

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland Early Care & Education Subcommittee Meeting Notes

October 6, 2009
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Oakland Schools, Room 230

In Attendance:

Laura Brown, Rochester Community Schools; Julie Ricks-Doneen, Oakland University/Lowry; Hollie West, Parent Rep; Darlene Zimny, GSC-O; Lisa Sturges, GSC-O.

This month's meeting focused on prioritizing our year three action agenda. In order to prioritize the group looked at our 5 key areas of focus. These areas included (1) Physician Outreach, (2) Professional Development/Career Lattice, (3) Quality Improvement, (4) HS/GSRP Joint Recruitment and (5) Early Childhood Partnership with K-12.

For each key area of focus the group discussed (a) what we did in the past year toward this work, (b) what we have discussed as a goal for this year's work, (c) the amount of funding needed to complete this work, (d) the possibility of outside funding (i.e. grants), (e) the amount of time needed to complete this work and (f) other subcommittees and/or community agencies that are currently involved in this work. The following is meant to summarize this discussion.

Because we are still unsure of what funding will be, following the discussion, the group was asked to prioritize the top three key areas they would like to focus on if are funding was decreased. The priorities voted on by those in attendance will also be included. Additional subcommittee members not able to attend should send their thoughts on priorities via email to lisa.sturges@oakland.k12.mi.us.

Action Agenda Discussion:

- I. Physician Outreach
 - a. Over the last year, this group wrote for a grant through Beaumont Hospital and Oakland University to support this work. While this grant was not accepted, we were able to hire a contractor (Cindy Macks) to continue and to build on the proposed work from the grant
 - b. Cindy has been successful in presenting information to 83 physicians at Beaumont's Grand Rounds. Several were interested in further information and ordered some brochures. For our year three work, Cindy would continue to work on making connections with key pediatricians (especially those serving those most at risk).
 - c. GSC-O funding necessary for this project includes Cindy's contract as well as printing funds.
 - d. There are many outside funding opportunities including CATCH grants, Early On Collaborative work, ABCD Grants, OU/Beaumont, and HMO's.

- e. This work is very time intensive and will need to have staff who can take time to build relationships with physicians.
- f. Other subcommittees that are a part of this work are the physical health subcommittee (for physician engagement) and the social emotional subcommittee (for their work with post partum depression). Community partners who are also involved in this work include Early On and other state initiatives.

II. Professional Development/Career Lattice

- a. Over the last year this group has reviewed through three separate survey's the county's needs for professional development. In addition, the group has created and disseminated a career lattice for early childhood professionals that focus on career opportunities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.
- b. Since distribution, people from all over the state (not just the tri-county area) have been requesting copies. For our year three work, our goal is to have the career lattice available online with links to the training organizations that provide that professional development. This career lattice will be monitored for use and usefulness. In addition, our subcommittee will work collaboratively with the Child Care Early Learning Regional Resource Center to meet the training needs of early childhood professionals in Oakland County
- c. GSC-O funding necessary for this project include Lisa's contract as well as printing funds.
- d. A couple of outside funding opportunities exist. Working collaboratively with Wayne County means that much of the cost of this work is split. In addition, Kresge might be interested in our work as it connects to building quality.
- e. Now that this project is complete, it will take minimal time to upkeep the training opportunities. If the online version ever became a searchable database, this time factor would increase greatly.
- f. There are no other subcommittees involved in this work. Community partners who are also involved include Wayne and Macomb county, ECIC at the state level is working toward an online searchable database, and MiAEYC also has a goal toward professional development.

III. Quality Improvement

- a. Over the last year, this group has examined local quality improvement work currently being done in Oakland County to inform us of areas of highest need for quality improvement. In addition, this group has made a focused attempt to highlight the importance and use of the Michigan Early Learning Standards and the use of program environment rating tools such as PQA.
- b. For our year three work, further quality improvement work will be informed by the local work already in place. In addition a strong focus on the importance of quality care will be provided for parents and other early care and education professionals.
- c. GSC-O funding necessary for this project include only Lisa's contract.
- d. One outside funding opportunity might come from the federal Early Learning Challenge Grants which will support quality improvement initiatives. However this work would be organized at a state level.
- e. At this point, this work will take minimal staff time.

- f. Subcommittees/workgroup involvement might come from requested professional development in this area from partners outside the education field that are not clear as to what quality is. Community partners who are involved include 4C, Oakland Schools, United Way/ELC Hubs and

IV. Joint Recruitment

- a. Over the last year, this subcommittee has worked collaboratively with the HS/GSRP Joint Recruitment workgroup on action items within their workplan. Kim Mclean was contracted with to facilitate this work.
- b. For our year three work this subcommittee will be actively involved in the process of developing a joint recruitment model for Oakland County including working towards documents for parents to help them understand their preschool options and understanding the needs of programs in order to work collaboratively in joint recruitment efforts.
- c. GSC-O funding for this includes Kim's contract as well as printing costs and possibly a phone number.
- d. No outside funding opportunities are known at this time.
- e. This work will take some (not extreme but not minimal) staff time to continue this work.
- f. There are no other subcommittees involved in this work. However, every GSRP and Head Start program will be community partners that will make this project a success.

V. Partnership with K-12

- a. Over the past year, this subcommittee held a Galileo Institute focused on the importance of a Pre-K-12 system. Also, ECIC released the results of their Kindergarten survey.
- b. For our year three work, work with Galileo will continue. In addition, we will be able to utilize results from the ECIC Kindergarten survey for Oakland County as well as look at transition models and kindergarten readiness tools used by individual school districts to inform our next steps.
- c. GSC-O funding for this includes Lisa's contract as well as printing costs.
- d. Outside funding for this includes a small Oakland University grant (Lougheed) already obtained as well as opportunities to write for a grant from U of M and NEA.
- e. This work will take some staff time (not extreme but not minimal) to continue this work.
- f. There are no other subcommittees involved in this work. However, Oakland University as well as all school districts are key partners to continue this project.

Action Agenda Prioritization

As a group we prioritized our top two goals to be physician outreach as number one and partnerships with K-12 as number two. Some reasons provided were that these were two areas that have not been focused on as much, have the most opportunity for outside funding and provide strong opportunities for community collaboration.