

Basic Needs Workgroup Meeting Minutes October 15, 2007

An overview of the history, vision, mission and work of Great Start Collaborative-Wayne was given by Pat Sargent. This overview was supported by print material including the data collected during the assessment of child well-being, “**How Are the Children**”, the report published by GSC-W based on that data, and a document from Braintree Solution Consulting entitled “**GSC-W Early Childhood System Building Initiative.**”

Colin Newlin briefed group members on the findings from the Infrastructure Review conducted by Braintree Solution Consulting. This briefing was supported by print material including a one page piece entitled “**Early Childhood Planning Groups and Collaborative Processes in Wayne County, Michigan**” and a four page map entitled “**An Overview of Wayne Counties Service System for Early Childhood.**”

Additionally, a multi page document, “**Basic Needs Development Briefing on Early Childhood**” was reviewed.

Colin led us through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis focusing on the **Basic Needs** of our youngest children and their families.

These Issue Areas were identified by the group:

1. Economic Security
2. Child Safety, Abuse, Neglect, Foster Care
3. Transportation (lack of)
4. Home Economics (utilities, etc.)
5. Environment (lead, pollution, etc.)
6. Food and Nutrition
7. Clothing

Strengths Pertaining to these Issue Areas:

1. Some programs offer transportation vouchers
2. CBO's, WIC, DHS Community Days, Food banks exist, but not enough, Churches organize and better coordinate food drives with each other, lunch program in child care centers.
3. Many second hand donated clothes. DHS provides clothing to clients.

Weaknesses Pertaining to these Issue Areas:

1. Isolation of programs
2. Access to food banks and all other supports require transportation, food is not always high in nutrients, there is a low level of citizen nutritional literacy, not enough groceries stores in Detroit and most families (92% in some areas) get their food from gas stations and party stores.
3. Not enough community supports and many are difficult to access and use, some stores do not accept clothing vouchers from DHS.

Opportunities pertaining to these issue areas:

1. Educate parents on safety.
2. Have home visiting program bring food and/or clothing to the home, have meals on wheels for young children, look at compliance of DOT for federal requirements for planning. Have DOT hubs with child care located where several transit sites exist (was this ever funded?)
3. Expand shut-off protections for families with young children (currently in place for sr. citizens), advertise availability of emergency assistance.
4. Educate parents on how to “baby proof” your house.

Threats pertaining to these Issue Areas are:

1. Not enough safe places to play (in Detroit), not enough free places to play.
2. Utility shut-offs to families with babies and young children.
3. Lead in homes, vacant lots, and toys.
4. Closing of major grocery store chain, declining # of early care programs that provide breakfast and lunch.
5. Teen parents do not like to use second hand baby clothes.

Consequences of ignoring issues raised above:

1. Poverty, higher risk factors,
2. Infant/child death, developmental delays, higher cost to system.
3. Lower accessibility, loss of income, loss of employment, lack of service utilization.
4. Poor health outcomes, danger, home safety, homelessness, more children placed in foster care.
5. Developmental challenges, child health risk, low self-esteem.
6. Developmental challenges, poor school performance, poor health outcomes.
7. Self – esteem. Lack of hygiene, physical health, mental health.

Following this brainstorming on Basic Needs, Colin took us through an exercise to help us identify focus areas for the next two meetings. The focus areas that emerged are **Child Safety and Child Welfare**, to be covered at the November 19th meeting, and **Food and Nutrition**, to be covered at the December 17th meeting.

Prior to our next meeting, Braintree Solutions Consulting will provide our workgroup with research and some national best practices on issues involving Child Safety and Nutrition to review so that we are well prepared to move ahead with our work.

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 19, 11:30 -1:45
One Heritage Place, Suite 220, Southgate**