

Members Present:

- Mary Cunningham-DeLuca, Community Action Agency
- Sheri Butters, Great Start Collaborative Director
- Shanise A. Davenport, Great Start Administrative Assistant
- Jeanette Lamphere, Parent Liaison
- Alice Walker, Parent
- Gino Balcita, Parent
- Sharmaine Balcita, Parent
- Ann Thompson, Parent
- Kathy Hoszkiw, ABC Academy
- Bethany Timmons, United Way
- Irene LeCrone, United Way
- Mike Shore, Consumers Energy
- Mike Kanser, Consumers Energy
- Sara Benedetto, Center for Family Health
- Brenda Davis, Jackson County Intermediate School District
- Robert Allen, A New Horizon Child Care and Family Development
- Kellie Schiller, LifeWays
- Chlorita Conner, Lily Missions Center
- Gretchen Dula, Jackson District Library
- Sara Tackett, Jackson District Library
- Jan Seitz, MSU Extension
- Jan Maino, Jackson Community Foundation
- Paige Girard, Allegiance Health
- Robert M., Intern with United Way
- Renee Marks, Jackson County Health Department/Early On

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Comment: Don't know last name

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

Mary Cunningham-DelUCA welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves to the group.

Mary Cunningham-DelUCA made a motion to approve November 2008 and December 2008 minutes. Mike Shore made a motion and Gino Balcita second the motion. All members were in favor, the motion was carried, and there was no discussion.

2. Parent Coalition Update- Jeanette Lamphere, Great Start Parent Liaison

Monthly meetings will be held at Jackson District Library branches in conjunction with their preschool story times. January's meeting will be held at the Concord Library and story hour will be sponsored by the coalition. The coalition will visit seven of the district libraries to raise awareness about Great Start and Imagination Library. The group is planning a parent appreciation dinner for late February 2009 from approximately 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca suggested a speaker from JPS for the event.

3. United Way Education Community Solutions Team Report- Bethany Timmons

Based on recommendations from the Community Solutions Team Coordinating Council, The United Way Board approved transition funding plan. The funding cycle ends in June of 2009. There will be some cuts in funding due to the current state of the economy. There needs to be more time to fit things together. Irene LeCrone shared that more focus will be placed on basic needs during this interim period. Mary shared that the recommended early childhood target issues have been revised to reflect more substance. More time can be allotted to spend time on continuing to redefine the target issues. The question was posed about how parent education fit into quality education. Members were encouraged to provide feedback to Mary via email.

4. Subcommittee Reports/Discussion

Ready to Learn

Professional Development: Jackson County ISD is offering professional development opportunities to child care providers. For more information visit their website at www.jcisd.org.

Foundation for Learning

Every school district will receive their data, get a copy of the county wide results, and none of the district data will be compared. Some preschools did not provide their student information because parents did not give consent, thus the data does not reflect children who had a preschool experience. Discussion was raised to add math next year. There is a great range in the scores across the five categories. These results show that there is a broad spectrum of skill levels in the classrooms.

Jackson County ISD is housing the results and Great Start will distribute results to the preschool providers.

During kindergarten round-up parents will be asked if their child has had a preschool experience. This will assist in making sure we have accurate information to look at preschool/non preschool data.

Children can now be tracked to determine the impact that a preschool experience had on their education.

The data should be used as a tool to assist preschools providers with determining what type of professional development is needed for their staff to ensure that children are ready to enter school. Jackson County ISD will help participants to interpret the data if needed. Once school districts and preschools have the data it is up to them to utilize it.

Brenda Davis explained the best indicators on PALS to determine if children will be ready for kindergarten is individual sound and individual rhyme. In addition, these two categories indicate if children will be successful in high school and college. She explained PALS is a tool to help identify children who may be at risk in the beginning of the school year and this will assist the teacher to focus on the child's weaknesses. By the fall the child's individual rhyme score should be 5 or higher.

Next year the goal is to obtain this information to analyze how the preschool experience benefits children's education. Members were given clarification on what point and spelling entailed. Pointing was defined as the child being able to read from left to right. Spelling was defined as the child having the ability to hear sounds. Irene LeCrone inquired about tracking the progress of the children of Imagination Library. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca suggested asking the daycare if books are readily available in the home. Mike Kanser shared that the goal is to get a baseline. After further discussion it was decided that next year a box will be added to the consent form inquiring about Imagination Library status. There was no objection by members about the direction the committee.

Child Care Quality Rating System Discussion: Mary Cunningham-DeLuca shared that this strategy of the Ready to Learn committee continues to be on hold. There is not a clear plan, or funding available at the state level to move this forward. She also mentioned that moving more providers to NAEYC accreditation may be the best course of action. Possibly there could be support through United Way to assist with the cost? More discussion will take place at the committee level with further report at the next GSC meeting.

Scholarship Program Update-Sheri Butters

Sheri shared a brief summary of the families currently being supported with the Child Care Scholarship Program. A human interest story may be featured on the website or in the paper of participating families. Legacy students have not returned their paper work to Child Care Network. Only two scholarships spots need to be filled. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca shared that it is important we try to target Legacy students for these remaining two scholarships.

The report showed that Jackson Community College is doing a great job getting the information to their students. Sheri Butters will contact Baker College and Spring Arbor University to make sure the information is shared with their students. The issue was raised that some applicants may find the narrative piece overwhelming. It was suggested to ask the applicants to "share their story" as opposed to asking for "a one page narrative".

The members want to be update about the status of scholarships at every meeting. There is currently an 18 month old, 8 year old, and 2 year old who are recipients of the scholarship. For more information please see the Child Care Scholarship Program Status and Demographics Report.

Value-Mike Kanser

Fundraising/Program Budget: The annual cost with current number of children enrolled in Imagination Library is \$70,000 a year. \$46,000 of this funding comes from Consumer's Energy. There needs to be an increase in the funding to ensure Consumer's Energy will continue to invest in the program. In two years the goal is to have 2/3 of the children in Jackson County registered. To keep up with the increasing cost to run the program there needs to be a yearly increase in funding by 25 percent of the monthly budget. The group needs to look at the overall cost for a child from age zero to five. Alice Walker suggested the group do a pancake breakfast to raise funds for Imagination Library.

Imagination Library Program Report-Sheri Butters

Kiwanis will make announcement on funding in February. If awarded the Kiwanis funding would be up to \$60,000 over the next five years. Mike Shore shared that the inability to use the Kiwanis name on the program could be a sticking point. If Kiwanis funding is received their name will be posted on the Great Start website, press releases, and brochures, etc. Funding has been requested from the Junior Welfare League, Knight and Sigmund, and Jan Maino will follow-up on the \$4,000 donation from the Hearst Foundation.

There has been a peak in the growth chart. Members were asked to utilize all their resources to increase funding opportunities. All members were thanked for their donation to program. There will be an increase from \$28.00 a year to sponsor a child to \$30.00 a year to account for rising postal expenses..

Executive Committee

Budget Report: There was not enough time to prepare a revised budget report due to holiday break, and short staff. The top part of the budget will remain the same because this is the way Community Action Agency has to report it to ECIC. Sheri will continue to work with the finance staff at CAA to revise the budget report and provide to members by email prior to the next meeting. If anyone has additional suggestions or comments regarding the budget report they can email Sheri.

Meeting day/time: It was suggested to move the meetings downtown, The United Way conference room, or LifeWays. Changing the location was not a good option for members as it created concerns for parents requiring child care. Third Tuesday would conflict with Domestic Council meetings. Wednesday was not a good option. Thursdays at noon will work for Judge Susan Beebe. It was suggested to have meetings on the 3rd Thursday the opposite month of Full Circle meetings. Child care will be needed for parents to attend the meetings. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca proposed having the meeting on the 2nd Thursday from 12:00 pm- 1:30 pm. (March 12, 2009) Meetings will be held every other month on the second Thursday. Sheri Butters will e-mail the reminder of meeting schedule to members. *****Please note that since our meeting we have had to make changes to this original schedule. We are now meeting on the 4th Tuesday every other month. First meeting will be held on March 24th.***

5. Upcoming Events-Sheri Butters

Great Start Parent Liaison Institute Event 1/29/2009-1/30/ 2009, Jeanette and two parents will be attending.
Protective Factors Video Conference-2/5/2009(Eaton County is the closest location)
Pediatric Medical Home Summit 2/13/09 (Lansing Center)
Star Power Rally 5/21/09 (Steps of the Capital in Lansing, Michigan, 9:30 am -3:30 pm)
Sheri will email more information out as it is available.

6. Open Discussion:

ECIC report: Marissa shared that the Children of Color findings can be found on their website. What can be learned from this data to add to our collaborative efforts to ensure we represent our diverse community?

Meeting adjourned

Action Items:

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Meeting Minutes

1-8-09

9 am-10:30am, 154 W. Clark St., Rm.8

Members can e-mail Sheri Butters or Mary Cunningham-Deluca with any suggestions or comments about target issue recommendations for United Way Education Community Solutions Team.

More follow-up is needed on information for NAEYC.

More follow-up is needed on the mean score for the county PALS data.

Sheri Butters will contact Spring Arbor University to find contact information for their adult education program.

Sheri Butters will e-mail the reminder of meeting schedule to members.