

## MICHIGAN CHILD CARE TASK FORCE MINUTES For December 7, 2005

Next meeting of the Task Force:  
Wednesday, January 4, 2006  
9:30 a.m. To Noon  
State of Michigan Library  
717 West Allegan; Lansing  
Lake Ontario Room, 3rd floor

### GUEST SPEAKERS:

\* State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (Trenton) will speak about House Bills 5423, 5424 & 5425, which would: double funding for Michigan's School Readiness Programs; make the T.E.A.C.H. ® program available to all eligible applicants; and, establish a Quality Rating System administered by DHS.

\* Sally Vaughn, Ph.D.: Superintendent, Livingston Educational Service Area; Chairperson, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators subcommittee on Early Childhood; Member, Board of Directors, Early Childhood Investment Corporation  
Dr. Vaughn will speak on the growing interaction between intermediate school districts and pre-K programs, including the opportunities and challenges created by this interaction.

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Jane Zehnder-Merrell convened the meeting shortly after 9:30 a.m. People introduced themselves.

### BUSINESS OF THE TASK FORCE:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, (Judy Levine - Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services)

1. The Office has hired three new consultants, two new secretaries and a supervisor. The consultants work with the Early On program, 21st Century Community Learning Center, and the 619 Preschool Consultant.  
2. This summer and fall, several meetings were held to make recommendations for the Early On redesign. As part of the process, outcome indicators were developed. A request for proposal is being sent out to help the MDE collect required outcome indicator data for children who are eligible for Part B or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Section 619. The grant will help identify tools, develop a data collection method, pilot the data collection and train early childhood special education to measure and report outcome data. Proposals are due January 9 at 5:00. To download the proposal, go to:

[www.michigan.gov/ose-eis](http://www.michigan.gov/ose-eis)

3. HB 5423 was introduced on 11/10/2005. This bill would amend the state school aid act to provide double the amount of money available for the state aid and competitive Michigan School Readiness Programs. It also reduces the requirement for the number of income eligible families from over-50% to 25% for fiscal year 2006. MDE will analyze the bill and provide recommendations.

4. A study titled "The Effects of the Michigan School Readiness Program on Young Children's Abilities at Kindergarten Entry" was conducted by the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University. The purpose of the study was to determine the effectiveness of state-funded pre-k programs for children who are eligible, including those who are not at risk due to poverty. Michigan was one of five states to participate. 865

preschool and kindergarten children participated in the study during the fall of 2004. The results are very exciting: children showed significant improvement in early language, literacy and mathematical development. The bottom line for the researches was that high quality(\*) programs do make a difference. For a copy of the study, go to <http://www.nieer.org/>. (\*) "High quality" is related to teacher qualifications. In Michigan, at a minimum, teachers are required to have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development. In state aid programs, teachers must have a valid teaching certificate with a ZA endorsement.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (Kathi Pioszak, DHS, Child Development and Care)

#### 1. CDC Policy Changes

Currently there is no limit on the total number of hours a provider can bill in a pay period. With the pay period beginning January 8, 2006 (#602), the total number of hours providers may bill in a pay period for all DHS-funded children in care will be CAPPED as follows:

Day care aides – 600 hours

Relative care providers – 600 hours

Family Day Care Homes – 900 hours

Group Day Care Homes – 1,800 hours

Centers – NO CAP

Statewide, the caps will impact less than 1% of these types of providers, approximately 18 group homes, 40 family homes, 90 day care aides and 129 relative care providers. Notices will go out to providers this month.

The reasons for imposing the caps include health and safety concerns for the children in care, a reduction in the potential for fraud, and an estimated savings of \$2.2 million.

#### 2. FY '06 Requests for Proposal

Proposals submitted in response to the RFP for resource and referral, provider support, outreach, and on-site coordination services were due last Friday (December 2nd). The proposals received are currently under review. Recommendations will go to the ECIC's Executive Committee, with awards announced by the end of December.

The RFP for child care provider professional development, scholarships and incentives to providers for accreditation, and incentives to day care aides and relative care providers was released on November 18th. The pre-proposal conference was held on Monday, December 5th. Proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16th. Cheryl Thompson, the contract person for this RFP, can be reached at: [thompson2@michigan.gov](mailto:thompson2@michigan.gov) or 517-335-6213.

It is anticipated that contracts will be awarded for service beginning January 1, 2006 for both RFPs.

#### 3. Early Childhood Workforce Study – Invitation to Bid

The Invitation to Bid was released last Friday.

This ITB can be viewed at:

[www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness](http://www.michigan.gov/doingbusiness)

Go to "Bids & Proposals", then "Commodities & Services", then "Invitations to Bid (ITBs)", and "Search for ITB #07116200063."

Attachment 1 provides the entire 100-page document. Questions on the ITB are due December 8th at 2:00 p.m. Bids are due December 16, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

This ITB was issued by DMB, Acquisition Services on behalf of the Department of Human Services and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. DHS intends to transfer the administration of this contract to the ECIC

during FY 2006. Contact information (Melissa Castro, 517-373-1080, [castrom@michigan.gov](mailto:castrom@michigan.gov)) is given on the website.

I (Kathi Pioszak) will be the Project Manager and Contract Administrator. The contractor must develop and conduct surveys of the early childhood workforce, create sampling procedures, collect data, assure a significant response rate, analyze, interpret and report findings.

### 3. Great Start Collaboratives RFP

This RFP is available on the Great Start for Kids website ([www.greatstartforkids.org](http://www.greatstartforkids.org)), along with three Questions-and-Answers papers, a slide presentation from the pre-proposal conference, and the Performance Measures for Great Start Collaborative Community Assessment and Planning. Proposals are due this Friday, December 9th. A review of the proposals that are received will occur on December 19th. Finalists will be interviewed on January 5th and 6th. Recommendations will then go to the ECIC Executive Committee on January 11th. It is anticipated that the public will be notified on January 18th.

Joan Blough is the contact for this process. She can be reached at: 269-345-5968 or via e-mail at [jblough@ownmail.net](mailto:jblough@ownmail.net).

### 4. ECIC Chief Operating Officer

Michael Foley has been appointed chief operating officer of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. As COO, Mike will report to the chief executive officer and serve as the director of the day-to-day operations of the ECIC. Mike most recently served as the assistant director of Child Welfare Services in the State Court Administrative Office and statewide manager of Michigan's Foster Care Review Program.

### 5. T.E.A.C.H.® Director

Lisa Brewer-Walraven began a new position, effective November 28th, in the Department of Human Services. Her new position will be working with Director Udow as the Federal Liaison and Policy Advisor in the Office of Federal Liaison/Public Policy. Kristen McDonald will move to the Department of Education under Superintendent Mike Flanagan as his Chief of Staff, effective January 2, 2006. The 4C Association will post the vacant T.E.A.C.H. Director position in the near future.

\* GUEST SPEAKER: Mike Flanagan, Michigan Superintendent of Public Education  
Currently, Mr. Flanagan's focus is on high school reform but he sees this as "early childhood in disguise." He believes districts have to get children off to a good start early for those children to succeed in high school later on. Districts, in fact, have to think of their students not as K-12 but birth -12. Mr. Flanagan feels that superintendents will discover they get a "big bang for their buck" when they spend money on preschoolers and will prioritize their money to do that.

He discussed new research published by the National Institute for Early Education Research that shows significant gains in children who attended the Michigan School Readiness Program or one of four other state funded programs. The gains for the children are attributed to high quality staff.

The Michigan Department of Education is currently working with universities in Michigan to reinvent standards by which state money to these institutions will be authorized.

Lastly, he discussed the ECIC, which he believes will acquire the funding needed to do its work.

BUSINESS OF THE TASK FORCE: Updates (cont)  
Licensing (Kathleen Sinnamon - DHS, Office of Child Day

## Care Licensing)

1. The revised day care home rules are in place and will take effect on January 1, 2006.
2. Center rules – The advisory committee working on these rules are meeting to go over all public comments and will continue on through the process.
3. Technical assistance (TA) documents are under preparation for use in training licensing consultants to use the new rules.
4. New legislation affecting child care facilities will take effect on 1/1/06. It requires the following:
  - a. FINGERPRINTING for all home and center licensees/program directors will be required at the time licenses are first obtained and renewed. The following policies will take effect:
    - i. Conviction = no license issued or renewal
    - ii. Conviction on current licensee, department revokes
    - iii. Fingerprinting required by 1/1/07 for currently licensed or registered home providers and current center staff
  - b. A criminal history check through ICHAT (Michigan State Police internet criminal history access tool) will be required for all employees before offering employment
    - i. A center responsible for checking employees
    - ii. DHS will continue to check on household members in homes
    - iii. Homes and centers must notify department within three business days if household member or employee arraigned on list of crimes
    - iv. Home and center licensees must report to the department within three business days if they are arraigned on certain crimes
  - c. Letters are going out to all licensed/registered facilities
5. A new law, PA 202 of 2005, provides a school age child care program exemption from regular oversight
  - a. This is available to any school age program
  - b. Exempt programs do not have inspections or on-site inspections. The exemption can be requested after two years of successful operation under Public Act 116, the child care licensing act.
  - c. The exempt program must annually provide documentation of compliance with licensing rules and Act 116.
  - d. DHS will continue with special investigations upon allegation that the program is not adhering to the statute or rules.

Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)- (Jane Zehnder-Merrell, Michigan League for Human Services  
The House bill budget reconciliation (H.R. 4241) that includes TANF reauthorization passed the House on November 18th and is waiting to be read in the Senate. Two previous and almost identical versions in 2002 and 2003 failed to pass the Senate. This bill:

- Imposes a number of extremely costly mandates and dramatically cuts federal funding; the proposed funding would fall \$12 billion short of the costs associated with the new work requirements and those associated with maintaining the existing child care programs.
- Requires a significant and unrealistic increase in total-state work requirements: that is, increased state-wide percentages of parents receiving TANF must participate in increased work activities. It mandates a 40 hour per week work requirement, 24 of which must be in a job. These mandates reduce states' flexibility in terms of engaging recipients in training or in

barrier-reducing activities.

- Imposes costly drug-testing requirements and severe penalties although it provides nothing in the way of funding for substance abuse treatment or for the testing itself.

- Requires states to terminate assistance to children if their parents fail to meet the work requirements. A particularly troubling provision included in the bill provides strong incentive to reduce TANF assistance to families by giving states a "caseload reduction credit" toward their work participation rate if they reduce their caseloads

The Senate bill is considerably different in that it is more flexible, has more reasonable hourly requirements, provides an additional \$6 billion in child care funding, allows states to determine sanctioning policies and doesn't require drug testing. It is thought that, perhaps, the House hoped to "sneak" the controversial provisions through Congress in the 900-page, fast-tracked bill in spite of opposition from the Senate and state governors.

Head Start Funding Still in Jeopardy (Richard Lower, Michigan Head Start Association)

The House of Representatives, in Congress, worked on two funding bills this month. The House passed a budget bill by a very slim margin (217 to 215). The Bill authorized deep cuts for the Medicaid and Food Stamps programs. The Senate version of the Bill does not include these cuts. The next step for Congress is to come together on a final compromise bill. Talks on the compromise bill will begin this week.

Another bill, which would have cut Head Start funding, failed in the House because of the number of calls Head Start parents and staff made to Congress. The House is likely to try again this week to cut funding for Head Start and other programs for low-income children and families.

Head Start's Reauthorization Is at a Standstill in the Senate. It appears that Head Start's Reauthorization Bill (1107) is stalled due to a deadlock among senators over the controversial religious discrimination amendment that Republicans want to offer on the Senate floor prior to a final vote. The amendment would allow faith-based organizations that run Head Start programs to discriminate in hiring based on religion.

The Senate bill also continues to reduce the role of parents in Head Start and to deny teachers a fair wage after requiring them to go back to school to get their degrees. The bill is expected not to move until at least January. The Head Start community is expected to use the time to address key issues with their senators.

\*\* Be sure to go to [www.saveheadstart.org](http://www.saveheadstart.org) to keep up with the latest news on Head Start and to send an e-mail to your two senators about your position on the Head Start bill.

Mental Health Services to Children & Families - (Deb Marciniak, Department of Community Health, did not attend the meeting, but provided a report)

1. Happiest Baby on the Block - Last month we talked about Happiest Baby on the Block, a parenting book, DVD, and workshop on Dr. Harvey Karp's method for calming crying babies and helping them sleep.

To find a certified trainer in Michigan:

Go to The Happiest Baby web site at <http://thehappiestbaby.org/>.

Click on "For Parents" in the left column.

Click on "Find a Happiest Baby Educator" in the left column.

Click on Michigan on the US map and scroll down to the Michigan heading.  
2. Constipation & Toileting Problems in Young Children - Recently, some of our Child Care Expulsion Prevention consultants heard Barbara Felt, MD, and Susana Patton, PhD, Division of Child Behavioral Health, University of Michigan Health System, present on "Constipation and Toileting Problems in Young Children." The consultants felt that the information provided was extremely useful, given the prevalence of toileting problems among young children in child care settings. We hope to arrange for Drs. Felt and Patton to conduct a training session for a larger group of interested persons at some point, but in the meantime, they said we can share some of their recommended reference materials:

a. Functional Constipation and Soiling in Children: Guidelines for Clinical Care, U of M Health System

<http://cme.med.umich.edu/pdf/guideline/peds03.pdf>

b. Functional Constipation and Soiling in Children - Patient Education Handout Associated with Guidelines for Clinical Care (document cited above) (English and Spanish versions)

<http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/guides/encopre.htm>

c. Dry All Night

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0316542253/103-5304589-7793406?v=glance&n=283155&v=glance>

d. Dr. Felt also recommended a publication titled, "Children's Constipation and Soiling", Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, but I called to inquire about it and it's out of print, perhaps forever. However, the person I spoke with from the Center suggested another book titled, "Overcoming Bladder and Bowel Problems in Children" at

<http://www.pottymd.com>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting notes taken by Martha Giles, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and compiled by Steve Manchester, Michigan AEYC

Happy Holidays!!

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JANUARY SPEAKERS:

\*\* State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (Trenton)

\*\* Sally Vaughn, Ph.D., Superintendent, Livingston Educational Service Area

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

9:30 a.m. - noon

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Lake Ontario Room, 3rd floor

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