

Meeting Summary – Monroe Smart Start: Birth-to-Five Coalition – October 19, 2010

- As people are arrived, they were given a survey to complete. Here is what respondents indicated they want:
 - e-newsletter every quarter
 - coalition meetings twice per year
 - Prefer meetings in the afternoon
 - Prefer meetings on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday
 - Information to be shared at future Coalition meetings:
 - Touchpoints Initiative
 - Ivy Tech Programs (certificate/degrees/scholarships available)
 - Services around Postpartum/perinatal mood & anxiety disorders
 - Topics for e-newsletter
 - Anything from DOE, Human Services or local schools
 - Progress of working groups/marketing, etc.
 - Places where volunteers could be of service
 - Recent reports or events in the community
 - Paths to Quality
 - Links to early childhood learning
 - Kindergarten Readiness

Agenda for Meeting:

- (10 min.) **Welcome and brief overview of Coalition**
 - Review coalition structure/ available on website
 - Final vision and mission:
 - Vision: All children in Monroe County will enter school with the skills and attributes they need to be successful, nurtured by families sensitive to their needs and supported by a community committed to helping children reach their full potential
 - Mission: To bring families and communities together to make sure children enter kindergarten healthy, happy and ready to succeed.
 - Overarching goal of Coalition: There will be an 30% increase in the number of children in Monroe County who enter kindergarten with the skills and attributes needed to be successful as measured by a common assessment tool by September 2014
 - Goals of Coalition (in order of priority):
 - Monroe County adopts a common definition of school readiness
 - Parents and Community Members understand and nurture the critical development that occurs in children birth to five to

ensure that children are prepared for successful school experiences.

- Children, birth to five, have access to physical and mental health prevention and intervention services – current focus: Development of Smart Start Directory
 - Increase the availability of quality child care for families of children birth to five
- Encourage participation/involvement – contact lois@monroesmartstart.org to find out how you can help. ONLY WE CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN – working together to create a community that supports and nurtures young children and their families to make sure they enter school healthy, happy and ready to succeed.
- Speak up about children’s issues
 - Volunteer your time
 - Share your expertise
- At tables - each group discussed two questions:
- How can we help the community as a whole understand and support our definition of School Readiness?
 - If we want parents and community members to understand what they can do to support the important development that occurs birth to five, what are the most effective ways to accomplish this?
 - Here are the ideas that were generated by the groups:
 - Develop a video that explains school readiness – post on the Smart Start website
 - Develop a poster with bullet points to be displayed in doctor’s offices
 - Do a video presentation at City Council meeting on CATS/or just on CATS
 - Partner with local pediatricians to share in voicing this information
 - Do presentations in different workplaces/provide resources that can be shared
 - Have a Smart Start presence in as many events as possible
 - Make sure the message is coming from someone the listener/viewer trusts
 - Develop billboards to share this information
 - Put it on Huffington Post
 - Be sensitive to selective wording to engage the listener/viewer
 - Popularize the message
 - Stickers at Krogers, doctors offices, Marsh, etc.
 - Signs on shopping carts in grocery store

- Put information in places where you have a “captive” audience (pushing the grocery cart, waiting at the doctor’s office, waiting at the laundromat, etc.)
- **Celebrating Progress**
 - Jeremy– Physical/Mental Health Working Group. Smart Start Directory: Your Monroe County Guide to Birth to Five
 - Barb – Parent/Caregiver Working Group – Pillars of parenting have been created and in the process of planning hospital visits to parents of Monroe County newborns
 - Cameron – K12 Working Group. School Readiness definition is in draft format – currently gathering feedback from a variety of community members.
 - Jessica Mace – Community Working Group – developing a message for community members to help them to understand school readiness.
 - Tim Dunnuck – Early Care and Education Working Group – creating Monroe County definition of quality care. Will join with K12 working group to complete school readiness definition since this is our top priority.
 - Georg’ann - B is for Bloomington Ad Hoc Committee - an ABC book focused on Bloomington will soon be ready to go to the printers.
 - Lois - Born Learning Trail: Spring 2011 will be the grand opening. This project is supported by Smart Start, City of Bloomington, and United Way of Monroe County.
- **Snapshots of other Initiatives in Monroe County**
 - **Early Head Start** – Shirley Stumpner – the Early Head Start program is up and running. Following an extensive search, they found a place to house their program in the Jack’s Defeat Creek Shopping Center in Ellettsville (just past the Putt Putt). Center hours are 7:30 to 5:30. As of 10/31/10 fifty-seven children are being served. 81 children are on the wait list for center based. Home-based services are currently being provided to 48 families. The target population is parents who are working or going to school full time.
In Home- based services, children and families are visited for 90 minutes a week and have the opportunity to attend two 90 minute “socialization” events per month held at various community sites (MCPL, Banneker Center etc). The center will enroll 24 children; 8 children per classroom with a 1 to 4 ratio at a minimum.
 - **Text4Baby** – Jessica Mace – Get FREE messages each week on your cell phone to help you through your pregnancy and your baby's first year. Messages relate to health and safety, playing with your baby and encouraging his/her development. Text “baby” to 511411.
- **Other Announcements**
 - Grant funding announcement by Community Foundation – Shari Woodbury

- Bloomington Area Birth Services received a grant to support their new Lactation Center. The center will provide lactation support and education services for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. It will be housed at the current BABS location. Fees will be charged on an income-based fee schedule and they will take referrals from other care providers in Monroe County.
- Reach Out and Read Monroe County Literacy Initiative received a grant to partner with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. They hope to reach 4,490 children. This funding will enable them to purchase a sufficient number of new children's books, provide all members of the primary care center with standardized training, recruit volunteers to model effective literacy practices for parents, and establish a literacy-rich environment in every waiting

REMEMBER: ONLY WE CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN – working together to create a community that supports and nurtures young children and their families to make sure they enter school healthy, happy and ready to succeed.