

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Early Care & Education Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

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

In Attendance:

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Danelle Watts, 4C; Laura Brown, Rochester Schools; Rhonda Meyers, PWP/MDAEYC; Darlene Zimny, GSC-O; Lisa Sturges, GSC-O.

Action Agenda Status:

This month we discussed our year three plan while also discussing updates to each of our current action agenda—we looked at where we are and discussed where we hope to go within the next year. This document will include the updates discussed at the meeting. There will be a second document that will reflect our 3rd year action plan goals.

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.	They have finally announced the recipients of the OU/Beaumont Research Award and unfortunately we were not selected. However, Darlene was able to amend the budget and receive approval for some money to hire a contractor that will work with our subcommittee to create a “physician outreach plan”. This contractor will be able to use the grant proposal as a foundation for their work. They will be responsible for creating an outreach model and workplan to build relationships with Oakland County Pediatricians. This model would include surveying physicians for knowledge of and

			referral to community resources and developmental screenings, communication vehicles for sharing community resources and regular feedback, and technical assistance for utilizing developmental screenings. This pilot model will prioritize outreach to pediatricians that serve high risk children and families in Oakland County. This new direction will be applied to our 3 rd year action plan.
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. Last month, Danelle reported that their playgroups with Julie Ogg are going well with about 10 families participating. She also reported that the mentoring project is on hold until September.
Strategy ECE2.B: Connect child care professionals to training opportunities and community resources.			
ECE2.B.1 -Create a professional resource	4/30/09	Professional resource guide	Lisa brought in the final draft of the career lattice to

<p>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</p>		<p>will be completed.</p>	<p>share with the group. A small cross county workgroup met the next day (7/08) to discuss what next steps might be. The group discussed final options for the career lattice and decided to pilot it with a couple of professionals in a variety of positions and at a variety of STEPS. The pilot professionals will be able to review two different documents (one that we have been working on in our subcommittee and one with black and white wording within the cells). In addition, the group discussed also bringing on Macomb as they will now be part of the Oakland region for training. Our next steps will be to make sure that the information gathered by Braintree last year on training entities is up to date. We will meet again after this is complete to discuss what information we want to have included online. We will also need to decide which website this document would be on and who would need to keep it up to date. Anne Marie Harris from UWSEM suggested that as the Regional Resource Center they might possibly be able to take on that role. Lisa will continue to keep our subcommittee updated.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>9/30/09</p>	<p>Guide will be disseminated to professionals in the county as resources permit.</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Goal ECE3: <i>High quality early care and education is available for families in their communities.</i></p>			
<p>Strategy ECE3.A: Identify high quality early care and education programs and research QRIS for Oakland County.</p>			
<p>ECE3.A.1 -Work with ECIC and state efforts on QRIS development entry.</p>	<p>9/30/09</p>	<p>Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Lisa has sent out the interview questions for our three models. After all three interviews are received, the group will meet together to look at similarities and differences in the models as well as what more we might want to know from directors, teachers, assistants. This might help us to design a survey rather than an open ended interview for other perspectives so that we are able to reach more participants.</p>

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.	The group submitted a proposal led by Chris Boisvert and Lisa Sturges to present a two session workshop on the learning standards and how to apply them in the classroom. We also decided that we would host a table to focus on quality improvement. We thought we could bring some tools such as the PQA, early learning standards, information on TEACH scholarships, the career lattice, etc. This would be a way for professionals from our group to work one on one with individuals interested in learning more about increasing quality. Next month we will need to spend some time planning for this event.
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.	See above.
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 but not yet available. Oakland had enough response to have our own data disaggregated. As soon as the results are available, Lisa will share with the subcommittee to see what we further information might be needed.
ECE4.A.2 -Work with ECIC and state efforts on kindergarten status assessment.	9/30/09	Documentation of ECIC communication in meeting	No updates

		minutes.	
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.	Lisa reminded the group 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 administrators, 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. It will be at Meadowbrook Hall. Program participants will be able to register for free thanks to the support of the GSC-O, but registration will be limited to the first 80 individuals. Lisa and Julie will be able to keep track of which districts are attending and will be able to strategically encourage district early childhood programs, community early childhood programs and parents to attend and to complete the team. There will be three districts that will share their stories of work they have done to make a connection between ECE and K-12. Lisa shared a letter that included the talking points we would like for each of these to share. Feedback was provided. There was some concern that we didn't have any examples from a south county location. Lisa asked if there were any examples from this area to please let her know.

Other Issues and Concerns:

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

- (1) Joint recruitment and Enrollment for GSRP and Head Start Programs-An adhoc workgroup was developed based on key members suggested through our subcommittee and Chris Boisvert's director's group. This group met at the end of April and then again at the end of June. We

will be hiring a contractor to begin the work on the workplan. This group will continue to work with the workgroup on this and it will become a part of our 3rd year action agenda.

Announcements:

None at this time.

Next Steps:

Next meeting is scheduled for August 4th, 2009.