



## Great Start Collaborative meeting minutes for 4/29/09

Meeting called to order at 10:40

Amy Hesse, Collaborative Director encouraged all attendees to write a note to our legislators on the back of a key poster to take to the Star Power Rally in Lansing on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Welcome and introductions were made.

### Meeting attendees:

Tina Borchers, MSU Extension  
Martha Jane Burns, Crawford County Dept. of Human Services  
Kristina Coffinger, Northern Lakes Community Mental Health  
Marianne Cvitkovich, Parent Representative  
Brandi Desmarteaux, MSU Extension  
Rachel Harper, District health Dept. #2 and His Love Family Resources  
Amy Hesse, GSC Director  
Amy Coulter, GSC Parent Liaison  
Kathy Jordan, GSC Parent Liaison  
Nancie, Kersey, Child and Family Services 4C  
Betty, McClintic, West Branch-Rose City Schools  
Allison Oakes, NEMCSA Head Start  
Erica Palmerton, Juvenile Probation Officer/Parent  
Brenda Stapleton, 4C Onsite Coordinator  
Michelle Tennant, West Branch-Rose City Schools  
Teena Brunner, Mio AuSable Elementary  
Melinda, COOR ISD  
Dan Beltz, COOR ISD  
Kathy Neff, COOR ISD  
Martha Jane Burns, Crawford County Dept. of Human Services  
Michele Cochrane, COOR ISD, Early On Coordinator  
Ruggero Dozzi, COOR ISD, Special Education Director  
Sherry Garner, NEMCSA Head Start  
Teresa Gertiser, COOR ISD  
Cheryl Howard, District Health Dept. #2  
Marcie Howey, Gerrish-Higgins School District

Lynn Kann, 4C Childcare Specialist  
Melissa Miller, Parent Advocate  
Melissa Piehl, MSU Extension  
Torie Thornton, Parent Representative  
Leann Vartanian, NEMCSA Early Head Start  
Laura, McCormick, Gerrish Higgins School District  
Stacey Barnes, KCC Dean of Student Services  
Kimberly Peters, MSU Extension,  
Judy Samuelson, ECIC  
Marie Sarchet, ECIC

Guest Speaker, Judy Samuelson, CEO of ECIC

- Amy Hesse introduced and read off list of credentials.
- Talked about background information of ECIC and now how every community in Michigan now has a Great Start Collaborative.
- Budget cuts in Lansing is a huge problem that Michigan faces, this is why we are so important.
- An ultimate goal for the GSC is for Michigan to have an “Early Childhood Focus”. There are 85 services available for young children that are too spread out, we need to bring our resources together.
- Judy addressed audience and talked about where the GSC will be in 5 years, how the community knows that the GSC is an active part in our community, why the need for the GSC, and how our goal is to have every child safe, healthy and ready for kindergarten.
- The GSC is about change and it’s time to “take back our government”.

Power Point Presentation, Judy Samuelson and Marie Sarchet

- Talked about structure, financing and governance.
- Great Start Vision and Mission along with the definition of the Great Start System.
- Uncoordinated sector-specific programs are with diffusion of funds, accountability and impact.
- We need to increase investment in early childhood.
- Where we want to be with the Great Start System as it pertains to coordinated funding and specific accountability.
- Defined the Great Start Collaborative areas of focus.
- We need to hear from the parents about what is working for our community, what is not. We need to use the voice of the parents, along with the Collaborative to be heard.

Parent Liaison presentation, Amy Coulter and Kathy Jordan

- Updated Collaborative through a handout on what they have been doing.
- Talked about parent recruitment.
- Invited parents to join the Parent Coalition.

Amy Hesse, Director of the GSC

- Handed out and presented the Community Report Card.
- Encouraged all to sign up and join us for the Star Power Rally.

Break for Lunch

Executive Committee Elections: All members were nominated, seconded and voted in per Roberts Rule of Order

Chairperson:	Sherry Garner
Co-Chairperson:	Nancie Kersey
Secretary:	Amy Coulter
Crawford County Representative:	Kristina Coffingerr
Oscoda County Representative:	Teena Bruner
Roscommon County Representative:	Marcie Howey
Communications Chairperson:	Kathy Neff

The Executive Committiee will me on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at the Kirtland House

Adjourned at 12:45