



Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 24th, 2009; 8:00 – 10:00am
Calhoun Intermediate School District

Attendees: Angela Jackson, Suzanne Nielsen, David Nielsen, Ted Lindberg, Susan Robilliard, Henderson Harris, Craig Wilson, Ronna Steel, Mary Gehrig, Becky Rocho, Valerie Maksimchuk, Christie Cipcic, Sheley Bess, Cheryl Hinds, Mary Dolbee, Kate Kennedy, June Sims, Sandy Allen, Zoe Brainard, Dawn Larson, Matt Lynn, Pam Verville, Dan Hunt, Lynn Bonyngge, Linn Miles

Agenda Item	Minutes	Action
Welcome and Introductions		
Healthy Infants – Maternal Infant Health Commission	a. The Regional Health Alliance examines health issues in Calhoun County utilizing 6 issue action groups. b. The Maternal Infant Health Commission is one of those issue action groups. Their emphasis is to reduce infant deaths, reduce underweight births, and decrease unintended pregnancies. Their most recent campaign centers on folic acid promotion to help decrease birth defects in babies.	a.
Early Childhood Updates – Highlights and Status	a. Great Start Readiness Program meetings to explore new state screening requirements. b. Common assessment tool adopted for all Great Start Readiness Programs in CISD service area. c. Great Start Collaborative (GSC) work plan completed and approved. d. GSC budget submitted. e. GSC is official for Calhoun as of April 1 st . f. Star Rally planning and training complete. g. Data opportunities being explored. h. Work plan started; focus for first couple months is website, communications, parent coalition, and strategic planning. i. Community dialogues held for child care directors and early childhood providers and students.	a.
Great Start Collaborative ECIC Work Plan	a. Parent Coalition Discussion: group was asked to review materials being distributed and write down some of the best ideas they saw for a productive Parent Coalition. Goal was to see how the group believed a Parent Coalition could help our community and the work we are doing. An important note was made that it is critical the coalition isn't just given "fluff" work, but that they are empowered and supported by providers. b. Attendees were also asked to write down thoughts on what they would like to see for the website (i.e. layout, links, useful information, etc.)	Group members were asked to forward contact information to GSC if they know of a parent who would be a good addition to the coalition and would be willing to participate.



<p>English Language Learners – Kate Kennedy, Latino/Hispanic Community Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A column has been added to the asset map allowing agencies to indicate if they have materials in Spanish. It is important to engage those families that may not normally be engaged. b. Immigrant families need knowledge, skills, and support systems to support their quality of life, prepare their children for success in school, and to participate in the broader community. Providers need knowledge, skills, and capabilities to appropriately serve and partner with immigrant families. c. The Latino/Hispanic Community Project performed a needs assessment in February and the group was provided with some of those data. d. It is important to plan and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services from start to finish of access. Language lines are a great back up but most people will prefer to have someone there in person to help translate. e. The Latino/Hispanic Community Project is working on a Bilingual Resource Guide to be released this summer. They are also starting a universal symbol that indicates what language services are provided at a particular agency/program/school and in what languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kennedy offered to email her presentation to the group and to come to individual programs to help evaluate what they can do to implement bilingual services in their agency.
<p>Additional Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jackson asked that the GSC come together and see what resources can be put toward a Red Wagon initiative in Calhoun. 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>September 21st, 2009; 8:30 – 10:30am; Calhoun Intermediate School District</p>	