

**Hillsdale County
Great Start Collaborative Meeting
March 2nd, 2010 at 10:00 AM
Location: Hillsdale ISD, 310 W. Bacon**



**Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative
Meeting Minutes from 3/2/10**

Attendees: Ginelle Skinner GSC Coordinator, Sandra Corbin GSC/Early On, Wintra Cain, Healthy Beginnings, Laura Nye DHS, Sharon Roberts HCISD Early On, Lois Wolff (Parent), Lisa Tinkey Parent Liaison, Nedene Monforton (Parent), LaDonna Burkeen Integro, Brooke Rains CCN, Jane Sanderson HCSSC, Cathy Caskey (Parent), Cynthia Rowe CAA, Tashia Myers, HCCCA, Lois Foster HCS, and Maxine Vanlerberg CCA.

Following introductions, the meeting started with opportunities for agency updates. Brooke Rains of Child Care Network informed the group of new search options for seeking child care through the use of the website (information cards provided). Jane Sanderson informed the group of Kinship Care's Super Spa event coming up Sunday March 7th from 12 to 5. Cynthia Rowe informed us of the CAA Picnic scheduled for Friday May 7th from 11:00 to 2:00. Thank you to all agencies that provide us with program updates.

Lisa Tinkey, Parent Liaison, provided update of the goals of the group including increasing the number of parent participants, increasing the diversity of the group, and increasing early childhood legal advocacy efforts. For more information on the goals, they can be viewed in the Strategic Plan Report. The next Parent Coalition Meeting has not been scheduled yet. We will keep you informed. For more information about the Parent Coalition please contact Lisa Tinkey at ltinkey@hillsdale-isd.org or call (517) 437-0990 ext. 217. Please let your parents know that the coalition is still looking for more parent members/leaders.

Ginelle announced the newest recipients of the Great Start awards. Awards went to Child Care Network and the Housing Continuum of Care for all their dedication to families in Hillsdale County. The Great Start Newsletter "Great Beginnings" is up and running. The first newsletter (Jan./Feb. 2010) was an introduction of the GSC. The March/April edition focused on Child Care and Early Education. Upcoming editions will focus on a different point of the star. Ginelle is requesting that if you have any events to add to the calendar or have ideas for the articles to let

her know. Comments, suggestions, and calendar additions can be made on the GSC website at any time. A big thanks goes out to Pam Smith, who wrote this month's article on "Why quality child care matters". Head Start enrollment information is also located on the newsletter.

The Operational Guidelines were reviewed by the group. The only change to the guideline includes adding a secretary and the secretary's responsibilities. Changes to the Operational Guidelines were approved by the group. Coordinator evaluations were provided to all members and collected with 100% participation. New officials were elected. Results include Cynthia Rowe, Chair, Jane Sanderson, Vice Chair, and Cathy Caskey, Secretary. Congrats and thanks to those GSC leaders.

For recruitment purposes, Ginelle provided the group with recruitment packets for members to take to help recruit needed GSC members. Thanks to those of you who took folders and provided the information to other community members. For more recruitment packets, just ask Ginelle. The group broke into their subcommittees to work on modification of the Strategic Plan. Group members added action steps and continued to build on the goals. The Strategic Plan will be ready to be signed at the next GSC meeting. Anyone who is interested in attending the Early Childhood conference in Jackson, can have the fees paid for by the GSC, deadline for registration is this Friday March 5th 2010.

The meeting was adjourned with lunch provided to participants. The next meeting will be:

Tuesday March 23rd, 2010
Johnny T's Bistro
11:00-12:30
Lunch provided

Submitted by: Sandra Corbin, Great Start Early Childhood Specialist