

**ECIC Executive Board Meeting
MINUTES
February 10, 2010**

Executive Committee Members

Ismaël Ahmed
Lisa Brewer-Walraven
Susan Broman
Lew Chamberlain
Carolyn Clark
Dan DeGrow
Ken Gutman
David Hollister
Olivia Lagina
Doug Luciani
Anne Mervenne
Juan Olivarez
Janet Olszewski
Marianne Udow-Phillips
Sally Vaughn, Chair

Staff

Joan Blough
Andy Heller
Matt Gillard
Mary Lannoye
Judy Y. Samelson, CEO

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Vaughn called meeting to order at 1:04

II. Invitation for Public Comment

None

III. Approval of Minutes

Janet Olszewski – Correction needed on page 2 of the Updated Personnel Policy Manual. Instead of personal it should read personnel.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the minutes of October 26, 2009.

Motion by Marianne Udow-Phillips, seconded by Ken DeGrow. Motion carried unanimously.

Carolyn Clark – Opposed minutes. Did not receive board book.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Judy Samelson highlighted several things to keep in mind, the parent institute, 180 parents and GSC Parent Coalition leaders attended the meeting. Board member Betsy Boggs provided the welcome. There are 1,500 parents in the statewide coalition and that number is expected to grow this year. Matt Gillard is doing a great job giving training and providing them with communication tools. Bryn Fortune who is directing our Parent Coalition work has made us aware that we need to make this a relationship-based approach and parents will have the opportunity sit down and develop a relationship with the candidates that will hopefully carry into the election and beyond and help us in the years to come.

Ms. Samelson explained that it is important to provide parents the opportunity to use their voice. In March, we will be going around the state host a series of regional budget forums. We are priming the parent to be prepared to say Michigan has to do better for young children. To get all the issues on the table and on the record, it will be designed mostly through media events to share with legislatures and business leaders and others.

In April, we will be working with the collaboratives to do a series of bus tours for current legislators. They will take them around the community and show them early childhood programs.

In May, we will have Star Power and the Board Meeting will be connected to Star Power, and you will have the opportunity to see and feel the amazing work.

In July, an early childhood convention will be at the Breslin Center and we hope to have people with plaquards and everything that you would see in a regular convention. These are some of the preliminary things that we are doing.

Regarding the white paper, when Governor Grandholm was running for office, it was created to guide the thinking of gubernatorial candidates and Governor Grandholm saw the need to be a champion for early childhood issues. We contracted with Michigan's Children to revise it. Each of our local collaboratives will also do a white paper based on their own community. It is important to have the Committee's involvement and upper level outreach during the election. According to Ms. Samelson, Michigan has been tapped to be a part of the Birth to5 Policy Alliance, a new initiative which includes a variety of foundations and significant players in the realm of early childhood, bringing them together on the national level. Ms. Samelson reports we will be a part of the peer roundtable.

The Alliance is enthralled with what we had already put together in terms of an advocacy and communications plan, they brought the Center for Michigan in (Marianne Udow-Phillips connected us with Phil Power – and got them refocused on early childhood). According to Ms. Samelson, Michigan Center's piece is going to lead a statewide leadership council on early childhood. We are trying to bring the leadership council members in to the May board meeting to talk about what we can contribute to the election piece. We will need Committee member's to reach out to the gubernatorial candidates. Former Governor John Engler will be talking about early childhood at a national meeting in Washington on March 10th and Matt Gillard will be attending to watch him speak. We have a lot going on and everyone has expressed interest in being part of the advocacy process.

Financial Statement for November and December 2009

Ms. Lannoye presented the financial statements for November and December 2009 and reports for the most recent statement December 2009. She gave a brief description of financials in the board binders. Ms. Lannoye explained that there is a budget to actual comparison, \$78,000.00 collected in revenue and \$840,000.00 in expenses. Expenses are low because of just starting the quality contracts and the only money spent has been for operating expenses. Cash flow is good with a balance through the end of December 2009 of 4.6 million.

Audit

Ms. Lannoye introduced Carrie Hatcher, Controller at ECIC to the Committee members. Ms. Hatcher introduced invited guest from the auditing firm of Abraham and Gaffney, Bill Tucker and Steve Kirinovic. Mr. Tucker presented an overview of the document sent via e-mail. Key areas were highlighted throughout the financial statement. It was indicated that the ECIC has exceeded the suggested recommended fund balance.

Ms. Vaughn congratulates Ms. Samelson, Ms. Lannoye, and Ms. Hatcher for an unqualified opinion for the audit gave thanks to the auditors for a thorough job.

Master Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the financial statements for November and December FY2009; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECIC Executive Committee approves the findings and recommendations of the auditing firm of Abraham and Gaffney; and

Motion by Lew Chamberlain, seconded by Olivia Lagina. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

According to Ms. Vaughn, the presentation by Senate Fiscal Agency Director Gary Olsen has been postponed until the May Committee Meeting. According to Ms. Samelson the revenue conference will be about the same time.

Ms. Samelson asked Matt Gillard to talk about the State Budget implications and to give his thoughts on the communications and advocacy plans with unique strands of work as relates to the Election and imbedding early childhood into the elections conversations and holding the line on the budget cuts and making early childhood a Michigan priority.

State and Budget Update

STATE NEWS

According to Mr. Gillard, the Governor will be presenting the Budget tomorrow amongst wild rumors and speculation. We have tried to work with the Budget and Administrative office to protect it more. However, our plans will not be included in their budget proposals but they are going to protect it in some way.

Mr. Gillard reports that we have been preparing our local partners, the Great Start Collaboratives, and the Parent Coalitions in general for a two-pronged advocacy approach throughout the year. It is unlikely that it will play out like last year. Last year, the Senate Republicans, after the May revenue estimating conference, gave forth a full budget and many cuts were targeted on early childhood. According to Mr. Gillard, this gave us the opportunity to focus our advocacy efforts on that plan and what was wrong with it. However, this year it seems it won't work out like that as the budget could be moved forward because of the Election.

Mr. Gillard explains that the Senate Republicans have already identified some reform proposals as their centerpiece which means they do not have to identify budget level cuts. With the budget action due by June, they have positioned themselves where they will be leaning on program level cuts. Mr. Gillard further explains we can build from an advocacy standpoint on what we were able to do last year. We are preparing our advocates on a parallel path for the elections. For instance, the Parent Institute last week is liken to the Olympics; it is one time in every four years, around the election that is a huge opportunity to get every day people talking about issues and early childhood was one of those issues candidates, every day people, and the general public are talking about throughout this season. According to Mr. Gillard, we are close to finalizing a plan with our local partners. We have two factors: the statewide election (Gubernatorial Election) where we will depend upon Board Members and other statewide stakeholders to be a part of to help us with making sure that early childhood issues are under the radar for the statewide and Gubernatorial Candidates. We are preparing our local Great Start Collaboratives to be aware of townhall meeting and forums as the Candidates travel throughout the state particularly within the next few months as the campaign season starts.

Mr. Gillard explains that we will rely on Board Members to communicate with the chosen candidate when the time comes regarding the White Paper that outlines statewide issues and the case of investing in early childhood. We are working with local partners on the Legislative race within their district. We are requiring local collaboratives and local parent coalitions to interview every candidate for office within their region. It will not be a typical interview process but more educating. We will be hosting a statewide convention in Lansing in July for a couple thousand people with hopes of including the gubernatorial candidates. The timing is ideal to bring early childhood issues to the forefront and candidates will be chosen by the August primary. Mr. Gillard states that he has been traveling around the state to the collaboratives conducting advocacy training events and the parents are excited and fired up to be part of the election. According to Mr. Gillard, he is concerned that they are angry and eager to participate but they need to get their anger focused and we need to give them information to make rational decisions. Our role is to educate the candidates and the voters.

According to Ms. Samelson we will receive funding from the Committee on Economic Development to do a Business Leaders Breakfast. There are two funding efforts in Michigan: a lunch at the Grand Rapids Economic Club where there were 650 people in the room. Dave Brooks, a New York Times columnist, was brought in and who is supportive of early childhood.

Mr. Gillard reports that the Regional Budget Forums, Media and Market decision-based. We will get dates and time out. Ms. Vaughn indicated that she would like dates out to be able to support the efforts.

Mr. Ismael Ahmed inquired if there is any chance of using the Mackinaw Conference to move the forum forward especially the Business Leaders part of it? Ms. Samelson reports that we work with the Mackinaw Conference every year to get early childhood on their agenda. They seem positive at the start and every year it falls off of the list of things to do. Ms. Samelson states that after this big year they will get involved.

According to Mr. Gillard, the Detroit Regional Chamber has been host to the Mackinaw Conference and now they are reconfigured into this new group; it will be interesting to see if that change impacts the conference. According to Ms. Anne Mervenne, I am on the Chamber board and I have been on the Mackinaw Conference Committee, I could be helpful with advocacy.

According to Ms. Janet Olszewsk if it would be helpful in terms of getting legislators, she will contact Health Policy committee members as well as Appropriation Committee Members with a note or a phone call. Mr. Gillard states that it would be great because we are relying on the locals to organize the bus tours.

According to Ms. Samelson, we are very excited about this. We got smart about getting anchored events and let our parents show their stuff and raise their voice. No one will get elected without hearing about early childhood a lot.

Ms. Marianne Udow-Phillips compliments on the White Paper. It has been updated beautifully and has an Action Agenda that is very clear. The Wilder Study got great press. Good work. According to Ms. Samelson, the Wilder Study turned out great and was a worldwide press event. Ms. Samelson states that we will have to roll out one on health, child care, and mental health. We have a lot of work to do

According to Doug Luciani, a story in the Traverse City Record Eagle indicates that Rep. Wayne Schmitt is looking to add language to a Bill that is in Committee that would increase fees on gambling licenses for non-profit fund raising events and dedicate the money for early childhood education. Mr. Luciani feels that when Legislators support early childhood issues we should give them praise. Mr. Luciani plans to send a letter to the newspaper thanking him for supporting early education. Mr. Gillard informed the Committee that he spoke with legislators today and it is a good first step. The idea of the Bill is to double the fee that poker rooms have to pay in order to apply for a license. Some non-profit groups are supportive because it would be necessary to hire four additional people to review the application. It is positive because of the money it generates for early childhood and that we are getting movement from Legislative Republicans. Ms. Samelson explained she has a running debate with Mr. Gillard about giving praise to Legislators. Matt Gillard and Bev Hammerstrom both have done an amazing job in getting Legislators to understand the importance of early childhood issues and talking about dedicated funding streams. According to Mr. Lew Chamberlain, he agrees with Mr. Luciani when Legislators support early childhood issues, we should give them praise and support.

Ms. Samelson acknowledges Larry Schweinhart being present and informed the Committee that Mr. Schweinhart is a recent former Board Member. Mr. Schweinhart came to speak at the Children's Policy forum and runs the HighScope Educational Research Foundation and is a contributor to the knowledge base about early childhood.

Updates on Benchmarks in the Workplan

The focus is two elements: the Great Start Implementation Fund and the Great Start Quality Child Care Fund.

Ms. Joan Blough directed the group to read the page on updates. It is an exciting time in the development of the Great Start Collaborative where they can deploy some of the resources that we make available to them against their Strategic Plan. Ms. Blough states we are grateful to the Kellogg Foundation who is providing the funds. 32 of 55 GSC have completed their Strategic Plans and now are implementing their plans.

The funds can only be used to develop what is referred to as Early Childhood Infrastructure but as you can see from the list of projects we are preparing to fund a wide range of activities that help support the health, development, and early learning of young children. According to Ms. Blough, we have 26 proposals so far and we close to completing 17. We have been working with GSCs as well as local early childhood experts and our own staff to make sure that we are using the most pertinent research to advance the work that is happening in communities and engaging people in thoughtful discussion about the deploying of these resources. Due to the calculated availability of funds, Oakland is the only GSC whose Fund Implementation request exceeds \$100,000.00. Ms. Blough reports that we are pleased with the projects that they have put forth and are building on the work that they have done and continue to develop. They are working as an effective local early childhood system that has been able to leverage significant private funding. Ms. Oleszewski inquired about a discussion with Ms. Blough regarding the Pediatric and Family Health in Wayne and Shiawassee Counties and the Medical Home implementation. She would like to engage the local communities to make sure the pediatric piece is utilized. Ms. Blough reports Jenny Salesa, Pediatric and Family Home Specialist at ECIC is very engaged in the work and is sitting on some of your committees. Wayne is very close to actually starting medical home and Kalamazoo is very close to creating Medical Home as well. We are getting interest from doctors, hospital, HMOs and a number of significant partners who want to see this happen for children. Anything that we can do together would be great.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ECIC Executive Committee approves Oakland GSC's Implementation Fund request for \$115,573.00

Motion by Marianne Udow-Phillips, seconded by Anne Mervenne. Motion carried unanimously

Great Start Child Care Quality Project

According to Ms. Samelson, major effort involving upwards of 11 million dollars brought in on a regular basis. Ms. Karen Roback will discuss the details of the project.

Ms. Roback informed the Board that this is a large project that encompasses 5 different components through ECIC. The Great Start Regional Child Care Resource Center has 10 regions, Great Start Michigan Child Care Resource Center Connect which is Central Michigan University; Great Start Connect, out early learning data base, T.E.A.C.H., the Teacher Education and Compensation Help program, that help child care providers with tuition, scholarship, and financial support, and also CCEP, the Child Care Enhancement Program which is money that flow through ECIC however, the contract administrator is detailed to ECIC through the Dept of Human Services as part of the larger Quality project. The background of the project and recent approval of the Committee are in the binders. Also, each of the 5 components is detailed a little more; the progress of each and challenges

experienced in the first quarter, and highlights of the successes. According to Ms. Roback, the objective is to improve child care quality. Great Start Connect was launched in December and can be accessed through the ECIC website. You can get information on quality child care in Michigan, identify child care providers, providers can update their profile, and obtain cost information. It has been a challenge but a great opportunity to make sure that they have CPR training and health, safety, and nutritional information. According to Ms. Samelson, massive amount of work had to be done to manage this work and getting provider training for all participants has been the biggest challenge. There may be more child care reforms ahead. Ms. Blough states we must use the infrastructure to our advantage and our ultimate goal is that no child be in a child care setting that is not supporting early child care and learning.

According to Mr. Ahmed, the work is not easy and the number of compliant families, especially our delivery. We may need to have a larger discussion of unions. Have Legislators looking at this area as a way to make money. We have to do what is right for people but it is a hidden agenda. It is important to include this in the larger early childhood efforts. Ms. Samelson states if the Center for Michigan re-files their lawsuit related to the Union and Home-Based Child Care Council. The challenge on this front is to look at this line as a cut in the future. According to Ms. Vaughn, great progress with something so complex is kudos to the staff. Ms. Samelson states that Ms. Roback has done great work with Ms. Blough's guidance.

Open Forum

Business Leaders Breakfast will be a small number, only about 20-30 people. Let Ms. Samelson know which business leader should be invited. The breakfast will be in March 4th at the Federal Reserve Bank.

Chairman Vaughn adjourned the meeting at 4:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa M. Cross