

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Meeting Minutes
3-13-08
9-11am, 154 W. Clark St.

Members Present:

- Lisa Warren, Parent Liaison
- Alice Walker, Parent
- Kathy Hoszkiw, ABC Academy
- Bethany Timmons, United Way
- Mike Kanser, Consumers Energy
- Mary Cunningham-DeLuca, CAA
- Sara Benedetto, Center for Family Health
- Mike Shore, Community Member
- Gloria Smith, Jackson County Intermediate School District
- Diana Rickman, Child Care Network
- Ginelle Skinner, ABC Academy
- Gino Balcita, Parent
- Ann Thompson, Parent
- Tanda Reynolds, Department of Human Services
- Kellie Schiller, Lifeways
- Nancy Tuckey, Jackson Public Schools
- Bill Rayl, Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
- Jessica Embury, Parent
- Renee Marks, Jackson County Health Department

Agenda Items:

Parent Coalition Report—Lisa Warren

Lisa Warren shared that no meeting was held in February due to illness and conflicts with rescheduling.

Lisa also tendered her resignation, effective March 31, 2008 due to a transfer of her husband's employment. Sheri Butters stated that a replacement will be needed ASAP and that assistance with recruitment and interviews would be appreciated. Members who know of a potential candidate should refer them to Sheri. Members requested a copy of the job description by email. Sheri will email.

ECIC Corporate Board Report—Bill Rayl

Bill Rayl shared that no meeting has been held since the last report. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca asked Bill to give a brief description of what the board does; Bill gave a brief summary stating that mainly the Corporate Board provides oversight to the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.

Subcommittee Reports

Legislative Breakfast—Mike Kanser

Mike shared that planning for the Legislative Breakfast on April 25th from 7:30-9am is underway. State and Federal legislators will be the focus for the panel discussion. Local city and county officials will be invited guests. Questions for the legislators pertaining to early childhood are being put together. An update on the work of Great Start and early childhood research will be shared with the Legislators. Bill Rayl and Mike Kanser will work together on the guest list for the day. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca shared that Mike Kanser, Mike Shore and Bill Rayl will be taking the lead for this event. Focus more on business involvement. Guests will also include educators and non-profits. We are looking to have 80-100 people in attendance.

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Strengthening Families United Update—Bethany Timmons

Bethany gave an update on this grant opportunity. She stated that although it originally looked feasible, further conversations with SFU folks have shifted the focus more on internal United Way strategies and would require a paid staff person on their behalf, which is not feasible at this time. Consensus was reached to not pursue this opportunity.

Quality Rating System—Sheri Butters

Sheri Butters provided a brief summary of the ECIC sponsored quality rating system meeting held on Feb. 27, 2008. Information was provided to members about another example of a successful quality rating system; Pennsylvania's Keystone Stars. A main difference to this example was the use of incentive dollars as a grant application process. Sheri also shared that with this system the rating is more focused internally, with providers driven to improve based on incentive awards they can apply for to pay for trainings and improvements. Members agreed that this should be explored further by the Ready To Learn Committee and brought back to the Collaborative for more discussion.

Bylaws—Mary Cunningham-DeLuca

Mary shared that the existing bylaws were developed when the collaborative structure was in its infancy, and as such were out dated and needed revised. The Executive Committee (formerly infrastructure) met and revised the bylaws to reflect the addition of subcommittees and changes in governance. Members were provided with a draft to review. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca called for a motion to approve the revised bylaws. Nancy Tuckey made a motion to approve the revisions to the bylaws, Lisa Warren 2nd, motion carried.

Biennial Elections of Co-Chairs—Mike Shore

Mike Shore noted that according to the revised bylaws elections for Co-Chairs of the Collaborative have to take place every two years in March. Bill Rayl made a motion to elect Mary Cunningham-DeLuca and Mike Kanser, Nancy Tuckey 2nd, all approved, motion carried. Mary Cunningham-DeLuca and Mike Kanser will serve as Co-Chairs of the Great Start Collaborative for a period of two years ending in March of 2010.

Volunteer Fair Update—Sheri Butters

Sheri shared that the GSC will be partnering with Consumers Energy to coordinate an Employee Volunteer Fair at each of its location in Jackson. April 29th downtown, and April 30th at Parnall Rd. from 11-1pm. Lisa Warren inquired if Consumers has a corporate objective in regard to volunteerism. Response was yes, and the example of their VIP program was given, which provides grant awards to organizations where employees volunteer based on requirements. Sheri encouraged anyone interested in participating contact her as soon as possible. Kellie Schiller mentioned involving the Mentoring Collaborative. The Jackson Nonprofit Support Center will be handling registration for the event.

Subcommittee Break Out Sessions

Members present broke out into subcommittees to appoint chair people and establish first action steps and next meeting dates. Full reports from subcommittee meetings will be given at each Collaborative meeting by one of the chairs of each subcommittee.

Upcoming dates shared with members:

Cancelled date: Meeting on April 10th is cancelled due to change in meeting structure. GSC will meet on May 8th with subcommittee meetings to be held prior to that.

April 11th: Parent Coalition Meeting, Lincoln, Room 24

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April 25: Legislative Breakfast, Ella Sharp, 7:30-9am

April 26th: Love and Logic Event, Lincoln, 2-4 or 6-8

April 29 and 30: Volunteer Fair at Consumers Energy, Contact Sheri for more info.

May 21st: Star Power Rally, Lansing—attendees needed!

Meeting adjourned.