

**Great Start Collaborative
Executive Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, June 14, 2007
9:00am-11:00am**

Location: Lincoln Room 2

Present:

- Gloria Smith, *Jackson County Intermediate School District*
- Diana Rickman, *Child Care Network*
- Lori Bush, *Child Care Network*
- Sheri Butters, *Parent*
- Alice Walker, *Parent*
- Bethany Timmons, *United Way*
- Mary Cunningham-Deluca, *Community Action Agency*
- Honorable Diane Rappleye, *Probate Judge*
- Ann Thompson, *Parent*
- Annette Anulewicz, *Parent*
- Kathy Hoszkiw, *Child Care Provider, ABC Academy*
- Ginelle Skinner, *Child Care Provider, ABC Academy*
- Kelley Kuhn, *Community Member*
- Mike Kanser, *Business Member, Consumers Energy*
- Tom Webster, *Michigan School Readiness Advisory Council*
- Kristin Klug, *Great Start Coordinator*
- Mary Belknap, *K-16 Community Representative, Jackson Community College*
- Jessica Murray, *Guest*
- Tanda Reynolds, *Department of Human Services*
- Sara Benedetto, *Center for Family Health*
- Jan Maino, *Jackson Community Foundation*
- Chlorita Conner, *Faith Based Representative, Lily Missions Center*
- Sandy Petykiewicz, *Business Member, Jackson Citizen Patriot*
- Cheri Green, *Child Care Network*
- Bill Rayl, *Business Member, Jackson Area Manufacturers Association*

Excused:

- Jean Lee, *Jackson County Health Department Early On*
- Jan Seitz, *MSU Extension*
- Charisse Green, *Center for Family Health*

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

Mary Cunningham DeLuca welcomed everyone and members present introduced themselves.

2. Parent Coalition Report

Sheri Butters, Parent Liaison, reported that four parents and several community members attended the Star Power Rally in Lansing on May 29.

Parent surveys were distributed through local school districts and existing parent groups. Community Conversations have been held with the Head Start Policy Council and Grandparents and Other Relatives as Caregivers. This work will continue through the summer.

3. Strategic Planning – Session 1 (report provided by Kelley Kuhn)

Kelley Kuhn opened the strategic planning session by recapping the work that has already been accomplished by the collaborative. This included a review of the

- Mission
- Vision
- Motto
- Success by Six Strategic Plan
- Community Report Card

Kelley Kuhn explained that with many of the components of strategic plan complete, the next two planning meetings would focus on next steps. These include:

- Guiding Principles
- Goals & Strategies
- Timeframe for the goals
- Objectives
- Resources needed
- Roles/ Responsibilities
- Target Dates
- Progress Measures
- Status

The session began with some brainstorming about what each participant felt was a guiding principle for Jackson County Great Start Collaborative. The following is summary of the brainstorming:

- Best interest of the child
- Parent not intimidated
- Support and Education for providers
- Building strong families

- Learning and education-keys to success
- Collaboration of agencies
- Early literacy
- Communication between service providers
- Advertisement to set parents up for success
- Motivate parents to be involved
- Preventative Programs
- Nurture lifelong learning for family
- Sustainability and Institutionalizing *
- Measurable Outcomes*
- Marketing and Access
- Babies in 2007 are the workforce 2030, investment
- Creating services to meet needs
- Collecting information and revisiting-outcome framework
- Formal and informal support for family
- Empowerment of families
- Recognize, build, strengthen successes
- Build one common tool for all families-using same things
- Identify barriers

** Supported by multiple participants*

Participants were asked to:

- Identify themes among the suggestions
- Reduce the amount of themes
- Agree on the final guiding principles

Based on discussion among participants, the following guiding principles were agreed on:

- Child Focused
- Collaboration and Systems Alignment
- Diversity, Cultural Competence in Family Structures
- Early Literacy and Education
- Health and Well-being
- Assessment and Data Accountability

After completing the guiding principles, participants were asked to take a few minutes to look over the Success by Six Strategic Plan and the current draft of the Community Report Card.

After reviewing the information, group participants were asked to think about answers to the following questions:

1. What are practical ways we can address the issues facing the welfare of Jackson County's youngest children?
2. What facts do we know about the issue facing our community regarding our youngest children?
3. What seems to be the most critical?
4. What appears to be the central issue or key problem?
5. What kind of changes will we need to make?

Participants were asked to write down individually 5-10 practical ways we can address the issue facing the welfare of Jackson County's youngest children.

After participants wrote their own individual answers, the room was split into 8 groups. Each group was given a few minutes to talk about what each one felt was practical ways to address the issues.

The next step involved participants working in groups under the following ground rules:

- Eliminate any overlap
- Honor diversity of perspectives
- Write one idea per card
- Write big
- Write three to seven words per card

After taking a moment to agree on their ideas and write them on the cards provided, each group was asked to send up their clearest cards.

Once a majority of the cards with each group's ideas were collected, clusters were formed. The following is a breakdown of the clusters:

Health

- Total Quality Health Care

Work

- Employer incentives for work life balance
- Recommending child friendly employment practices

Readiness

- Use existing assessment for early childhood
- Definition of school readiness
- Literacy awareness

Community

- Community/Neighborhood Ownership
- Community values children
- Make 2-1-1 the initial referral point for services, Market!
- Community consensus on key benchmarks (measurement)
- Community outlet for stressed out parents
- Multi-sectoral representation and strategic membership
- Maximize and braid existing funding streams

Mentoring

- All forms of mentoring
- Mentoring programs for 0-6

Early Care

- Incentives for parents/caregiver
- Universal access to early childhood programs
- Quality and affordable child care
- Quality early childhood care
- Provide affordable quality child care options
- Investment in early childhood dollars \$ \$ \$ \$
- Continued professional development for caregiver
- Standardize early care and Pre-K

Systems

- Making families feel welcomed and valued
- What resources are available for parents
- Recognizing system links and interrelatedness of issues
- Provide sensitivity as to the definition of a “family”
- Accessible family focused Resources (remove barriers)
- Build on successes “hope”
- Identify at risk children

Kelley Kuhn closed the session by announcing the date, time and location of the next meeting. Kelley Kuhn thanked everyone for his or her participation.

4. General Comments

Some discussion took place in regard to the distribution/presentation of the Community Report. Billy Rayl, mentioned that the report could be perceived as

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“the bearer of bad news” or hopeful. Putting a positive spin and hopeful message that these problems can be solved rather than just adding to the list of “problems” our community has will engage more people. We need to raise awareness and engage the community.

Next Meeting: August 9, 2007 from 9am-11am at the Jackson Community Foundation.