

**Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Executive Committee Meeting
June 11, 2008**

Executive Committee

Susan Broman, Chairperson
Carolyn Clark
Dan DeGrow
Marianne Udow-Phillips
Marvin McKinney (telephone)

Staff

Judy	Samelson, CEO
Joan	Blough
Mike	Foley
Kim	Mahard
Karen	Roback
Cherie	Ross-Barber
Jenny	Salesa

Guests

Lisa Brewer-Walraven
Dr. Tom Svitkovich, Supt.
Mary Ann Ketels, 4C
Maria Chappel
Kim Lates, DHS
Kim Baxter Brown, DHS
Rita Vater Parton, MEA
John McKellar, Genesee Co Health Dept
Mary Flynn, Genesee GSC
Gail Stinson
Helen Mawell
Ron Gutler, United Way

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

Ms. Samelson introduced Kim Mahard, ECIC's new Accountant. Ms. Mahard indicated that she has been working with Mary Lannoye on creating a new version of the financial statements that would make it easy for the Board to review.

Master Resolution was presented, but since no quorum was present, no action was taken.

Financials for period ending March 31, 2008 were presented; no quorum was present to take any action.

Ms. Broman indicated that we have three Board members who have terms expiring this year: Pam Faris, Hubert Price and Larry Schweinhart; also a replacement for Steve Ewing will be requested.

External Board Advisory Committees:

Marianne Udow-Phillips and Jenny Salesa presented the work of the **Pediatric & Family Health Committee**. The Board members had a current report in their Board books.

Joan Blough presented the **Social and Emotional Health Committee**. The Board members had a current report in their Board Books. Highlights included:

- Sponsored two convening's at which Jane Knitzer, the Director of the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at Columbia University gave keynote addresses. One audience was composed of the Advisory Committee for Michigan's ABCD Projects and the other was composed of direct service providers and supervisors from across the child serving systems, e.g. child welfare, mental health, early intervention, etc.
- Commissioned the production of a guide to early childhood social and emotional health for parents, to be used across the child serving systems as a companion piece to the social and emotional developmental wheels.
- Completed benchmarks for 2008-2020 for the Great Start system strategic priorities for early childhood social and emotional health.

Mike Foley reported on the **Parenting and Education Committee**. Detail was provided in the Board books. Mr. Foley indicated that the committee is working with relatively broad benchmarks at this point. The Steering Committee will be meeting at ECIC next week for further discussion. The committee is also working with the Finance Project in the fall.

The Parenting and Education Committee will be the lead on an opportunity available to Michigan through a grant from the Mailman Foundation. Michigan is one of six states selected to receive technical assistance for assuring we are positioned for Federal "EDUCATION Begins at Home" funding. While not yet authorized, there are organizational structures that need to be in place to receive these funds when they become available. The Parenting Ed Committee will work with Mailman Foundation consultants to prepare Michigan for those potential funds.

The Parenting and Education Committee is also involved in efforts with BUILD to promote evidence-based practice in all programs and services for children 0 to 5. The research done on "Protective Factors" will be the basis for this work. A statewide survey has been done and will be followed by both education and technical assistance efforts.

Mr. McKinney asked about "fathers and grandfathers" not being part of the traditional groups. Mr. Foley indicated that there was some focus on trying to get that group involved more.

Mr. Dan DeGrow reported for the Early Care & Education Committee

The Strategic Priorities identified by the committee are:

- Every child has access to affordable, high quality child care
- Every three and four year old has access to affordable, high quality preschool, beginning with those at most risk. Children 0-5 with developmental delays or disabilities receive interventions they need to develop to highest potential.

Benchmarks have been identified.

The next step for the committee is to identify strategies to meet the benchmarks, and includes a deeper understanding of the child care and early education initiatives, and an in-depth analysis of the initiatives and their connection to the larger early childhood system. The child care and early education initiatives include the Quality Rating and Improvement System pilots, the development of outreach strategies to relative and aide providers, and the creation of early learning centers as hubs for knowledge development.

To accomplish this work the committee will be splitting into two subcommittees. One subcommittee will focus on the child care quality initiatives, such as QRIS, and one subcommittee will focus on the early education initiatives, such as expansion of MSRP. There is obvious overlap and there will be times the entire committee is convened. New members

may be brought into the sub-committees, experts from the field, to contribute their knowledge to the work.

Dan Degrow and Lindy Buch will co-chair the early education subcommittee, and Larry Schweinhart and Lisa Brewer-Walraven will co-chair the child care subcommittee.

The next committee meeting is June 19.

IV. New Business

Children of Color Initiative: Board members present at a special meeting on this initiative included: Marvin McKinney, Hubert Price, Dave Hollister, Betsy Boggs, and Marianne Udow-Phillips.

Ms. Samelson indicated that a draft of the notes from the meeting had been prepared by Valora Washington and was included in their folders. Ms. Washington will work with ECIC on a state-wide initiative on Children of Color.

Ms. Udow-Phillips noted that staff has established a very aggressive timeline before Challenge.

Genesee County Presentation:

Ms. Beth Hackett welcomed everyone to Genesee County ISD. Superintendent Dr. Thomas Svitkovich was introduced.

Dr. Svitkovich spoke about how Governor Granholm had presented Michigan communities with the Granholm Challenge around community priorities. The issues of early childhood were high on the list coming out of that work.

Gail Stimson gave a history of Genesee County's early childhood work. Infant mortality, substance abuse, and health care are among the critical issues for local residents. Voters in Genesee County have passed a health initiative for low income residents.

Representatives from Mott Children's Health Center reviewed oral health issues in Genesee County. 1 in 4 children were unable to pay attention in class due to oral health problems. Genesee County GSC has put oral health as a top priority.

Genesee County GSC has distributed over 55,000 dental wheels,

including in Washtenaw County, Arizona and California. Very few dentists accept Medicaid and many do not accept kids less than 1 year of age.

Genesee is teaming up with Delta Dental to create "Health Kids Dental", effective July 1st. They are training physicians on how to do a general dental exam.

Ms. Samelson asked Dr. Svitkovich how the Great Start Collaborative has been value-added to Genesee County's early childhood work. Dr. Svitkovich indicated that the GSC effort has strengthened partners willing to work with them. Dr. Svitkovich said that the "Educators don't necessarily want to do the planning; they want to get in there and do the work. They want high quality work and very defined".

Gail Stimson said that ECIC has raised the awareness of the issues (including why it is important for Michigan to invest in the 0-4), and brought additional partners to the table.

The question was raised about what type of infrastructure does the State have with respect to early childhood. It seems at times, that each organization is working on its own issues and not sharing information. Ms. Samelson said as relationships develop, partners are now sharing information.

Genesee County has implemented "Drug Court" designed to help people lead a drug free life style. Families are engaged as soon as possible, they are screened for eligibility. This is the first of its kind in Michigan and possibly the United States.

Genesee County has also implemented a "Baby Court", which has involved United Way, Genesee County GSC, Mott Children's Health Center, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, DHS, 4 C's and more.

Both the Drug Court and Baby Court are trying to help change the cycle of the 2nd generation and foster kids.

Ms. Marianne Ketels, 4C talked about the Family Child Care Provider Network funded by the Mott Foundation and involving the GSC. They are working on a feasibility study to include: Business training, early childhood education training and extensive business training. The first group had 14 participants and the 2nd had 28 participants.

Dr. Svitkovich talked about a database with a "type of credit card with magnetic strip" they are working on.

Ms. Samelson thanked the Genesee groups for their participating in today's Board meeting.

IV. CEO UPATE

Ms. Samelson gave an update on the Audit.

Ms. Samelson informed the Board that Chris Kolb had left ECIC and that she was in the process of refashioning his job duties.

Ms. Cindy Peruchietti will be joining ECIC as of July 7th, as the new CAO.

ECIC is preparing to extend the childcare contracts.

The Leadership team is working and planning the budget and hopes to have 1 year benchmarks in September 2008.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Broman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.