



## Minutes July 16, 2007

**Members Present:** Larry Arreguin, (Governor's Southeast MI Office), Dr. Dahan Alnajjar, (ACCESS), Julie Boggs (Office of the Prosecuting Attorney), Shenetta Coleman (City of Detroit, Dept. of Human Services), Fred Eaton (Comcast), Elizabeth Grace (Schoolcraft College), Annemarie Harris, (United Way), Toni Hartke (Detroit Public Schools), Andrea Hawkins (Parent Representative), Susan Hooks Brown (Southwest Solutions), Hugh Madden (Rep. Hopgood's office ), Carol Matthews (Parent Representative), Cecelia Mobley (Wayne County Head Start), Lena Montgomery (Wayne RESA), Karen Murphy (YWCA of Western Wayne County), Denise Osgood (UAW), Loren Parker (Parent Representative), Carole Quarterman (4C), Ramana Roberson (Parent Representative), Dr.Carolynn Rowland (Detroit Dept. Health and Wellness), Katie Silverman (U of M Dearborn), Deborah Swasey (Wayne County Dept of Human Services), Rashida Tlaib (Rep. Tobocman's office), Barbara Trippe (The Guidance Center), Anne Marie Valdez (Child's Hope) Brian Whitsett, (Parent Representative), Christopher Wigent (Wayne RESA), Barbara Wilson (Parent Representative), John Van Camp (Southwest Solutions),

**Members Absent:** Anike' Amoje' (Parent Representative) Cynthia Barnes (Parent Representative), Ronald and Donna Blauet (Parent Representatives), John Colina (Colina Foundation), Marie Colombo (Skillman Foundation), ), Dr. Talat Danish, (Wayne County Health Dept.), Candi De Jesus (Parent Rep), Reverend Geoffrey Drutchas (St. Paul's United Church of Christ), Cheryl Frost (Children's Outreach), Rosetta Howard (Parent Representative) Perry Jones (Wayne Metro), Vida McCoy (Parent Representative) Nasirah Mitchell (Parent Representative), Mary Mueller (Children's Hospital), Mayor Jack O'Reilly, Cheryl Posuniak (Parent Representative) Veronica Rosa (Parent Rep), Sarah Smith (Parent Representative) Deborah Spring, (Vistas Nuevas), Marilyn Schmitt (Wayne County Infant and Toddler Interagency Coordinating Council), Kathie Tuggle (Angel Wings Family Child Care)

**Staff Present:** Pat Sargent, Caryn Pack Ivey, Deborah Strong and Linda Stanko

**Guests:** Cherie Ross-Barber, (ECIC) Elaine Koons, Amanda Johnson (GSC-W staff as of 7/18)

**Introductions:** In John Colina's absence Executive Committee member Andrea Hawkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.; introductions were made.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes:** Motion by John Van Camp to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Carole Quarterman. Approved.

**Introductions:** Lena Montgomery introduced the Wayne RESA's new Superintendent, Christopher Wigent to the Collaborative. Chris spoke of his top priorities: early childhood as a moral imperative, No Child Left Behind in its purist form, and community-wide involvement in educating children. He has put the collaborative meetings on his busy schedule.

Two new staff members have been hired as Early Childhood Community Liaisons. Elaine Koons and Amanda Johnson introduced each other. Elaine will be working with out-Wayne County and Amanda will be working with the city of Detroit, especially Skillman Good Neighborhoods Initiative. Skillman funded Amanda's position with GSC-W. They will begin on 7/18.

**ECIC Update:** Cherie Ross-Barber did an update on the Star Power legislative day that took place on May 29<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. There were over 500 people and a DVD was created. Pat Sargent and Caryn Pack Ivey were interviewed and are featured on the DVD. Star Power will now be an annual event. Cecelia Mobley suggested that all of the early childhood organizations combine this event since many do the same kind of event. All of the technical assistance meetings have been planned for the year. There are plans for parent liaison and coalition training as well as coordinator and collaborative member events and training. An information day has been planned for all of the collaboratives in October with each collaborative bringing 10-15 members.

### **Opportunities:**

- **CDF's Healthy Child Campaign-**Dr.Carolynn Rowland from the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion spoke on the *All Healthy Children Act (H.R. 1688)*. The Children's Defense Fund is asking for support for this campaign to support this bill. Several bills have been proposed to expand the current State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).The All Healthy Children Act would consolidate the children's portion of Medicaid and the SCHIP program to create one new streamlined children's health insurance program. All eligible children would be guaranteed coverage and comprehensive benefits in the new program. It would also raise the eligibility to 300% above poverty level. The current program expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>. **A motion was made by Carolynn Rowland and seconded by Carole Quarterman that GSC-W subscribe to the CDF sign-on and support bill HR 1688 or subsequent bills that reauthorize and expand SCHIP. Motion approved.** Pat will also draft a letter to those representing Wayne County in Congress educating them on the importance of healthcare for young children and their families. Carolynn agreed to send any informational updates to Pat to be shared with the collaborative. Larry Arreguin suggested that Pat contact Congressman Dingell's office to ask that they give us some next steps for information and talking points for SCHIP should the president veto the reauthorization.
- **Children's Summit:** Annemarie Valdez of Child's Hope spoke about the Save Our Children Summit. It will take place on November 30, 2007 at the Fairlane Center in Dearborn. This year the event will focus on Michigan's foster care system. This is a system where new efforts are being made and the event will help inform professionals and the public. **There was a motion by Annemarie Valdez, seconded by Annemarie Harris for the Collaborative to endorse the event. The motion was approved.** Carole Quarterman did request that the 0-5 age group in foster care be addressed at some point during the summit. Annemarie went on to say there would be an exhibition area for organizations to share resources.
- **Jumpstart:** Annemarie Valdez also talked about the Jumpstart program that has college students mentoring at-risk preschoolers for one school year. She said it is a successful program that is not only beneficial to the preschooler but teaches the students about community service. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September Child's Hope/Jumpstart will sponsor Read for the Record at Fairlane Shopping Center. To expand this program there is a need for funding. Annemarie Harris suggested that UWSEM is a possible funding source. She also volunteered United Way's volunteer center to help with the program. Susan Hooks Brown also said she is interested in helping. Pat recommended putting together an ad hoc committee to work on this project. Katie Silverman and Elaine Koons were interested.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Marketing and Communications Committee:** Fred Eaton did a brief update of the Marketing Committee. They plan to work with the Data Committee to promote the focus groups and the summit that will be coming up later this year. There was discussion on getting the legislature to know who we are. During the meeting a form went around to collect that information from GSCW members. From time to time the staff will be sending out templates for letters that can be customized to go out to the member's representatives to educate them on early childhood issues. The first, developed by the ECIC will be around the value of investing in early childhood. Fred asked that members share the template with neighbors, relatives to help with a letter writing campaign. Denise Osgood said that she had 40,000 home-based early education and care provider letter writers available.
- **Executive Committee-**Andrea reported on the Executive meeting. She explained about the proposal by RESA to contract Everybody Ready to manage the day to day expenses of GSC-W. This is being discussed between all concerned, RESA, the Everybody Ready Board, the ECIC and the other funders. The Executive Board will be doing a "Strategic Thinking" retreat sometime in August. The Operating Guidelines are being revised. A draft will go to the executive committee in August, out to the members for input with the intention of having the final draft for the Sept. GSC-W meeting.
- **Finance Committee-**Annemarie Harris reported that the Finance Committee had been looking for a charge. Since the finances are monitored through the ECIC and Wayne RESA and the Executive Committee, the committee responsibilities were limited and the need for business engagement is crucial. She proposed that a Business Engagement and Development Committee would be specific to the GSC-W strategic plan and engage the Wayne County business community in the early childhood movement. Andrea suggested that since there may be a change to Everybody Ready that the Finance may need to be in place. There was a motion by John Van Camp that the Executive Committee assumes the responsibilities of overseeing the finances until there is a need for another Finance Committee. It was seconded by Susan Hooks Brown and approved.
- **Data Collection and Evaluation-**Carole Quarterman gave a quick update on the data committee. They are working on interpreting the indicators that were not in the Community Report to come up with a final report that will be on the GSC-W website. The regional inserts are in the final stages. There will be one for Downriver, one for Western Wayne, one for Detroit and Hamtramck, and one for the eastern suburbs, the Pointes, and Harper Woods. Deb spoke on the fact that we did receive a \$250,000 grant from Kresge to do the Braintree work and to develop and sustain a data information system.

**GSC-W Parents-**Caryn asked parent Barbara Wilson to give the update on the Parent Group. Barbara talked about the training that ECIC is providing for the parents, the first one scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> is *Creating a Vision for Your Coalition* on August 14<sup>th</sup>. As part of the Strategic and Infrastructure Review, their regular parent meeting will be combined with a focus group and held on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The parents are planning a breakfast on September 11 and inviting parent groups from around Wayne County to attend. It will be called the Breakfast of Early Childhood Champions and they are hoping to build a coalition to create a large parent advocacy voice for children in Wayne County.

**Legislative Update-**Hugh Madden from Representative Hopgood's office gave a brief update on the state of the budget-the Michigan business tax has passed and this year's budget is done but now they are working on next years budget. We have a new designee from Representative Tobocman's office, Rashida Tlaib.

**Member Announcements-**Annemarie Harris said the United Way and other GSC-W members have partnered with Reach Out and Read-a program that puts reading into offices of pediatricians and children

are given free books on each well-baby visit. Henry Ford Health System, Children's Hospital and DMC are all signed on.

Andrea talked about a group of DPS parents that, with the help of U of M School of Social Work, did a Photo Voice project that documented environmental racism, which excludes minorities from environmental decisions affecting their communities, such as exposure to toxic and hazardous waste. The video shows negative and positive things that have been done. There was discussion of trying to create a DVD to share. Shenetta Coleman shared her feedback from the Environmental Justice Forum that she had attended.

**Staff Update-**The GSC-W staff has been expanded to six contractual staff with the addition of Amanda and Elaine. There is a retreat planned for July 25<sup>th</sup> for the staff to work on moving forward. Pat plans on GSC-W taking part as a vendor at an event that ARISE in Detroit is doing on 8/4. The Quarterly reports for the ECIC are due. Pat, Elaine and Amanda will be attending a One D meeting on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at Youthville. Because of our size, our Collaborative meeting place will be changed beginning in September; we will be at the **U of M School of Education (Fairlane Center South, next to the Fairlane Club) on Hubbard Dr. A map will be attached to these minutes.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Next meeting</u></b> <b>Monday, September 17, 2007</b> <b>U of M Dearborn</b> <b>Breakfast 8:30, Meeting 9:00</b></p>
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