



Great Start Collaborative-Wayne
Executive Committee Strategic Planning Session
December 3, 2007

Participants: John Colina, Susan Hooks Brown, Andrea Hawkins, Lena Montgomery, Mia Cupp, Ramana Roberson, Barbara Wilson

Staff Present: Pat Sargent, Deborah Strong, Caryn Pack Ivey, Elaine Koons, Amanda Johnson, Linda Stanko

Facilitated by Pat Sargent

❖ Welcome/Introductions

- ✓ There was a short discussion on the success of the Child's Hope Summit that was attended by Pat, Elaine and Amanda.
- ✓ Louis Pizkerr the new CEO of Wayne Metro stopped in to welcome us to their facility.
- ✓ Congratulations to Andrea Hawkins, the newly elected Secretary for the Executive Committee, to Barbara Wilson the newly elected Treasurer and to Ramama Roberson the newly elected Member at Large. Goodbye and many thanks to Susan Hooks Brown, John Van Camp and to Kristen McDonald as they step down from the committee.
- ✓ Pat did an overview of her ECIC Technical Assistance Meeting that she attended on November 28th and 29th in Holland, Mi.
 - A communications tool kit has been developed and given to four coordinators to review and give feedback to the ECIC.
 - There are three possible logos the ECIC has come up with-one including the Star guy and another including the mitten for more local exposure. Also one to be used for regional functions.
 - QRIS pilot-the quality rating improvement system pilot is something the ECIC has been holding on due to funding. There is the possibility of up to 4 pilots. There will be a meeting on January 10th, 2008 for people interested in hearing more about the pilot's parameters. GSC's would have to partner with someone to provide funding for the pilot and ECIC would cover the cost of the evaluation. Pat said it would be possible that we partner with GSC-Oakland and UWSEM to apply for a pilot. She and the Oakland Coordinator will attend the informational meeting.
 - The Finance Project -The ECIC contracted with The Finance Project to see what money is spent on early childhood at the state level and a template to do the same at the collaborative level. This will be a part of our work over the next 8 months. Colin did collect a lot of funding information as he did his interviews which will be helpful.

Strategic Planning

- ✓ Pat presented an organizational chart of Great Start Collaborative-Wayne and it was presented in a handout. The question was asked, "Is the current structure of the organization appropriate for supporting the collaborative as we move to implementation?" A decision was made to add a Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. Five "Action Teams" will be established, to do the work

of the *Early Childhood Action Agenda* in Physical Health, Social-Emotional Health, Early Care and Education, Parent Education and Support and Basic Needs/Economic Security/child Safety/ Questions about the level of staffing needed to get us to where we want to be was discussed. There was much discussion-John recommended that the committee learn exactly what everyone does and what is needed before making a decision. Pat recently instated Weekly Reports so that staff work can be documented.

Pat broke those present into 2 groups to discuss questions that were created as an exercise.

✓ Group Questions and Answers

What are the Strengths of the Collaborative?

Group 1

- ✚ Parent involvement-parent voices are empowering-GSC-W has a large representation
- ✚ The partners at the table are big players
- ✚ GSC-W has a clear mission and vision
- ✚ Wayne is ahead in many of the Collaborative requirements set up by the ECIC
- ✚ The Collaborative awareness and recognition is improving
- ✚ Many people care about young children
- ✚ GSC-W has lots of opportunities for positive change in Early Childhood issues
- ✚ Staff
- ✚ Good Resources-GSC-W utilizes the expertise of its partners
- ✚ GSC-W has collected excellent data
- ✚ Great Start Collaborative-Wayne has multiple funders-diversified funding
- ✚ Operational effectiveness
 - fiscal responsibilities
 - Operational Guidelines

Group 2

- ✚ Parents connected to parents
- ✚ Parents in decision making role
- ✚ Collaborative partners at the table
- ✚ Diversity-(age, geography, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, social economy)
- ✚ Number of parents exceed requirement
- ✚ When we move to action, partners at the table are key change agents-working together
- ✚ Common vision-All at the table have a strong commitment to the vision and to the Early Childhood work
- ✚ Approach is bottom up
- ✚ Knowledge and experience of those around the table
- ✚ Capacity for advocacy

How do we build on these strengths?

Group 1

- ✚ Continue to add partners/parents
- ✚ Develop trainings and workshops for partners and parents
- ✚ Establish and promote the brand identity of the collaborative
- ✚ Develop partner retention/recognition/meaningful contribution
- ✚ Develop a marketing and communications package
- ✚ Become the organizational authority on children

- ✚ Opportunity for collaborative to have access to a retreat/conference setting
- ✚ Issues and solutions (negative turn to positive)
- ✚ Identify gaps
 - Membership (eastern and western Wayne)
 - Organizational (Business, Faith, Policy makers/elected officials)
 - Show value added to members/children
- ✚ Set priorities/become aware-tackle real issues
- ✚ Use 40 assets as a parent education piece

Group 2

- ✚ GSC-W should create opportunities for networking-like the parent group
- ✚ Have to create a sense of responsibility-want to contribute information- flows to grass roots and back
- ✚ Harness resources for the work-access, map out what people can do to move the work along
- ✚ Education-continue to educate collaborative and network/se piece with foster care-putting a face to the numbers
- ✚ Terms, words, work (how to educate parents to educate parents) each one can reach one
- ✚ Social, challenge, success, choice-motivators
- ✚ KISS (Keep it Simple)
- ✚ Small bites
- ✚ It begins at home-model what we expect others to do-are our policies family friendly
- ✚ On “the hill” at the same time
- ✚ Design the meeting time to be interactive, meaningful and action oriented.

How will this core group build commitment?

(Group 1)

- ✚ Ask the executive committee to commit to time and resources
- ✚ Implement Great Start Collaborative-Wayne priorities in their own organization and personal lives
- ✚ Share information they have-contacts, resources, funding
- ✚ Lead by example
- ✚ Make informed decisions
- ✚ Education-awareness of issues/facts
- ✚ Communications/listen
- ✚ Act as Ambassadors-wear the “hat” whenever opportunity arises
- ✚ Create a level of commitment-reminders
- ✚ Welcome, orient new members of group-ad hoc committee to welcome?
- ✚ Inspire new members

Group 2

- ✚ Children are valuable resources-everyone sees and contributes across economic groups
- ✚ We have to start somewhere-keep people involved because they want to see action, accomplishment and success
- ✚ Keeping everything connected
- ✚ Build on their strengths-everyone’s
- ✚ Planning collaborative agenda to be engaging
 - No committee report if they haven’t met

- Announcements in advance
- Rely more on written word for items for approval to allow more times for meaningful conversation

What will you do to show commitment?

(Group 1)

- ✚ John Colina-Attend meetings, be a leader and share time, talent and treasure.
- ✚ Andrea Hawkins-being secretary make sure everyone has an accurate account of minutes from the meeting, recruitment, voice as a parent for advocacy
- ✚ Mia Cupp-Personal commitment to children, wear her Great Start Collaborative-Wayne hat with other parents, make the “ask” for GSC-W, make sure her organization has all of the information from Great Start and she shares her marketing skills
- ✚ Deborah Strong-Her commitment-her passion, she is an ambassador, she shares her expertise, her background of experience, she will make connections in the field
- ✚ Caryn Pack Ivey-Recruitment, parent coalition, passion for advocacy, she sees the need to create a message for ambassadors. For the parent retention she had parents sign commitment forms. She will keep lines of communications open for the parents
- ✚ Linda Stanko-committed to her support of the project, will continue with her Downriver connections



Group 2

- ✚ Elaine Koons-committed to educate and involve others in the importance for all of us of raising safe, self-directed kind hearted children
- ✚ Lena Montgomery-offer access to programs funded through RESA-Newsletter, ECI school district contracts, MSRP, Early On and make her time at the meeting the priority and support executive committees work
- ✚ Ramana Roberson-Commits to advocacy for a healthy start for our children by being available for all efforts through the GSC-W. She will share all she learns with other parents
- ✚ Barbara Wilson-will continue to raise awareness for the Great Start vision and will participate in committee meetings and activities whenever possible. She will continue to advocate for all children, as they are our future.
- ✚ Susan Hooks Brown-will continue to communicate the total value of young children in the community by advocating, leveraging funding and collaborating.
- ✚ Amanda Johnson-will continue to advocate for and promote in her words, demeanor and behavior the value of children and their potential of influence and shape their community for future generations. She will work hard 35 hours and then go home and invest and instill in her children the importance of their success in terms of making life better for society at large, instilling in them a sense of purpose, mission and legacy.

Next meeting

January 7th, 2008
9 am until 10:30 a.m. at Wayne Metro, 2121 Biddle in Wyandotte.

