

# Lenawee Great Start

December 1, 2009

## Social and Emotional Health

Members present: Kristen Columbus, Eddie Manuszak, Jana Penrod, Jan Peshke, Tara Saunders, Cookie Smith-Kish, and Therese Langan

The task for this meeting was to identify the goals for the Social-Emotional group for the year 2010 and what action steps will accomplish this. At this point we are focusing on **Objective 1 – Provide social-emotional health information to families with children 0-5.**

Kristen Columbus and Jana Penrod shared information they gathered from Washtenaw ACA and Lenawee county CMN respectively. After discussing the process parents go through when going to CMH for guidance/information, it was decided that parents need simple steps to follow to receive the resources/help they need in their particular situation.

This group looked at several printed materials that are readily available and felt the following two items would be helpful to give to parents whenever it is appropriate;

- Purchase Developmental Wheels (0-36 mos. and 2-5 yrs.) at a cost of \$1.25 each. Also in Spanish.

- Purchase the booklet put together by Great Start "Social-Emotional Health and School Readiness: A Guide for Parents with Children Birth to Age 5" at an approximate cost of \$1.00 each.

- (A quantity of how many to order has yet to be decided.)

This is an "action step" for all the strategies for Objective 1.

There are many agencies, programs, professionals and many more that need to work together to inform parents about the Social-Emotional development of their child. An "action step" is to get a comprehensive list at the February meeting of all service providers parents may need to help their child and their situation. (The Who, What and Where.) From this list we need to determine a "point person" from each site (the contact person may not always be the manager, director, physician, etc) to inform the remainder of the staff. A good cooperative partnership is needed here.

It is important that work get started on developing a relationship with others who share the same concern about early childhood Social-Emotional health. That might be pediatricians, obstetricians, government

agencies, private agencies, churches, pre-schools, health care field, Catholic Charities, call 211, Head Start and the list continues on..... This “*action step*” applies, again, to all the strategies for Objective 1.

At the February meeting it is our hope we can decide on ways to sustain information to parents and what is the best delivery model.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Peshke