



# **Great Start Collaborative-Oakland Task Force Group Projects June 2010 Updates**

## **Child Care and Early Education**

### **Career Lattice**

*Strategy: To connect child care professionals to training opportunities and community resources*

Successes:

- Introductory letter, list of training/education sites and contacts, “how-to” video have been created-we are finalizing the voice over on the video and printing of the posters. We expect that dissemination of these will be done in early July
- Some interest from other counties

Challenges:

- Dissemination across three counties
- Assurance that those who use the lattice understand it’s purpose and how to use it
- Concerned with appropriate use by other counties throughout the state

Next Steps:

- Disseminate materials
- Consider evaluation for training/education sites approximately 6 months after sites have begun to use career lattice

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### **Quality Improvement**

*Strategy: Provide quality improvement training and technical assistance to early care and education programs, professionals and parents.*

Successes:

- We have three good models in Oakland County that are using the PQA as the basis for building a quality improvement plan
- We have begun to consider using the PQA framework to videotape examples of high classroom quality (diversity, locations, consent forms, camera)

Challenges:

- Helping programs, professionals and families to understand what quality is
- Building in tangible and inexpensive ways to attain quality

Next Steps:

- Begin taping for practice in order to address specific issues
- Look into editing and website posting options
- Consider evaluation (Google Analytics) for effectiveness

### **Joint Recruitment**

*Strategy: Work toward joint recruitment for Head Start and GSRP Programs.*

#### Successes:

- Final materials (brochure, FAQ page and online, searchable map) are complete and available online
- Brochures have been sent to print
- A TA person has been assigned to further assist us in our work

#### Challenges:

- Oakland County is a large county with complex systems making collaboration more complicated

#### Next Steps:

- Disseminate information (including brochures and asking programs to provide a link to the resources on their website)
- Researching the possibility of working with programs on website usefulness for families
- Connect to preschool programs for increased collaboration (this will be in the form of a meeting-more information to come)
- Set up Google Analytics to evaluate usefulness of map and FAQ page (where are parents visiting)
- Consider how to include child care and special education in this work

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#### Transitions/Connections from EC to K-12

Strategy: Build partnerships between schools and early childhood programs to ensure a smooth transition into elementary school

#### Successes:

- June's Galileo event included 8 districts with approximately 50 people
- School districts are working on "Blueprints" to "Build a Connected System"
- District plans ranged from simply meeting with the Kindergarten teachers to working on developing a couple of cross system professional development days to working toward aligning either their assessments or curriculum
- We are sending 3 principals (1 from Ferndale and 2 from Lamphere) to the CAYL conference that is being held in July in Ohio. They all have agreed to come back and share what they learn at the August Galileo meeting as well as more uses broadly in their own districts work toward building a more connected system. Both districts have been involved in our Ready Schools work.

#### Challenges:

- Oakland County has 28 school districts, each at a different point in regards to building a birth-12<sup>th</sup> grade system

#### Next Steps:

- August forum is being planned
- We hope to offer some one on one coaching for these districts
- We have also discussed offering a "toolkit" of leadership skills needed for districts who are unable to attend to still want to work on their own blueprints to build a connected system
- Consider conducting interviews with school districts for evaluation of work and a final print document of work that creates a connected system

- Consider how we can use other data already collected (Kindergarten survey, etc)
- Begin to consider how to include other programs and homes in the work

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Additional Updates from our Integrated Systems Work:

Physician Outreach: Our contractor, Cindy Macks, has been continuing her outreach efforts. She is trying to reach Crittenton and St. Joes. Pulling together some key health professionals for our pediatric and family health subcommittee has also allowed us to focus in on some true health champions.

ASQ/Developmental Screenings: Project is underway with the application for pilot sites out. Website is almost up and ready to release URL to the public. We will need to consider how we will be able to use this data to better inform our what our needs are in Oakland County.