

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Early Care & Education Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

February 3, 2009
 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Oakland Schools, Room 230

In Attendance:

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Sue Allen, Oakland 4C; Julie Ricks-Doneen, Oakland University; Laura Brown, Rochester Schools; Rhonda Meyers, MDAEYC; Crystal Sanford Brown, OCC; Eva Poole, MSUE; Saneya Hamler, MSUE; Lisa Sturges, GSC-O.

Action Agenda Status:

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION Families have access to high quality early care and education. Children are ready to succeed in school and in life.			
OBJECTIVE/ACTION STEP	TARGET DATES	PROGRESS MEASURES	STATUS
Goal ECE1: <i>Children with special needs are identified early and are connected to appropriate early intervention services.</i>			
Strategy ECE1.A: Outreach to physicians and provide technical assistance on child screening/assessment and community resources.			
ECE1.A.1 -Survey physicians regarding their knowledge of early childhood screening/assessment, community resources, and best communication vehicles.	5/31/09	Survey will be completed by a representative sample of physicians regarding their knowledge of early childhood screening/assessment, community resources, and best communication vehicles.	Julie put <i>a lot</i> of work into completing the final grant application and submitted it on January 19, 2009. Congratulations Julie!! The final grant proposes a three phase study. Phase one includes a survey to assess the extent of knowledge and use that Beaumont physicians have in regards to developmental assessments and early childhood resources in Oakland County. Phase two includes informational forums on specific topics designed to encourage collaboration between the medical and early childhood fields. Phase three includes focus groups designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the forums in supporting physician’s practices. The original date to hear back for the grant was 2/06/09 but as with the grant itself this date has

			been pushed back to the beginning of March. No news is good news for now!!
ECE1.A.2 -Include information on screening and developmental assessments in public awareness and outreach efforts, aligning with the GSC Communication Plan, public awareness activities directed towards physicians, and Early On Oakland Goals.	12/31/09 (based on OU/Beaumont Grant)	Presentation of information provided to at least 15 events.	See above
Strategy ECE1.B: Outreach to GSC partners and others and provide technical assistance on child screening/assessment and community resources.			
ECE1.B.1 -Include information on screening and developmental assessments in public awareness and outreach efforts, aligning with the GSC Communication Plan	9/30/09 (ongoing)	Documentation on where information is shared, what information is shared and who information is shared with	See above.
Goal ECE2: <i>Early childhood care and education professionals have access to professional development and technical assistance.</i>			
Strategy ECE2.A: Provide training and networking opportunities for early care and education professionals that address the diverse and special needs of families.			
ECE2.A.1 -Analyze surveyed training needs and identify gaps in training for early care and education professionals.	4/30/09	Completed report of training needs of early care and education professionals.	There are currently 3 different survey's that have been collected or are being collected in order to better understand training needs for early care and education professionals. The analysis of the survey by Michigan 4C Association is still underway, results are expected soon. Julie Ricks-Doneen inclusion survey has been distributed but she is unhappy with the response rate. Julie is currently exploring alternate ideas in order to increase the number of responses. Julie Ricks-Doneen's research class completed the analysis of the challenging behavior surveys. The social emotional subcommittee is currently reviewing the synthesis and recommendations from this survey.
ECE2.A.2 -Investigate funding sources to support training of early childhood professionals.	9/30/09	Completed at least one proposal for funding to support training of early childhood professionals.	The Early Learning Community Hub at Hazel Park continues to grow and is regularly providing training to its members intended to improve the quality of the professionals and programs attending.
Strategy ECE2.B: Connect child care professionals to training opportunities and community resources.			
ECE2.B.1 -Create a professional resource guide for child care providers represented in	4/30/09	Professional resource guide will be completed.	Lisa brought an updated copy of the career lattice which mimicked the example of Pennsylvania's career lattice

<p>career lattice representing a progression of roles and levels that practitioners can achieve and the pathways between these detailing the amount of training/education and experience needed to qualify for that role</p>			<p>which takes the same information but includes the positions in a grid format based on program or agency you might work in. The group discussed changing the title to be “A Chart for Early Care and Education Career Opportunities” rather than a “Career Lattice”—representing the opportunities that are opened up to you as you continue to grow as a professional through training and education. The group also discussed changing the layout so that this same idea is represented visually in the chart. Lisa will work on that for the next meeting. The group discussed what our next steps might be and how we might want to use this document. We talked about using conferences such as MiAEYC or MDAEYC to educate professionals about the career lattice and what it means, how to use it. We also talked about the creation of a training registry. Rhonda reminded us of the model from Wisconsin and the agency that will provide set up and upkeep for \$90,000. The group agreed that this really needed to be a statewide effort. Rhonda offered to contact the Wisconsin rep and see if it would be possible for her to present information to us at the March meeting. Lisa volunteered to review the other state models and also contact a few to see how they were able to get different stakeholders on board as well as ask for any advice they might have. Betsy offered to speak to a few key stakeholders at the MiAEYC conference and Rhonda and Crystal offered to speak about it as a public policy issue in the upcoming week. More discussion is needed.</p>
<p>ECE2.B.2 -Disseminate Guide to professionals in the county, including Family and Group Home Day Care Programs, Child Care Center Programs, Preschools, School-based Centers, etc.</p>	<p>9/30/09</p>	<p>Guide will be disseminated to professionals in the county as resources permit.</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Goal ECE3: <i>High quality early care and education is available for families in their communities.</i></p>			
<p>Strategy ECE3.A: Identify high quality early care and education programs and research QRIS for Oakland County.</p>			

ECE3.A.1 -Work with ECIC and state efforts on QRIS development entry.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.	The group again reviewed the QRIS, <i>A Great Start for Kids: Recommendations for a Michigan Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement System</i> , released in April 2007. Lisa provided the suggestion from Joan Firestone and Donna Lackie that we focus on Quality Improvement at this point. The idea was that we currently have three models in Oakland County that are working on quality improvements and are using the PQA as the tool to do so. Sue Allen and Betsy Spiker are working with child care centers through a United Way grant, Danelle Watts is working with family, friend and neighbor care through the Early Learning Community Hazel Park Hub, and Chris Boisvert is working with school districts. Lisa has contacted all three of these models and next steps include a couple of interview type questions that could be asked of each model. Lisa has also followed up with the state (ECIC) to ask for their status on piloting the QRIS as written. Written documentation from them in return states that there is no funding currently to move forward with the QRIS program. However, work on Quality Improvement (such as that suggested above) is highly encouraged and in the spring they will be asking communities to come together to share the work being done to improve quality. Oakland will hopefully be able to showcase what we have learned with our three models at this meeting.
ECE3.A.2 -Investigate the feasibility of becoming a pilot site for ECIC and state QRIS efforts.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.	No updates
Strategy ECE3.B: Provide quality improvement training and technical assistance to early care and education programs.			
ECE3.B.1 -In alignment with the Great Start Communication Action Plan, communicate with professionals what the early learning standards are and what their purpose is.	ongoing	Outcomes will align with the Great Start Communication Action Plan to be determined.	No updates
ECE3.B.2 -Provide training on MI Standards	ongoing	Training will continue to be	No updates

of Quality for Prekindergarten and Infants & Toddler Programs.		provided.	
ECE3.B.3 -In alignment with the Great Start Communication Action Plan, communicate with professionals what quality is and what characteristics are included	ongoing	Outcomes will align with the Great Start Communication Action Plan to be determined.	No updates
ECE3.B.4 -Provide training and technical assistance on National Accreditation, PQA, and Environment Rating Scales.	ongoing	Training will continue to be provided.	No updates
Goal ECE4: <i>Children are prepared for kindergarten, teachers and schools are prepared for the children they will receive and parents are prepared to participate in the process.</i>			
Strategy ECE4.A: Research kindergarten status assessment for Oakland County			
ECE4.A.1 -Survey local school districts on tools implemented locally to determine kindergarten readiness	6/30/09	Report of tools implemented in Oakland County to determine kindergarten readiness.	ECIC might be working with a couple of pilot sites this year regarding Kindergarten status assessment. One assessment tool that was mentioned was the EDI, a kindergarten status assessment tool. Lisa is following up with the state for more information regarding the pilot sites as well as further information about the tools they might use. More discussion will be needed after the state has responded.
ECE4.A.2 -Work with ECIC and state efforts on kindergarten status assessment.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.	No updates
ECE4.A.3 -Investigate the feasibility of becoming a pilot site for ECIC and state kindergarten status assessment efforts.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.	No updates
Strategy ECE4.B: Build partnerships between schools and early childhood programs to ensure a smooth transition into elementary school.			
ECE4.B.1 -Survey transition models that local school districts are implementing to assist with the transition from early childhood programs to kindergarten (including work with parents and preschools/Head Start/GSRP).	6/30/09	Report of transition models that local school districts are implementing to assist with the transition from early childhood programs to kindergarten.	See above

Other Issues and Concerns:

I am keeping the instructions for the moodle site on for a second month in case some missed it:

There is now an ECE Subcommittee Moodle site. Instructions for logging on:

Go to: <http://moodle.oakland.k12.mi.us/>

Once there, you can click on the login link to go to the page where you can create an account.

After you have created an account, you can find our subcommittee listed under the COMMUNITY link on the left side of the main page. It is here that you will go to enroll (I think the enrollment key is currently set to: Sturges)

On our moodle site I have added several links to the documents we have been looking at in our meetings (QRIS, Career Lattice, etc). We can also have online discussions about these documents.

I hope this is a good mode of communication for us. I am looking forward to trying it out.

Announcements:

None at this time.

Next Steps:

Next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, 2009—however this might be changed based on Wisconsin's availability to present their model to us.