

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Early Care & Education Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

May 5, 2009
 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Oakland Schools, Room 230

In Attendance:

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Sue Allen, 4C; Danelle Watts, 4C; Julie Ricks-Doneen, Oakland University; 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
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.	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. Darlene stated that there was some available funding for us to use for this project. So, the group agreed that next month we would spend some time discussing how we would proceed with this goal and strategy.
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. The analysis of the survey by Michigan 4C Association is complete and last month we reviewed those findings. The social emotional subcommittee has reviewed the synthesis and recommendations from the challenging behaviors survey. They are planning to incorporate their findings with the work they are doing with discipline policies. Julie Ricks-Doneen is still in the process of collecting data. She has not received the response she had hoped to. We spent some time brainstorming with Julie possible places the survey could be distributed. Several subcommittee members offered to distribute to the survey to their networks.
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. Danelle mentioned that they are having a Leadership Breakfast on May 20 th at 7:30 am that is designed to encourage business and policy leaders to support early learning.
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	4/30/09	Professional resource guide will be completed.	Lisa brought another draft of the career lattice for the group to review. Edits to the cover page were made. The group made decisions to consolidate some of the columns on the chart so that it would be easier to read. The group also edited and reordered the disclaimers.

amount of training/education and experience needed to qualify for that role			Finally the group discussed what information could be added to the back page. It seems like we are almost to the final version!!
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
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.	Last month Betsy Spiker suggested that the interview questions for our three quality models 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. Lisa shared some sample interview questions for both perspectives. While the interview questions for the model seemed ready to go, the interview questions designed for the director and teachers seemed lengthy and Lisa wasn't sure if she would have the time needed to interview each individually. The group decided that if we first interview the models as originally discussed, those responses might help us to understand what we still need to know from the other perspectives. Also, this might help us to design more of a survey rather than an open ended interview so that we are able to reach more participants. Next steps include interviews with each of the three 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
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	ongoing	Outcomes will align with the Great Start Communication	No updates

with professionals what the early learning standards are and what their purpose is.		Action Plan to be determined.	
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
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.	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
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 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. Further planning is needed.

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 as a means to poverty reduction-Lisa informed the group that our recommendations for the original draft we that the work of the Great Start Collaborative should be the lead for this section of the poverty reduction plan. The newest draft did not include this wording nor any mention of the GSC in the goals or strategies. We are working both on a regional level as well as at a state level to be sure that work that is currently being done is not duplicated.
- (2) Discipline policies-Lisa mentioned that the social emotional subcommittee has been working on this project. They have discussed training and possible model discipline policies as action steps. This work could be done cross subcommittee with ours helping these projects. We will let them take the lead and then see what they may need from us. 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 mentioned that Erica Willard from TEACH will be coming next month to discuss work that our subcommittee could do in order to help more professionals access this opportunity to further their professional development.
- (4) 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 was able to develop a workplan which included several goals and strategies for achieving better collaboration among programs. Lisa reviewed this workplan with the group. Darlene mentioned that this is definitely something that will be integrated into the work that we do with this subcommittee.
- (5) Quality Contracts for Professional Development and Resource and Referral-Lisa shared a two page summary with the group regarding the quality contracts. GSC-O staff must refrain from any discussion regarding possible applications for this contract. However, Lisa shared this summary with the subcommittee in order to highlight several areas that will fit in with the work that we are currently doing with our work on the career lattice. These include a professional development tracking system, a statewide professional development registry, and statewide professional development alignment.

Announcements:

None at this time.

Next Steps:

Next meeting is scheduled for June 2nd, 2009.