

Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Minutes from 1/15/09

Attendees: Ginelle Skinner GS Coordinator, Sandra Corbin GS/Early On, Tashia Myers HCCCA, Jane Sanderson HCSSC, Andrea Bricker CHA Healthy Beginnings, Laurie Brandes HSN, Jeanie Nichols MSW Extension, Laura Nye DHS, Lois Foster HCS, John Ciaravino Executive Director HCISD and Sharon Roberts HCISD Early On Coordinator.

The meeting began with welcomes, introduction of members, and sign in. Ginelle Skinner, Great Start Coordinator began the presentation with a visual activity. Each member was asked to list a "gap in service" for children in Hillsdale County. Ginelle added different sized rocks to introduce the purpose of the collaborative system for filling in the gaps between children's needs, their families, and community service providers.

Each member listed areas of concern for children in Hillsdale County (gaps in services and needs of children). Some of these needs included, literacy, healthy family activities, obesity, healthy nutrition, school readiness, childcare issues (meeting family schedule needs), poverty issues including need for training and adult education, financial assistance to families, high unemployment rate, access to counseling and mental health services, lack of structure and instability for children (moving and change of caregivers), parenting education, improving parent/child relationships, for local service providers to be more supportive, non-judgmental and supportive to the needs of the community, lack of transportation services, and a lack of understanding and community support for early childhood programming and services.

Ginelle provided a power point presentation including history of the movement (ECIC), Michigan's Great Start Initiative, the collaborative team, recruitment of necessary members, the Great Start System, the parent coalition, employment opening for a parent liaison including job description and an offer to take part in the employment screening process. Ginelle requested feedback regarding locating and inviting other possible GS members.

The meeting was adjourned with lunch provided to participants. The next meeting will be **February 3rd 2009 at 11:00 AM**. Meeting location is at the HCISD building 310 Bacon Rd. in the Conference room.