

Great Start Region One Meeting Minutes

Escanaba, MI March 12, 2009 started at 9:15

Present- Marie, Tara, Karen, Robin, Heather, Chasidy, Michelle, Irma, Lisa, John, Sue, Emilie, Heather, Sommer and Kerry (By phone after Matt's presentation)

Marie welcomed everyone

Tara went over logistics of DSISD

Marie reviewed the agenda

Introductions/Check-in

What inspires me to do the work of Great Start?

Matt Gillard – phone conference. Former legislator. FY starts in Oct 1.

Budget proposal was done on Feb 12 by governor. The governor did assume \$5 million in stimulus. There is actually more funds than that available. The proposed cuts that are of interest: 0-3 secondary prevention, nurse family program, GPGS.

Late June – Sept. The stimulus dollars and figuring out how those dollars will be used. Some of the dollars are meant to be spent quickly. Trying to get things going quicker. Some funds will need to be used in FY09. Governor will propose how she thinks the immediate funds should be used. Dept of Transportation was one that she recommended. There was objection to this right away. The legislature will debate and act. In addition to the 2010 budget that was already proposed, she will add to it to complete the entire plan.

In the meantime there are still plans going on with legislators. Hearings and activity starting to happen. Waiting for more direction from the feds as to where the dollars can go. The federal depts. are just starting to trickle out the information.

From the early childhood standpoint. Matt Gillard testified yesterday to the restoration of those funds. Leading the charge at ECIC. Everyone should do his or her part to advocate for early childhood.

Encouraging folks to work with the local school officials. Education funds will go through the title 1 formula. One time money. Working closely with the dept of Ed. Many of the decisions will rest with the local school boards.

The argument of investing in early childhood and that it won't be sustained, pay attention to the speeches of the pres they start with early education and supporting it. There should be a lot less of that fear that the programs won't be sustainable. Childcare block monies.

Communication Needs (see attached sheet as well)

Intranet

Things needed: templates, pr releases, radio,

Star Power

Ideas were tossed around. Each collaborative discussed their initial ideas. Discussion involved budget and Marie wants to know if we don't have money to pay for everyone to go to let her know.

Break for Lunch –Meeting Splits between Directors and Parent Liaisons

Business Spotlight

Lisa Temple

There isn't total buy-in from the business community. It is hard to get them to see beyond the thought of the collaborative being a human services only initiative. The Business Spotlight – one that is family friendly (see documents that Lisa passed out DIGSC Family Friendly Business Spotlight)

Lisa reviewed the logistics of the initiative and discussed media involvement and all processes for each director to begin this in their own area.

Work Plan/Director Updates

Marie will review each Work plan and discuss with each director. More support and recommendations will be made. There was discussion as to the “ongoing” portions of each work plan and that maybe a note needs to be added that it is looked at each month.

Future audits will be made. Do you have an equipment list? This will be done sporadically throughout the state.

Amending the budget. The form is on the ECIC website.

Marie would like to have minutes from director meetings. Please send her the minutes and meeting dates, times and locations.

Finance Project-Discussed purpose and local concerns.