

Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

Early Care & Education Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

June 2, 2009
 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Oakland Schools, Room 230

In Attendance:

Betsy Spiker, Oakland 4C; Danelle Watts, 4C; Mary Abbruzzese, Troy Preschool; Laura Brown, Rochester Schools; Chris Boisvert, Oakland Schools; Eva Poole, MSUE; Hollie West, Parent; 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.	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. We have also not received approval of the budget amendments for the GSC budget. The group agreed that without any funding knowledge the only thing that we could do at this point would be to get the survey out. Lisa will work with Julie to make the contacts necessary to begin collecting data on what physician's knowledge base is on community resources and assessments.
ECE1.A.2 -Include information on screening and developmental assessments in public awareness and outreach efforts, aligning with	12/31/09 (based on OU/	Presentation of information provided to at least 15 events.	See above

the GSC Communication Plan, public awareness activities directed towards physicians, and Early On Oakland Goals.	Beaumont Grant)		
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. 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 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.	Lisa brought another draft of the career lattice for the group to review. She also shared this draft with the GSC-Wayne subcommittee and they were very impressed with the work of our subcommittee. While a couple of small changes have been suggested, we are also ready to move forward on the next steps. A small workgroup has been formed between Wayne and Oakland to discuss placing the career lattice on the web as a searchable document for available trainings. Betsy offered a word of caution in sharing this document—worrying that someone might use it inappropriately. We will need to be careful as we move forward.
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 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.
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.
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.	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. Lisa and Chris updated the group on work that has been done to date. We shared a draft schedule. As we find out which districts are attending, we will strategically follow up with the early childhood programs in that district. We also encouraged other districts to ask their supervisors.

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 shared the latest draft of these goals. In the last regional meeting, Lisa Sturges (GSC-O, Sue Allen (4C), Andrea Miller (Head Start/OLHSA) and Karen Olsen (GSC-Macomb) participated and suggested many edits. The latest draft is the one that was submitted for a grant for the region to receive \$50,000 to reduce poverty.
- (2) TEACH scholarship-Erica Willard from TEACH came to share information about TEACH including how it works and what each persons responsibilities were. The group agreed to really expand the outreach to their networks so that more directors and programs could understand more about it. We also discussed the possibility of offering scholarships for programs unable to pay their %. Rhonda suggested that MDAEYC might also be able to help with this. We agreed that this would need to be done with quality improvement efforts. Danelle stated that the ELC is looking into providing scholarship opportunities too.
- (3) 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 shared a couple of things that she has been working on including some fast facts about child care in Oakland County, ideas for a geo-map showing where available programs are, and ideas for a brochure or web based information on the differences between the two programs.

Announcements:

None at this time.

Next Steps:

Next meeting is scheduled for July 7th, 2009.