

# Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

## Early Care & Education Subcommittee

### Meeting Notes

April 7, 2009  
 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
 Oakland Schools, Room 230

**In Attendance:**

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Mary Abbruzzese, Troy Schools; Carin Goodrich, Lighthouse PATH; Hollie West, Parent; Lisa Sturges, GSC-O; Darlene Zimny, 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
<b>Goal ECE1:</b> <i>Children with special needs are identified early and are connected to appropriate early intervention services.</i>			
<b>Strategy ECE1.A:</b> 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.	Our grant was submitted on January 19, 2009. The date to hear back for the grant was 4/06/09. We STILL haven't heard. No news continues to be 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

<b>Strategy ECE1.B:</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.
<b>Goal ECE2:</b> <i>Early childhood care and education professionals have access to professional development and technical assistance.</i>			
<b>Strategy ECE2.A:</b> 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 complete. We reviewed the findings. Some areas of interest included level of education, type of child care provider, age of children cared for, types of training attended, topics of interest for training, preferred delivery method, motivations for attending, and trainings already attended. The social emotional subcommittee is currently reviewing the synthesis and recommendations from the challenging behaviors survey. Julie Ricks-Doneen is still in the process of collecting data. As the results from these two surveys come in, we will compile the above data with them. Ultimately, we hope to have a good picture of the training needs and gaps in training for early care and education professionals.
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.
<b>Strategy ECE2.B:</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 career lattice representing a progression of roles and levels that practitioners can achieve and the pathways between these detailing the	4/30/09	Professional resource guide will be completed.	Lisa brought a new draft of the career lattice. This new draft of the career lattice is really a chart for career opportunities and rather than showing how you can move up the ladder in various locations (i.e. Head Start or GSRP) this lattice showed how more opportunities

amount of training/education and experience needed to qualify for that role			for your position open up with more training and education. The new draft is larger (11 x 17) which makes it easier to read the columns. The group discussed folding it in half so that the front would be a title page, the inside the actual career lattice and the back would include minimum requirements to be hired at various locations. The group also discussed adding a section at the bottom that describes how to read the chart/lattice. Lisa will work on this for next meeting. Lisa reminded the group of the workforce policy web seminars that NAEYC is currently hosting. Specifically, there is one on career pathways to be held on 4/23. These are available on NAEYC's website following the seminar. The group discussed possible watching at least a piece of the seminar at our next meeting. Lisa will preview the seminar ahead of time to make that determination.
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.	9/30/09	Guide will be disseminated to professionals in the county as resources permit.	See above
<b>Goal ECE3:</b> <i>High quality early care and education is available for families in their communities.</i>			
<b>Strategy ECE3.A:</b> Identify high quality early care and education programs and research QRIS for Oakland County.			
ECE3.A.1 -Work with ECIC and state efforts on QRIS development entry.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.	Last month Lisa shared some sample interview questions that would address quality improvement work currently being done in Oakland County. These interview questions would be given to the 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. Based on comments from last month's

			meeting, Lisa brought in a new draft of the interview questions for the group to review. Betsy Spiker suggested that these interview questions not just be asked of the lead for each model, but rather to look at each model from all perspectives. She suggested that we might ask (1) the assessor, (2) the director of the program, (3) the teachers in the classrooms, and (4) others that have chosen not to participate. We will need to consider whether groups would need incentives in order to have them complete the interviews. Betsy felt that her group would do it if they felt it was part of the grant. Darlene thought that Chris might have a couple of sites that would be willing to participate. We were unsure of Danelle's group. Lisa will follow up with her on how willing she felt they might be and if needed, what types of incentives she would suggest. Next steps would include interviews with each of the models.
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
<b>Strategy ECE3.B:</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 of Quality for Prekindergarten and Infants & Toddler Programs.	ongoing	Training will continue to be provided.	No updates
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
<b>Goal ECE4:</b> <i>Children are prepared for kindergarten, teachers and schools are prepared for the children they will receive and parents are prepared to</i>			

<i>participate in the process.</i>			
<b>Strategy ECE4.A:</b> 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.	No updates on the ECIC survey.
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
<b>Strategy ECE4.B:</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.	Lisa brought in information about the Galileo Institute to be held on August 12, 2009 from 8:30-1:00. The focus will be on building pre-k through 12 educational systems with a specific focus on transitions. School district teams of superintendents, principals, curriculum specialists, K-12 teachers, early childhood directors, and early childhood teachers will be encouraged to come in order to examine leadership roles that support children and families in the transition for early childhood to K-12 programs. The group also suggested that community based center directors/teachers be included as part of this district team as their students also feed into these schools. Julie and Lisa also applied for <i>and received</i> a grant to help with this forum as well as help teams continue their work in “building a connected system.”

**Other Issues and Concerns:**

A couple of other projects were discussed at both this month’s as well as last month’s meeting:

- (1) Regional focus on access to early care and education-Lisa brought in a draft copy of the poverty reduction goal-to expand access to quality early childhood education. Lisa mentioned that this is really a draft and that there was a lot of feedback provided concerning work that is already happening around the three suggested goals. Lisa will continue to keep the group updated on this project and the new plan.

- (2) Discipline policies-Last month, Lisa mentioned that the social emotional subcommittee has been working to collect some discipline policies to review as a possible link to child care expulsion. The group discussed possibly working with the social emotional subcommittee to (1) help to create some model policies-linked to NAEYC and other standards and (2) team up with the group to use these policies to do staff development. Chris offered to join with Jen in doing training on discipline and diversity as it links to behavior. The social emotional subcommittee will be reviewing the findings of the discipline survey's over the next couple of months. We will continue to keep updated on that work and anything that our group can do to assist with this goal.
- (3) TEACH scholarship-Lisa brought in information regarding the TEACH project and Michigan outcomes. Lisa will contact Michigan 4C to see if they have some of this information specific to Oakland County. She will also see if other GSC's have used some of their funding to provide scholarships for centers or group home providers. Finally, she will see if it is possible to have them come meet with our group for further questions/discussions.
- (4) Joint recruitment and Enrollment for GSRP and Head Start Programs-Last month, Lisa brought in a sample of the beginning work plan draft for the group that met on February 20<sup>th</sup> regarding joint recruitment and enrollment in GSRP and Head Start Programs. Darlene mentioned that this is definitely something that will be integrated into the work that we do with this subcommittee. Lisa discussed with the group ideas for (1) one brochure that lists all GSRP an HS programs in Oakland county, (2) one number to call for information (not joint enrollment), and (3) one common referral form. Lisa also mentioned that because the Head Start Collaborative Office will be providing TA assistance in April and May, an ad-hoc workgroup will be formed and will begin to meet regarding this workplan. The group discussed key members of this group.

**Announcements:**

None at this time.

**Next Steps:**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.