

Lenawee Great Start
February 2, 2010
Social and Emotional Health

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

Margaret Gross shared that our group has a budget of \$5,000. The social-emotional developmental wheels have been or are in the process of being ordered. The book we reviewed at the December meeting titled Social-Emotional Health and School Readiness printed from Great Start will need to be printed by a local business. We are unable to get them from Great Start. We need to review the booklet and decide what parts of it are useful for our purpose.

The question was discussed as to how will we measure if the social-emotional development of children 0-5. Has it improved as a result of making printed material available to parents, agencies, etc.?
How do we measure the social-emotional needs of children 0 – 5? After a lengthy discussion, all members agreed that it needs to be measured but found it difficult to find an appropriate measurement to use. Cookie suggested using the DECA test that they use at Lenawee's Child. Some school systems use a screening test for children entering kindergarten and others do not. There is no uniform process in the county. We need to find out what teacher's use to determine if children are ready for kindergarten. Knowing this will help us in an assessment of the student's development. Meagan Karpinski is willing to make copies of the Ages and Stages check list for us to review.

It was the consensus of the group that the children who are most at risk are the most difficult to make contact with and get the appropriate help for. Often it may require a phone call or personal visit to the parents of these children by those working with the child. We would be ineffective if we just set the information out and hoped that parents would read and understand it.

Our short term goal is to make contact with people who work with children 0 – 5. The long term goal will be to evaluate/assess students and determine how many are not ready/ready for school. We need to measure the difference in students who received assistance to develop their social-emotional needs and those who have not

At the April 13 meeting members of this group will have names, information and a point person for each agency to contact about distributing the printed materials. These people will also *draft a letter* to go to their contact people explaining the importance of the materials and our goal as Lenawee Great Start.

Kristin Columbus – Pediatrician Offices

Eddie Manuszak – Pre-schools

Therese Langan – CMH and other agencies (Jana – any thoughts regarding this?)

Kate Weiks – Intermediate School District

WIC??

Head Start – Deana Smith is the contact person

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting, April 13, 2010!

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Peshke