

# Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Minutes from 3/3/09

Attendees: Cynthia Rowe CCA GS Chair, Ginelle Skinner GS Coordinator, Sandra Corbin GS/Early On, Tashia Myers HCCCA, Jane Sanderson HCSSC, Laurie Brandes HSN, Jeanie Nichols MSW Extension, John Ciaravino Executive Director HCISD, Sharon Roberts HCISD Early On Coordinator, Stacy Vondra Hillsdale College/Mary Randall, Laura Nye DHS, Maxine Vanderberg CAA, Valorie Newton CHA, Jane Sanderson PPC/HCSSC, Lisa Tinkey Parent Liaison, Kellie Schiller Life Ways, and Tasha Myers HCCCA.

New Chair, Cynthia Rowe, conducted the meeting. The meeting began with welcomes, introduction of attendees, and a special introduction of our new parent Liaison, Lisa Tinkey. We are excited to have Lisa on our team. The meeting included two guest speakers, Julia Emanuel, Great Start Coordinator in St. Joseph County and Sheri Butters, Great Start Director in Jackson County. Julia provided excellent insight into the recent development of St. Joseph County's Great Start Collaborative. Julia shared her struggles and successes of building the collaborative. She recommended us to focus on three main goals for our first year, including gathering the facts about the needs of our community, building support through networking, marketing and increasing business support and finally, making a strategic community plan to address the needs of our community.

Sheri Butters, Great Start Coordinator from Jackson County was our second speaker. Sheri gave us additional insight into the building of the Great Start Collaborative in Jackson County. We would like to invite Sheri back again in the future due to running out of time and wanting to hear more from this experienced coordinator. A special thanks goes out to our guest speakers. Thank you.

Ginelle informed the group of her plans to create a Great Start web site and other networking strategies. We went over the Operational Guidelines. Thanks to all who offered great suggestions for improving the content of Operational Guideline Manual. Corrections will be made and introduced at the next meeting. Reminders to save the date of future meetings and the Star Power Rally (May 21<sup>st</sup> 2009).

Please remember to encourage your parents to attend the next meeting. Parent involvement is crucial to our mission! Remember that a \$25 gift card is available to non-paid parents that attend the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned with lunch provided to participants. The next meeting will be **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (time to be announced)**. Meeting

location is at the HCISD building, 310 Bacon Rd., in the Conference room. Lunch will be provided immediately following.