



## Great Start Collaborative Wayne Minutes January 22, 2007

**Members Present:** Dr. Dahan Alnajjar, (ACCESS), Julie Boggs (Family Court), John Colina (Colina Foundation), Shenetta Coleman (City of Detroit, Dept. of Human Services), Marie Colombo (Skillman Foundation), Candi De Jesus (Parent Rep), Dr. Anahid Kulwicki (Wayne County Health Dept.), Fred Eaton (Comcast), Elizabeth Grace (Schoolcraft College), Susan Hooks Brown (Southwest Solutions), Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (State Representative), Barbara Tripp (The Guidance Center), Carol Matthews (Parent Representative), Stephanie Mitchell (Parent Representative), Cecelia Mobley (Wayne County Head Start), Lena Montgomery (Wayne RESA), Mary Mueller (Children's Hospital of Michigan), Karen Murphy (YWCA of Western Wayne County), Jack O'Reilly, (SEMCA) Caryn Pack Ivey (Parent Representative), Loren Parker (Parent Representative), Veronica Rosa (Parent Rep), Dr. Carolyn Rowland (Detroit Dept. Health and Wellness), Marilyn Schmitt (Wayne County Infant and Toddler Interagency Coordinating Council), Deborah Swasey (Wayne County Dept of Human Services), Kathie Tuggle (Angel Wings Family Child Care), John Van Camp (Southwest Solutions), Anne Marie Valdez (Child's Hope) Brian Whitsett (Parent Representative) and **Guests:** Virginia Saleem, (Dept. of Human Services), Hugh Madden (Rep. Hopgood's staff ), Donna Queener (Child's Hope)

**Members Absent:** (no designee present) Deborah Bodrick (Detroit Public Schools), Reverend Geoffrey Drutchas (St. Paul's United Church of Christ), Cheryl Frost (Children's Outreach) Katie Silverman (U of M Dearborn), Steve Tobocman (State Rep)

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

- **Introductions:** Chair John Colina called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., introductions were made.
- **Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented
- **Minutes:** The minutes were approved as presented.
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Executive-** John Colina gave highlights from the committee's last two meetings. The committee assisted in drafting the budget. Pat prepared a piece for the Collaborative on how money has been granted to the Collaborative from the ECIC and the foundations supporting our work. The Executive committee approved position descriptions for both a Parent Liaison and Community Organizer. You have copies. The formation of work groups was also approved and will be discussed today. The Committee is beginning to look at the strategic planning process and will be meeting monthly this year as the work is intensifying.
  - **Marketing and Communication** The Communication Committee will be working with the Data Committee on a Press Conference to roll out the Community Report Card. Fred did say that he can do press releases on various activities of the Collaborative, so that the media begins to get used to seeing our logo and name. John and Pat both spoke last week with Shawn Lewis from The Detroit News for an article that is in today's paper.
  - **Finance Committee-**The chair, Annemarie Harris gave an update on the combined meeting of all of the committees that was held on January 11. There was discussion on charges, long term goals, a sharing of work plans and how to address the issues of the committees. One result of the meeting was that it was agreed that the chairs of the committees should have a tie to the Executive Committee. It will be decided how often this

will happen. There was discussion and brainstorming on creating “boilerplate” language which would be the paragraph or two used in publications that would concisely and clearly explain the GSC-W work. It could also be the basis of the verbal explanation any of us could give others to explain what GSC-w is and does. The combined committees will be meeting quarterly as their work is interrelated and they found this a good forum for sharing.

- **Data Collection and Evaluation**-Co-chairs- Marie Colombo and Carole Quarterman updated everyone on the work of the data committee. Carole passed out a hand out *How are the Children*, going over the GSC-W’s suggested Report Card themes and indicators. The deadline for the finish of the Community Report Card is the end of February and it will be ready to roll out on March 19<sup>th</sup>, which is our next Collaborative meeting. The Report Card will be a snapshot of the data collected for all of Wayne County but the committee proposes that there will be customized inserts for 4 areas (eastern Wayne County, Western Wayne, Downriver, and one for Detroit’s 10 planning sectors along with Highland Park/Hamtramck. This would allow areas doing local work to have a piece that could be used to take a local look at how they are doing in comparison to the county overall. Attention is being paid to creating a realistic look at where Wayne County is in respect to the indicator’s of well-being while framing the information in a way that highlights moving forward together for our young children. The committee is beginning to look at the work of the Strategic Review and the Infrastructure Review which are Parts II and III of their charge.
- **GSC-W Workgroups**- Pat proposed to the Executive Committee that workgroups be formed for each of the five content areas of GSC-W work, 1.) physical health, 2.) social-emotional health, 3.) early care and education, 4.) parent education and family support, and 5.) basic needs, economic security and child safety. Sign up sheets were passed around for each work group; there were 2 sheets, one for the individual to sign up and one for suggestions of people who could be contacted that may be interested. This would be a time limited commitment and would help prepare for the Strategic Review and guide us toward the strategic planning. These groups will involve more people in the GSC-W work and bring wide experience to the table from those doing the work in each area and from those families who use services. The request for participation in the work groups will be posted on the website this week. Chairs will be sought for each group from the GSC-W members.

#### **Staff Updates-**

- **Bill Millet Event**-Discussion took place on the upcoming seminar with Bill Millet presenting Quality Early Education-A Competitive Necessity in Global Economy- brochures was passed out and everyone was encouraged to attend and bring others who could benefit from this information.
- **Parent Liaison**-the job position was filled and announced. Caryn Pack Ivey will move from Collaborative member to this position as of February 1st. Caryn has a breadth of experience and has been committed to the GSC-W vision since its formation and will be working with the parent reps on the Collaborative, with existing parent coalitions in the community and with establishing new parent coalitions.

**First Time Members**-There were several new members attending for the first time and they each were welcomed and invited to share comments. Overall they expressed enthusiasm over the possibilities of what could be done working together.

#### **Member Announcements**

Lena discussed an opportunity for the Collaborative called *Reach out and Read*, a project headed by Pediatricians. It was suggested that a sub group be formed and possibly connect this with another entity to support it. She will convene those who indicated interest.

Lena has PBS newsletters, if someone would like them they can contact Vernitta Beverly, 313-876-8187.

Carole Quarterman gave out information about the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit and urged everyone to get this information into the hands of families who could benefit from the credit.

March 30<sup>th</sup> will be the 4C Public Forum at Schoolcraft Community College. Everyone will be invited.

Southwest Solutions is having a Family Literacy Night February 7<sup>th</sup>, check out GSC-W website, details will be posted.

**Please send your upcoming events for young children and families, they can be put the website- [greatstartcollaborativewayne.org](http://greatstartcollaborativewayne.org).**

**Next meeting**

**March 19, 2007**

**There will be a shortened meeting followed by the press conference releasing  
The Community Report Card. (location to be determined)**

**Members Pass word for the member only section of the  
Website- [greatstartcollaborativewayne.org](http://greatstartcollaborativewayne.org)**

**GSCW**

**kids01**