-5, which researchers say is important for low income and minority children who often start with less preparation for science learning than more affluent children. The program will be 2 years long and 9 classrooms will be involved. Implementation will begin in November.

**Next Meeting: November 16, 2011 in the Innovation Room**