

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Early Care & Education Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

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

In Attendance:

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Sue Allen, Oakland 4C; Kim McLean, Lake Orion Schools; Darlene Zimny, GSC-O; 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.	In August, Lisa met with Cindy Macks to discuss her work on the “physician outreach plan” to build relationships with Oakland County Pediatricians. This pilot model will prioritize outreach to pediatricians that serve high risk children and families in Oakland County. Cindy will be able to use the grant proposal as a jumping off point. Cindy will focus more on developmental assessments. Lisa shared with Cindy our outreach to Beaumont residents and the new OU medical school. Lisa and Cindy also discussed possibilities for extended funding including CATCH grants and another try at the OU/Beaumont grant. For the OU/Beaumont grant, Cindy suggested that she, Lisa and Julie sit down and review what has been funded including who the lead physician is and type of research.

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.
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. They will be beginning their mentoring project this September.
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 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	4/30/09	Professional resource guide will be completed.	The cross county workgroup has been hard at work in order to finalize a hardcopy of the career lattice that would be available by the MDAEYC conference and then with online availability by the end of September. The hardcopy will have three inserts, one with professional organizations, one with training agencies and one with colleges and universities. It will also include information on the TEACH scholarship. The online version will include links to the websites of all the above organizations, divided by career lattice level. Lisa will continue to keep our subcommittee updated.
ECE2.B.2 -Disseminate Guide to	9/30/09	Guide will be disseminated to	See above

professionals in the county, including Family and Group Home Day Care Programs, Child Care Center Programs, Preschools, School-based Centers, etc.		professionals in the county as resources permit.	
Goal ECE3: <i>High quality early care and education is available for families in their communities.</i>			
Strategy ECE3.A: 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.	Lisa has received interview responses from all three models. She shared a table showing similarities and differences in the models so that the group could begin discussion on what more we might want to know from directors, teachers, assistants. We agreed that we definitely need to hear from these three voices, specifically on successes, challenges and changes in practice. Lisa will try to put this into a survey format to reach more participants.
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.	Our subcommittee will be hosting a table to focus on quality improvement. This would be a way for professionals from our group to work one on one with individuals interested in learning more about increasing quality. This month we discussed which tools we would include at our table. Included is PQA/ECERS, the career lattice, information on the TEACH scholarship, the early learning standards, and accreditation information (both NAFCC and NAEYC). Lisa is still working on finalizing the tools needed for this and is still in need of help from committee members.
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	ongoing	Outcomes will align with the Great Start Communication Action Plan to be determined.	See above.

characteristics are included			
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.	The results of the ECIC survey are complete. The Michigan report has been released. Oakland county data is available however, not able to be released via email. For our 3 rd year plan, we will form a small workgroup that will review the results and determine what further information might be needed or if there is a summary we would like to create.
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.	The Galileo Institute was a huge success with 80 participants and 11 school districts. School district plans have been typed up and similarities will be shared at the October meeting. Also, Julie and Lisa have received a grant to have two follow up sessions with school district implementation of these plans. They would like to have one of those focus on collaboration with community child care agencies and possibly with parents.

Other Issues and Concerns:

Joint recruitment and Enrollment for GSRP and Head Start Programs-We have contracted with Kim McLean from Lake Orion to complete some of the work on joint recruitment. Given the short timeframe, her focus will be on completing a matrix of program parameters to help families understand their preschool options, developing a brochure and partnering with other partners to inform/advertise. Our subcommittee will continue to work with the workgroup on this and it will become a part of our 3rd year action agenda.

The regional resource center has begun its planning meetings. They will focus their work on relative and aide providers as well as programs that receive subsidy payments and will use a hub type model. As more information becomes available, we will continue to share that with this subcommittee

Announcements:

None at this time.

Next Steps:

Next meeting is scheduled for September 1st, 2009.