

**Early Childhood Investment Corporation  
Executive Committee Meeting  
March 12, 2008**

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**Executive Committee**

Susan Broman, Chairperson  
Sally Vaughn, Chair-Elect  
Larry Schweinhart, Treasurer  
Carolyn Clark  
Betsy Boggs  
Elizabeth Bunn  
Ismael Ahmed  
Marianne Udow-Phillips  
Pam Faris  
Hubert Price  
Debbie Dingell (telephone)  
Marvin McKinney (telephone)  
Dan DeGrow (telephone)

**Staff**

Judy	Samelson, CEO
Joan	Blough (phone)
Mike	Foley
Kathi	Pioszak
Karen	Roback
Cheryl	Thompson
Nancy	Willard
Christine	Derdarian, Counsel

**Guests**

Lisa	Brewer-Walraven
Lindy	Buch
Elizabeth	Hackett
Mary Ann	Ketels
Bob	Parks
Jim	Sinnamon
J. Mark	Sullivan

**I. Call to Order**

Susan Broman called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

**II. Invitation for Public Comment**

None

### **III. Chairperson's Report**

#### **Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2008 and January 30, 2008**

RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the minutes of January 9, 2008 and January 30, 2008.

Motion by Pam Faris, seconded by Betsy Boggs. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Master Resolution**

RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approved adoption of the Master Resolution as follows:

- that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the financial statements for September (revised) and December, 2007;
- that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the application of the Tuscola Intermediate School District for participation with the Michigan Department of Human Services in the ECIC Interlocal Agreement.

Motion by Pam Faris, seconded by Betsy Boggs. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **2006 Audit**

Ms. Samelson provided an update to members and called their attention to the draft financial audit for FY06 included in board materials. The final report is expected to be publically released within two weeks. In the meantime, the Office of Auditor General announced the immediate commencement of the FY06-07 program audit. This audit is expected to be completed by June 2008 per federal regulations. Both audits will be presented to the Corporate Board in the fall for approval.

#### **April Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee calendar calls for an April meeting in the field as an opportunity to talk with ECIC local partners. The Chairperson recommended making the June meeting serve this purpose and taking the April meeting off of the calendar. The membership concurred.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **Great Start Collaboratives**

The recommendation of the Allocations and Review Committee for start-up

funding for ten (10) new Collaboratives was passed out for Executive Committee approval. The new funding is possible because of an increase in State Aid approved by the Legislature for FY08. The Allocations and Review Committee members discussed the rationale for the recommendations which include weighting for children in poverty in additions to readiness. Marianne Udow-Phillips asked for a better understanding of the weighed scores. Staff will send an explanation by email.

RESOLVED, that the Early Childhood Investment Corporation Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the Allocations and Review Committee to fund 10 new Great Start Collaboratives totaling \$700,000 for start-up:

Bay-Arenac ISD  
Clare-Gladwin RESD  
Midland ISD  
Washtenaw ISD  
Delta-Schoolcraft ISD  
Copper Country ISD  
Traverse Bay Area ISD  
Mason-Lake/ Oceana ISD  
Berrien County ISD  
Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD

It is further resolved that ECIC will fund Macomb County \$80,000 for start-up as requested by ECIC's Kresge Great Start grant.

Motion by Pam Faris, seconded by Hubert Price. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Items of Note**

Ms. Samelson called attention to "*Items of Note*" and "*Standing Documents*". Members were asked to review these items and make appropriate replacements in their Standing Board Documents.

#### **Transforming Childcare in Michigan: A Discussion**

Ms. Samelson introduced Ms. Anne Mitchell and guests who have been invited to engage the Executive Committee in a discussion about child care to help inform ECIC's decision making in the months leading toward new quality contracts. Ms. Mitchell represents Early Childhood Policy Research, an independent consulting firm in upstate New York specializing in evaluation, policy analysis and planning on early care and education. Ms. Mitchell has conducted nationwide studies of state and local prekindergarten policy and early care and education finance.

Ms. Mitchell focused on building upon Michigan's current assets. She emphasized the need to set standards for: programs, people/practitioners and outcomes. She also noted that there are lessons to be learned from other states (NC, PA, MA) and suggested that a mentoring relationship could be helpful for Michigan. A summary of her discussion points:

- Need to build political will for true transformation.
- Strategic recommendations:
  - Get clear what we want. Integrate QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) with/to Head Start, Michigan School Readiness Program, and child care. Quality improvement needs to be part of it and that part needs to work.
  - Systematically assess how resources are currently being used, take a dispassionate look at ways to redirect to better connect all available resources to quality.
  - Quality rating systems are focused on licensed care. It is important to put the focus on improvement rather than the rating. It also is important to connect this work to the unlicensed Aides and Relatives.
  - Develop a clear and organized campaign to get more funding.
- Reality of our current situation with so many children in Aide and Relative Care:
  - There is a tradeoff between no waiting lists and broader access to some level of care at lower cost and lower quality.
  - Relative and Aide care has economic implications for the low income folks that are providing the care; a reality to consider as efforts are made to transition kids into other types of care.
  - Focus on poverty, but put forth incentives for higher quality places to take more low income/subsidized kids.
- Keeping your eye on the prize:
  - At the end of the day, we need to make the system accountable to the children and families it is designed to serve.

Discussion touched on the fact that there are far fewer resources than needed to make significant change. The number of Michigan children in unlicensed, unregulated care means that tough decisions will have to be made on how to use scarce resources.

A brief recess was called during the discussion at 2:55 pm; the Chairperson reconvened the meeting at 3:10 pm.

Other discussion points included training for service groups, quality rating systems, licensing requirements, the Michigan Home-Based Child Care Council and new home-based providers' union, Child Care Providers

Together Michigan, and the need for the Executive Committee to be more engaged with policymakers throughout the state.

Ms. Samelson thanked the guest speakers for their input and noted that ECIC is in the early stages of research and learning that will guide spending discussions later in the year.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Broman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Cadwell  
Ex. Asst. to CEO