

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

Next meeting of the Task Force (\*\* NOTE LOCATION CHANGE \*\*)  
Wednesday, October 5  
9:30 a.m. To Noon  
Dept of Human Services, Grand Tower, Dempsey Room - 1st Floor  
235 S. Grand Ave; Lansing

GUEST SPEAKERS: Judy Stevens, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) on efforts in Michigan to organize child care workers for collective bargaining;  
Sharon Parks and Dale Fickle, Michigan League for Human Services on various fiscal and budget issues related to early education and care.

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Chairpersons Richard Lower and Lisa Brewer Walraven convened the meeting.

Susan Miller gave an update on the "Early Learning Michigan" (ELM) project funded by the Joyce Foundation.

- The Quality Rating System position paper should be posted at the Great Start for Kids website soon ([www.greatstartforkids.org](http://www.greatstartforkids.org) <<http://www.greatstartforkids.org/>> )
- The Professional Development workgroup is preparing "professional development pathways" using the "Core Competencies and Core Knowledge" document as a basis.
- ELM partners conducted focus groups to determine "effective messages" and "effective messengers"
- ELM supported two speakers (Joan Lessen Firestone, Oakland Schools and Rob Gruenwald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis) presented to the legislative Children's Caucus
- ELM partner Fight Crime: Invest in Kids has conducted seven "Awareness days" in local communities

Kristen MacDonald gave an update on the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC).

- The executive committee met during the last week of August. The agenda for the meeting was: background on early childhood, adopting rules and by-laws, selecting officers, creating committees and selecting a search firm (for the CEO search). At that meeting, they chose the leadership of the Executive Committee: Marvin McKinney, Chairperson; Marianne Udow, Vice Chairperson; Susan Broman, Treasurer; and Sally Vaughn, Secretary. There will be four committees: Policy and Program (Larry Schweinhart will chair), Finance & Fund Development, Audit, and CEO Search.
- The CEO search will hopefully result in a person being named and hired by 1/1/06. Communities who will participate in the Great Start Collaboratives of the ECIC are to be named by 2/1/06.
- There will be 13 employees: Chief Executive Officer, Executive Assistant, Chief Operating Officer, Communications Director, 4 Training and Technical Assistance persons, Finance manager, and 3 employees who will maintain their civil service status but will report to the CEO: Kathi Pioszak, Cheryl Thompson (both from DHS/Child Development and Care) and Nancy Willyard (from the Head Start State Collaboration Project).

- The ECIC will be a “public non-profit” corporation with a budget comprised of both public and private funding.

GUEST SPEAKER, Jan Fowler, Early Education Coordinator, Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District

Jan talked about local “best practices” of collaboration between ISDs and the early childhood education and care community. She discussed 1) increasing quality and quantity of early childhood services, 2) increasing access to programs for children and their parents and 3) improving and demonstrating that children are ready for school.

Her collaborative activities began when her area was a recipient of the Kellogg-funded “Joining Forces” grant which was funding for systems building (not for programs). As a result of that start and her efforts since, there are now seven early childhood programs tied to local school districts, the MI School Readiness Advisory Team is part of the system, some programs have created resource libraries for parents, members of the collaborative make home visits to child care providers, and they have established 2 child care alliances – and encourage elementary principals to attend the meetings.

In terms of the items on the discussion agenda:

- There were 250 new slots in child care between 1995 and '01;
- Providers from all settings participate in professional development activities at the ISD or at 4C training;
- Access has improved (with help from ASAP-PIE)
- They all use the High/Scope “Program Quality Assessment” (PQA), which shows improvements in the program curricula being offered to children (“Four of five children are in programs that have received an “acceptable” rating on every item of the PQA.”)

For more information, contact Jan Fowler at 231-582-8070 or [fowler@charemid.org](mailto:fowler@charemid.org)

Judy Levine gave the update on the MI Department of Education.

- MSRP competitive award notices have been sent to 55 programs (tentative until final appropriations bills are passed). Additional programs may be eligible for funding due to a clause added to the application restricting applications from programs that have been disqualified from other public funding for violating the program’s requirements.
- The appropriations process has an impact on the School Aid side of the MSRP equation and thus the department cannot send allocations but school districts can determine their likely allocation by using the formula in the Implementation Manual.
- MDE is working on a “transition to kindergarten” web-based packet of information for parents and schools
- Twenty-eight programs received “Even Start” grants – though the President proposed eliminating all “Even Start” funding (it is now with Congress).
- Early On is going through a redesign process to meet current legislative requirements.
- A committee has met twice to develop “Infant/Toddler Standards of Quality.” (The committee has reviewed materials from a variety of sources and likes the format from New Zealand.)
- The department has reorganized the Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. The office is responsible for: 0-3, Early On, “Even Start”, “Great Parents, Great Start”, MSRP and after-school programs.

Renee De Mars-Johnson will be a new supervisor in the office.

One of the questions posed to Judy related to the initiative to provide full-day MSRP in Detroit. If the legislation passes, it will have an impact across the state.

Child Day Care Licensing.

The Task Force chairpersons announced that people can find copies of the proposed center rules at the Michigan.gov website (DHS/Licensing) as well as the schedule for hearings related to the proposed rules. (The Lansing hearing will be October 13.)

Deb Marciniak reported on Department of Community Health/mental health activities.

- There was still time to sign up for the MiAEYC Infant/Toddler conference scheduled for September 16.
- Kent ISD and the MI Association for Infant Mental Health (MiAIMH) of West Michigan have set a number of dates for training related to caring for infants & toddlers (more info at [www.kentisd.org/earlyon](http://www.kentisd.org/earlyon) <<http://www.kentisd.org/earlyon>>)
- A MiAIMH conference will be in October (info at [www.mi-aimh.msu.edu](http://www.mi-aimh.msu.edu) <<http://www.mi-aimh.msu.edu/>>)

As part of Chairperson Lower's report, a TANF funding extension continues, the Head Start reauthorization is on hold.

A member of the House Dem. Policy Staff reported on HB 4936 and 4958 – bills requiring criminal history checks for those who work in child care.

A one day conference: "Out of Harm's Way: Preventing Toxic Threats to Child Development in Michigan"; Thursday, November 3; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Rackham Graduate School. Registration begins at 7:00 am; program runs from 8:00 am to 4:45 pm.

This conference is co-sponsored by many organizations including the Michigan Child Care Task Force, Michigan AEYC and the MDE Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services.

For program and registration information go to: [www.miaap.org/events.asp](http://www.miaap.org/events.asp)

Since it was the last meeting at which Lisa Brewer Walraven would serve as co-chair, all members thanked her for her leadership over the past two years. (Jane Zehnder-Merrell will become the new co-chair at the October meeting.)

Minutes taken by J. Mark Sullivan, Michigan 4C Association

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MCCTF Co-Chair Contact Information:

Richard Lower, Executive Director  
Michigan Head Start Association  
517-374-MHSA; [Richard@mhsa.ws](mailto:Richard@mhsa.ws)

Jane Zehnder-Merrell, Senior Planning & Research Associate  
Michigan League for Human Services  
517-487-5436, Ext. 221; [janez@mhanet.net](mailto:janez@mhanet.net)

MCCTF's Sponsoring Organizations:

Association for Child Development; Michigan 4C Association (Community Coordinated Child Care); Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children; Michigan Head Start Association; Michigan League for Human Services; Michigan's Children

Legislative Sponsors:

Senator Patricia Birkholz (Dist. 24)  
Representative Michael Murphy (Dist 68)