

**Physical Health Workgroup  
Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 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, “**Physical Health Briefing on Early Childhood**” was reviewed.

Colin led us through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis focusing on the **Physical Health needs and systems** affecting our youngest children and their families.

**These Issue Areas were identified by the group:**

1. Oral health, dental hygiene.
2. Prematurity, low birth weight.
3. Child wellness: vision, hearing, speech, development, social/emotional...
4. The need for full and unconditional health care including prescription and OTC drugs, lab work, therapies, etc.
5. Over and under nutrition.
6. Marketing to children – poor food choices and unhealthy behaviors.
7. Exposure to toxins including second hand smoke.
8. Lack of transportation to health care services.
9. Health care needs to facilitate preparation for pregnancy, parenting, family planning.
10. Birth defects.
11. Special health care needs
12. Parental readiness to respond to health care needs and emergencies.
13. Safe housing, food, water, safe toys.
14. Lack of Medicaid early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (e.p.s.d.t.)
15. Lack of access to a medical home.

**Strengths Pertaining to these Issue Areas:**

1. Water fluoridation.
2. Wayne does some dental screening (for example, Head Start).
3. We have very skilled pediatric dentists.
4. We have very skilled Perinatologists and Obstetricians.

5. D.W.C. Health Authority.
6. W.S.U. Perinatal Research Branch.
7. Early On.
8. Well respected Children's Hospital
9. Head Start
10. Medical institutions, Detroit Health Authority – “cover the uninsured” is their initiative of choice for this year.
11. Infant Vitality Action Network (I.V.A.N.)

**Weaknesses Pertaining to these Issue Areas:**

1. Very few Medicaid providers cover dental care.
2. Women don't have access to primary and prenatal care.
3. Other maternal health factors (obesity, smoking, stress.)
4. D.W.C. Health Authority struggling with priorities/solutions.
5. Physicians do not comply with Medicaid Contract (Head Start example). State does not hold practitioners accountable.
6. Medical Homes are not operationalized.

**Opportunities pertaining to these issue areas:**

1. Better connection with dental programs.
2. Increase 3 of dentists participating in Medicaid.
3. I.V.A.N. Coalition and increased collaboration.
4. Look outside traditional funding sources.
5. Increase market penetration and utilization of Early On.
6. Work with Academy on EPSDT
7. Cover the Uninsured Week expansion.

**Threats pertaining to these Issue Areas are:**

1. Reimbursement levels are very low (dental.)
2. Funding and low morale surrounding it's uncertainty.
3. We don't go after “tough” problems.
4. Budget instability for screening mechanism.
5. Physicians not complying with Medicaid contract puts Head Start funding at risk.
6. Lack of transportation.
7. The system rewards specialty care and not primary care.

**Consequences of not doing anything:**

1. Increased infant mortality, birth defects, special education, huge costs to all systems including, family, educational, medical, social, foster care, and penal.
2. Morbidity and mortality.
3. Children not ready for, miss opportunities to become ready for success in school and in life.
4. Lack of transportation means lack of service until transportation becomes an ambulance or a fire truck resulting in higher costs and more profound effects on long term health and ability to learn.
5. Increased family stress.

Following this brainstorming, the group conducted an exercise to identify focus areas for the next two meetings. The focus areas that emerged are **“Access to a Medical Home: Child Wellness and all of its components”** –to be discussed at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting - and **“Facilitating preparation for pregnancy, parenting and family planning”**–to be discussed at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting\* (\*The agenda for December 18<sup>th</sup> is based upon the outcomes of the November meeting and may change).

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

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2:00 – 4:15**  
**One Heritage Place, Suite 220, Southgate**