

Early Care and Education Subcommittee November 3, 2009-Meeting Notes

In attendance: Hollie West, Parent Rep; Carin Goodrich, PATH; Julie Ricks-Doneen, OU; Betsy Spiker, 4C; Laura Brown, Rochester Schools; Danelle Watts, 4C; Rhonda Meyers, MDAEYC; Darlene Zimny, GSC-O

Action Agenda Updates

Regional Resource Center-Lisa and others at the meeting held on October 28, 2009 provided an update on the Macomb-Oakland Regional Resource Center plan. The plan submitted to ECIC by United Way is still awaiting final approval with a proposed allocation from ECIC for Oakland/Macomb of \$1,053,335. A handout was provided which included a conceptual map on how the Regional Resource Center plans to support parents and caregivers for resource and referral through the use of 211. This plan starts with promotion of the statewide database but also includes support over the phone as well as support at the closest hub if needed. The handout also included information on the hub model itself including relationships, service delivery and growth. In addition the handout included the proposed geographic coverage of the 10 early learning hubs which for Oakland County include our S. County location through Oakland 4C and a new N. County location through Oakland Family Services. Given the large geographic area of Oakland County, additional "sub-hubs" will be necessary in order to reach providers throughout our large county. Lisa will email a copy of the year 1 and year 2 curriculum that was created by High/Scope which is to be used by hubs. As mentioned in earlier notes, the focus of the regional resource center will be on relative and aide providers as well as providers which are receiving child care subsidies. However, hub training is meant to be open to all providers. It was noted however that our subcommittee would want to keep an eye on how licensed and regulated child care providers continue to access training opportunities to ensure that quality in their settings (especially in tight economic times) continues.

Career Lattice Website-the new career lattice website was shared with the group (<http://www.greatstartcollaborativewayne.org/STEPS/default.html>). A few changes/additions were suggested. A button with a link has been created for different websites. One next step is to send that to each organization included in the career lattice and ask that they post it on their website. A second next step would be to laminate a good copy of the career lattice for each organization to use in counseling those who are interested in this field.

Early Learning Calendars-Lisa shared a copy of the 2010 early learning calendar for 3 and 4 year olds. The infant/toddler calendar should also be available shortly.

Subcommittee Considerations

Budget Update-Lisa shared the GSC-O budget update. ECIC has a new process for funding GSC's which includes funding for core work (i.e. scope of work and work plan areas) as well as a new "implementation pool". This new pool of funding will be used for implementing projects associated with our strategic plan/action plan. This new process will include more accountability and measures of success. While many specifics are not final at this time (e.g. amount of funding available, specific guidelines for projects, etc.), ECIC's priority is to have a process for application for these funds in place by November 30th (with the goal of awarding grants beginning shortly after January 1, 2010). Areas in our Early Care and Education Action Agenda that might be considered for additional funding would be our physician outreach work, the career lattice work, our HS/GSRP joint recruitment work, transitions and pre-k through 12 systems work and quality improvement work.

New Meeting Structure-As we move into year three, Lisa suggested that we consider a new meeting structure which would allow for more action on individual projects. Also, given everyone's more hectic and demanding schedules this will hopefully alleviate the need for some meetings. For this new suggested meeting structure, our full subcommittee would not need to meet as often. As a group we decided that for now every other month would work well. However, in order to accomplish more work in between meetings, Lisa suggested that we develop Task Force Groups for individual projects. Meeting times for each of these groups would vary based on project needs and may be in person, via email or over the phone. Subcommittee members would sign up for each project based on the level of involvement they would like to have with each task force. Levels of involvement would include (1) those that would like to help *carry out* the work and (2) those that would like to be *consulted* about the work. A third level of involvement, being *clued in* about the work would include all subcommittee members because our bi-monthly meetings would include updates from each task force group. Some suggested task force group projects include physician outreach, career lattice, quality improvement work, HS/GSRP Joint Recruitment, and Transition/Pre-K through 12 systems. Lisa will be sending out a survey for subcommittee members to choose the level of involvement they would like for task force group projects.

Possible Additional Subcommittee Members-the group thought of several different "voices" that weren't at the table. Because we want to be careful about the size of the full subcommittee, it was suggested that several of these suggestions might be involved in a task force group but not necessarily need to commit to full participation in the subcommittee. Individual task force groups will address this as they begin to form.

Chair/Co-Chair-The group decided to place on hold our decision on a chair until we have thought about what their role might be for this new meeting structure. We will need to address this again in the near future.

Next Meeting: The next early care and education subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for February 2nd, 2010 from 1:30-3:30 at Oakland Schools. In the mean time, Task Force Groups will be formed and will begin their work.