

LENAWEE GREAT START

Meeting: December 1, 2009

“Parent Leadership” Work Group

Members Present:

Misty Maschino	Joseph Saterelli
Christine MacNaughton	Lisa Eack
Heather Perez	Carole McConnell

Objective: Develop a data bank for families with young children.

Discussion centered on partnering with other child resource contacts. The Dial “211” resource, funded through United Way, was thought to be an especially good resource as it can advocate for a service or opportunity that directly fits the needs of a child. This service is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week and a parent can talk directly with someone.

The “Great Start” website is another resource available for parents. It lists opportunities available for play groups, MOM’S groups, on-line activities and much more. It was decided that Dial “211” should be contacted and supplied with a list of Great Start activities. Lisa and Heather will follow through with this.

Objective: Ensure parent’s access to community resources.

The idea of having an automated monthly e-mail sent out to parents with a listing of agencies and services available for a designated period of time was discussed. It was thought to be an idea worth considering but no definite plan of action was developed.

The creation of a “Parent Guide” was also discussed. This would be a resource, the size of which would fit into a mother’s purse, and tabbed with various categories for convenience of locating information. The idea came out of “focus groups” held previously. A grant, funded by United Way, for this project has been applied for by the Great Start staff.

Objective: Parents have access to Kindergarten readiness information that is consistent throughout the county.

The possibility of forming work groups by organizing supporters of Kindergarten readiness was suggested. There is a need for a list of standardized Kindergarten skills available for parents. The list would also be made available to child care centers and child care providers.

School districts need to be empowered to create a list of “readiness” skill expectations. It would be best to have superintendents and school personnel involved in the process. The results of a “Kindergarten Readiness” survey, sent out by Mark Haag to 13 districts in Lenawee County, were shared with the group. In an effort to receive more specific information, follow up will need to be done. Mark will be asked to assist in this process.

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

Places and programs were suggested as a means to meet parent’s need for support.

- \*”Parkside” in Adrian – teaches parenting skills
- \* Lenawee PREP Academy - outreach for teenage mothers
- \*DHS / i.e. “Masterpiece” parenting therapy
- \* “Ages & Stages”
- \* “Lenawee Child”
- \* “Books for Babies” program at HMC - Carole McConnell (Lenawee Great Start and “Early On” brochures included in the kits.
- \*”Leaping into Lenawee” – March, 2010 at Adrian Mall
- \*”Lenawee Great Start”

As a means of distributing the information, several contacts were suggested:

- \*Dial “211”
- \* Honeywell
- \* Focus groups

Submitted by Carole McConnell, December 4, 2009