

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
Executive Committee Meeting  
March 10, 2009  
Noon – 1:30pm, McHugh Parent Room

**Members Present:**

- Bethany Timmons, United Way
- Marissa Zamudio, ECIC
- Pam Smith, Washtenaw Regional 4C/Child Care Network
- Mary Cunningham-Deluca, Community Action Agency
- Jessica Embury, Parent
- Jeanette Lamphere, Parent Liaison
- Ann Thompson, Parent
- Gino Balcita, Parent
- Sheri Butters, GSC Director

**Agenda Items:**

**United Way Education Community Solutions Team Update – Sheri Butters, Bethany Timmons**

Education CST is still in development phase. Looking at the County's strategic plan to possibly help guide the target issues. Planning must be complete by January as the RFP is planned to be out by then. Next Education CST meeting is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Subcommittee Reports**

- **Ready to Learn**
  - **Budget Update:** The potential loss of GPGS funding will affect many agencies/programs in the community. Stimulus \$\$'s coming quickly, we must be prepared to take advantage of any opportunities. May be opportunities with Title I funds.
  - **Grant Opportunities:** Two potential sources of funds for early childhood are Early Reading First and Even Start. Both are grant opportunities that must go through an identified school district. JPS is likely to submit a proposal.
  - **Joint Recruitment and Enrollment:** RTL will be working with the 4 yr old advisory committee on joint recruitment and enrollment per new legislation requirements. Sheri, Kathy and Mary attended a joint recruitment and enrollment forum hosted by the Michigan Head Start Association and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that a plan for joint recruitment and enrollment for preschool will begin to be put in place by May 2009.
  - **School readiness assessment:** Will take place in September, two weeks earlier this year. Going into year two we are better prepared and a plan is in place for training.
  - **Parent Education:** Slow progress in identifying available parent education opportunities. Working with staff at Family Service & Children's Aid to do inventory. Due to staffing changes at FSCA progress has almost come to a halt. RTL should consider taking the lead to move this effort forward.
- **Value**
  - **Fundraising:**
    - Received \$5,000 Youth Advisory Committee Grant through the Jackson Community Foundation for Imagination Library. Discussion took place regarding whether these funds could be used for operational or if they were required to be put in the endowment. Decision was made to wait for response from Jan Maino at Jackson Community Foundation before moving forward.
    - Have received confirmation from Consumers Energy for FY 09-10 funding. \$30,000 will be awarded for Imagination Library with an additional \$30,000 in matching funds available. Consumers Energy will match any contributions up to \$30,000. They will renew their commitment to the Child Care Scholarship program with a \$60,000 award.

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This amount provides 10 families with up to \$5,000 in child care payment assistance while working and going to school as well as \$10,000 in training and administration dollars. Formal announcement will be made on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Consumers will begin matching donations on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Short business case, corporate donor form, and individual donor card have been printed and will be used in future fundraising efforts. Suggestion was made to remove lower donation amounts from the corporate donor form. These will be removed to reflect a starting donation of \$500 with an option of “other” available.
- Discussion took place regarding the challenge of securing funding in this economy.
- Suggestion was made to reach out to Allegiance Auxiliary to assist with registration of newborns at Allegiance. The Prenatal Task Force (Kara Beer) was also mentioned as a potential partner for outreach.
- **Legislative Event: April 17, 2009 held in Gym at Lincoln**—Head Start/CAA will be painting the gym and doing the floors prior to the event. Invitations will go out the week of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Event will focus on recognition of donors and past year’s successes and issue a challenge to those in attendance. Value committee will be facilitating/planning event. Follow up fundraising calls are planned with individual businesses/individuals based on outcome of event.
- **Child Care Scholarships:** Pam provided an update on two of the families who are receiving assistance to pay for child care through the program. Basic demographics for all 10 families were provided. 19 children are benefitting from the program. A family story will potentially be featured in a handout for the Legislative event on 4-17-09.
- **Communications Plan:** ECIC requires that a communications plan be in place and on file with them. Sheri will be working through the Value Committee to develop a working plan and will submit to the executive committee for review and approval when complete.
- **Review of Memorandum of Understanding**
  - Sheri presented a draft of the Great Start MOU for review/approval. With the exception of a typo and the addition of two names to the document the Executive Committee had no discussion. MOU will be revised to reflect discussion and emailed out to everyone for review. Final approval will be sought at the GSC meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Document will be signed and provided to ECIC per contract requirements.
- **Open Discussion:**
  - **Resignation:** Mike Shore has resigned his membership with the GSC and Executive Committee. Members were provided with a copy of his email detailing his resignation. Discussion took place regarding filling the vacant position on the Executive Committee as well as securing an MC for the event on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Members were in agreement that Bill Rayl should be approached. Mike K. agreed to talk with Bill.
  - **Parent Coalition:** Jeanette gave a brief summary of the parent event held on March 6<sup>th</sup>. While small numbers were in attendance it was a very successful event. JTV was in attendance to cover the event. A thank you was extended to those who helped by making donations for door prizes. Jeanette also shared that due to reorganization of the parent coalition they are not prepared to hold their elections for new GSC members until further notice. Elections were originally slated for March.

Meeting Adjourned