

# Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

## Parenting Education & Family Support Subcommittee

### Meeting Notes

February 26, 2009  
 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
 CARE House

**In Attendance:**

Mary Schusterbauer, OCYA; Craig Stone, OFS; Joyce Siggall, OLHSA-Head Start; Brenda Jenkins, New Hope/Circle of Parents; Bridget Hanigan, Oakland 4C; Charles Ludwig, Carehouse; Suzi Wilson, Catholic Social Services; Melanie Jones, Maternal-Infant Health Program; Gerri Smalley, GPGS-O; Sabrina Williams, Parent; Stacey Weaver, Parent; Kim Bowyer, GSC-O; Donna Lackie, OS

**Action Agenda Status:**

<b>PARENTING EDUCATION &amp; FAMILY SUPPORT</b> <b>Families support and guide the early learning of their infants and young children.</b>			
OBJECTIVE/ACTION STEP	TARGET DATES	PROGRESS MEASURES	STATUS
<b>Goal PE/FS1:</b> <i>Increase the awareness, utilization, and communication of existing parenting education and family support services in order to empower parents to assist their families in becoming self-sufficient.</i>			
<b>Strategy PE/FS1.A:</b> Create a Parenting Education and Family Support Resource Guide for families with young children			
PE/FS1.A.1 -Create a dissemination plan for the Resource Guide (to partners and community).	10/31/08	Completion of a dissemination plan for the Resource Guide (i.e. order forms, number set aside for partners).	With only a few parent resource guides left, we are working on doing another print run for 2009. Lisa has sent the electronic version of the guide out to agencies currently in the guide for them to review and make any additions, changes or edits they would like. These are almost complete. Lisa created an online version of the survey. The first question on the

			<p>survey asks if the person completing the survey is a parent or a provider. Depending on their answer, the online survey will direct them to a set of questions designed for them. In addition to a set of questions specific to the type of user, there is a set of questions for all users. Suggestions by the group included adding a statement that tells the user how long the survey will take them to complete. This wording can also be added to the resource guide where we have included the link to the online survey. Another suggestion added asking if this is their first time taking the survey because a service provider might provide feedback multiple times. Finally, it was suggested that we have paper versions of the survey available in case users do not have access to the internet.</p>
PE/FS1.A.2 -Solicit feedback from users of the parent education resource guide.	7/31/09	Feedback is collected from users (i.e. tear out postcard, survey).	See Above
PE/FS1.A.3 -Revise parent education resource guide as needed, research potential funding sources and disseminate resource guide on an annual basis.	10/31/09	Resource guide is revised/changed and disseminated on an annual basis.	See Above
<b>Strategy PE/FS1.B:</b> Create a central database and calendar for programs and services for young children and their families.			
PE/FS1.B.1 -Assess the feasibility of coordinating with other existing efforts, such as the Oakland Youth Assistance Calendar, WIKI site, 211 and Oakland Helplink,	09/30/09	The feasibility of coordinating with other existing efforts is reported; a plan for coordination is discussed.	Programs that serve children 0-5 are now highlighted in the Youth Assistance Calendar. In December, Rosemary brought in a print copy and pointed out how the highlighting is hard to see on a black and white copy. It was suggested

			that we change the highlighting to a light gray. Additionally, because of the concern that the wording for programs such as Circle of Parents that serves a wider range of ages which include birth to five would make families and/or programs think that this services only children birth to five, Lisa followed up on some calls for those types of agencies. Lisa has followed up on those calls as well as the highlighting on the calendar but missed the January print run. The February printing was brought in and all agreed it was good. Mary Schusterbauer added that the calendar will continue to be online, this will be the last year they will be able to print it as well due to budget cuts.
<b>Strategy PE/FS1.C:</b> In conjunction with the Community Engagement workgroup, outreach to the community to increase utilization of parenting resources throughout the community			
PE/FS1.C.1 -Create a plan for activities related to Parenting Awareness Month	1/31/09	Working with Oakland Parenting Awareness Coalition, a plan is created for Parenting Awareness Month (i.e. outreach, promotion, activities and/or events).	This group decided that our goal for parenting awareness month should be to honor parents and the tough job that they have as well as promote the awareness and utilization of parenting resources. Over the last few months the group has been editing a flyer that Lisa was been working on. Following suggestions made, the final poster size sample was brought in. The group discussed the dissemination plan. Lisa talked suggested plans from previous meetings included: (1) parent ed and strategic leadership members could take some--they only need one for each

			<p>location they have, (2) truck mail to each early childhood program in the district, (3) truck mail to Mary Schusterbauer at the main youth assistance office for her to distribute to all youth assistance offices, (4) truck mail to other county agencies (like the health clinics, etc), and (5) distribute to 4C to give to larger child care programs during trainings. Lisa mentioned that she would love to get one to each library and each birthing hospital, but without funding for mailing, we would need to discuss options. Mary Schusterbauer suggested that she would be able to add one to the waiting area for Friend of the Court and that the library administrative offices were in her building and she might be able to get them some to get to each of the libraries. Mary and Brenda mentioned taking some to the HSCC meeting as well. Other suggestions included churches, pediatrician offices, and food banks.</p>
<p>PE/FS1.C.2 -Research the feasibility of creating a traveling exhibit/kiosk for parent resources</p>	<p>6/30/09</p>	<p>A workgroup is created to research the feasibility of creating a traveling exhibit/kiosk for parent resources (i.e. location, cost, resources); findings are reported.</p>	<p>Jean resent an email out to all libraries in Oakland County with an invitation to host the kiosk. Lisa also sent an invitation to several of the larger child care centers. We have enough volunteer hosts to schedule until November 2009. Lisa is working on that schedule now and is trying to rotate between north and south county. Rosemary and her husband are scheduled to deliver the kiosk to the first</p>

			location on Monday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup> . The group brought their materials to be added to the kiosk. The first few months will be test sites to see how often we need to replace materials, if we will need a volunteer to go out and check on the materials, etc.
<b>Strategy PE/FS1.D:</b> Provide training on the importance of early childhood development and community resources, including empowering parents			
PE/FS1.D.1 -Create a “train the trainer” model focusing on the importance of early childhood development and community resources.	4/30/09	A model is created which focuses on communicating the importance of early childhood development and community resources.	Last month, Lisa asked if we could table this strategy until after the new printing of the resource guide is complete, the parent conferences are done and the kiosk is organized. The group agreed.
PE/FS1.D.2 -Implement the model in schools and with community partners, aligning with Great Start Community Awareness Action Plan.	7/31/09	The model is implemented in schools and with community partners.	See above
<b>Strategy PE/FS1.E:</b> Create “Parenting your Infant/Toddler/Preschooler” toolkits			
PE/FS1.E.1 -Research existing publications to see what is already in place and what is needed	4/30/09	Existing publications are reported on.	Last month Donna suggested that a workgroup be formed to define what each age group is as well as build a matrix of what should be included at each age based on Bright Futures guidelines. This workgroup would probably only have to meet one time. This group will also consider ways to make the toolkits useful—colorful, short, easy to read, very specific with action information that a parent could take away with them. We have had several members sign up to be a part of the workgroup. The workgroup will meet later in March.

PE/FS1.E.2 -Work with community partners to create contents, based on key parenting concepts at each of these ages	7/31/09	Key parenting concepts are named; contents are created.	See above
PE/FS1.E.3 -Create a dissemination plan, based on available resources to reproduce (such as web-based, through programs, libraries, birthing hospitals, physicians, etc).	10/31/09	A dissemination plan is created.	See above
<b>Goal PE/FS2:</b> <i>Every family with young children has the skills and knowledge needed to provide learning opportunities, leading to school readiness for their children.</i>			
<b>Strategy PE/FS2.A:</b> Provide high quality parenting education and family support services that is research based.			
PE/FS2.A.1 -Research the feasibility of expanding the conference to two locations	10/31/08	A workgroup to research the feasibility of expanding the conference will be created.	Plans for two conferences continue. Both the vendor and speaker request forms have been sent out and we are building our database. Brenda and Bridget each had another individual in mind that might be able to speak at one or both of the conferences. Lisa will forward them a speaker form. Gerri asked for the list of topics so far so that she could tailor her presentation to be one that is not being done yet. We did get some buckets donated from American Plastic Toys but are unsure of the amount. Mary Schusterbauer said to let her know if we did not receive enough because she might know of another place to get more. Donna brought in a copy of the conference brochure/registration form for the group to review. Several suggestions were made. One big one was to make sure that it was clear that this was FREE! Lisa agreed to share an electronic version

			with the group to provide any other feedback. The brochure will go to print by March 2 <sup>nd</sup> in order to disseminate on March 7 <sup>th</sup> at the Walled Lake Parent Fair. Finally the group talked about the outreach at both sites to policy makers and discussed further outreach that could be made based on the area of the county that the conference is located at.
PE/FS2.A.2 -Hold annual parenting conference for families with young children.	5/31/09	Parenting Conference will have been provided.	See above
<b>Strategy PE/FS2.B:</b> Assess the availability and accessibility of existing parent education and family support services in Oakland County			
PE/FS2.B.1 -Define what information we want and/or need to know when we assess existing parent education and family support services for Oakland County.	10/31/08	Guidelines for what assessment is necessary for Oakland County will be reported.	The group has been discussing the possibility of following the model that the state level parent education and family support subcommittee will be using--the "5 protective factors for promoting healthy families." On February 5 <sup>th</sup> many subcommittee members attended a videoconference on this model. Following this videoconference, the group came back this month to brainstorm possible uses for this model with the work this subcommittee is doing. The group decided that next month we will do an activity where we define what each of those 5 factors mean. Donna suggested that this might become a one page document that we could then use for local training, talking about intentionality, or considering parent education program reviews or self assessments. Donna has a

			state meeting at the end of March and she will also be able to inform us then of the direction the state plans to go with this model. Lisa agreed that she would review the website and report back next month on how other states have used this model.
PE/FS2.B.2 - Complete an assessment of existing parent education and family support services to include types of programs, location or area served, and other information as defined in PE/FS2.B.1	12/31/08	Present assessment of parent education and family support services to GSC-O Strategic Leadership (ideas include geomapping or other visual techniques)	See above
PE/FS2.B.3 -Research standards of quality and research-based practices by type of program.	3/31/09	Report on findings.	See above
PE/FS2.B.4 -Work on accessing additional funding to expand current parenting education and family support services in Oakland County.	9/30/09	Potential funding sources are identified and at least one proposal for funding is completed.	See above

**Other Issues and Concerns:**

None at this time.

**Announcements:**

Kim Bowyer announced that her next Parent Coalition meeting was on March 10, 2009 at the Tyndall Center in Berkley/Oak Park.

Brenda Jenkins announced that the Title I regional conference is to be held in Detroit from 3/18-3/21.

**Next Steps:**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 at Carehouse.