

LENAWEE GREAT START
Meeting: October 6, 2009
"Parent Leadership": Work Group

Members Present:

Mark Haag	Misty Maschino
Linda Farley	Kim Scherer
Heather Perez	Carole McConnell/Recorder

GOAL: Parents use community resources that support healthy child development.

Objective 1: Development of data bank for families with young children.

Strategy: *Maintain the database.

Action Steps: *Presently done through LGS employees
*Train and make use of volunteers or interns to maintain data bank
*Continue established Facebook page

Strategy: *Create connections between LGS, resources and providers.

Action Steps: *Human Resource possibilities:
-Adrian Training School - become a central headquarters for meetings and outreach for Service and Educational programs
-Red Cross: for/formula pantry
-Associated Charities: baby layette
-Community Action Agency

Objective 2: Ensuring parent's access to community resources

Strategy: *Link resources to LGS web site

Action Steps: *Linda Farley: Make contact with churches, through the internet, so that available resources can be posted on their web sites and also ask for information about programs the churches are providing.

*"Word of mouth": Encourage board members and work group participants to promote Website

Strategy: *Create a Parent Guide that provides early childhood information resources in hard copy.

Action Steps: *Create a list of parents wanting information. Use these contacts to produce a list:
-school districts as links to parents/PTO and PTA
-registered home school names
-churches
-ISD (Judy Phund)
-doctors and health care providers
-211/ Help line (Use Great Start as a resource for parents through 211.)
-Parent Coalition meeting
-Make use of "Instant Alert" (Honeywell system)
-Newsletters
-LGS web site
-Rack cards in businesses

- *Reaching the Spanish speaking community
 - "HOLA": Hispanics of Lenawee Alliance - outreach program for migrant people
 - Possibility of having a liaison resource person for parent information
 - "East Side Coalition" - Linda Farley will contact Karol (KZ) Bolton

GOAL: Parents are advocates for their children's success and well being.

Objective 1: Parent's access to Kindergarten readiness information that is consistent throughout the county.

- Strategies:
- 1) Examine existing Kindergarten readiness skill list.
 - 2) Find common themes & develop core list of readiness skills with help of local educators.
 - 3) Recommend adoption of core Kindergarten readiness skills

Action Steps: *Mark Haag will address objective at the next Superintendent's meeting

Address questions:

- What assessment tools are being used for new kindergartners?
- What screening methods are used?
- What are common skills that need to be demonstrated for school readiness?
- Can a "base-level" be establish?

**Request that each superintendent submit a list of readiness skills for new kindergartners in their district by November 15, 2009

Objective 2: Parents have access to a coordinated system of quality parent education and support programs.

- Strategies:
- 1) Identify parent education providers
 - 2) Identify parenting support programs and groups
 - 3) Make recommendations about offerings available to parents.

Action Steps: Use these organizations as providers of support programs:

- *Lenawee Child
- *Head Start
- *Churches (some churches offer a 13 week parenting class 2 Or 3 times a year)
- *Love and Logic group
- *MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers)
- **"Smile" program (offered by the courts)
- *Community Action Agency
- *Lenawee County School Counselor organization
- *Court Appointed Parenting
- *Community Mental Health
- *Lenawee Prep

Information will be made available by means of:

- Resource Guide
- Website
- Honeywell Instant Alert
- Newsletter
- Mail Chimp
- Radio PSA

*Identified gaps in the system

-Education for teenage mothers

-More preventative information is required

-Getting information to the Hispanic population

-Reaching the at risk population in order to have them attend parenting education classes or events