

MICHIGAN CHILD CARE TASK FORCE MINUTES
For May 3, 2006

NEXT MEETING of the Task Force
Wednesday, June 7, 2006
9:30 a.m. To Noon
State of Michigan Library
717 West Allegan; Lansing
THE FORUM (auditorium on 1st floor) – Note room change

GUEST SPEAKER in June:
RICH BEARUP, Executive Director, Michigan Children's Trust Fund
Rich, the new appointed Director of the Trust Fund, will discuss past and current successes plus future, new directions as the Trust Fund moves through its third decade of existence.

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

BUSINESS OF THE TASK FORCE

* Lynne Martinez, Community Activist and former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, presented information about the "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative," which will be on the ballot in November. The ballot proposal would prohibit affirmative action in public institutions such as government, and schools and colleges. Lynne urged opposition to this proposal for the following reasons:
- Recruitment into education programs based on gender and race would end; for example efforts to recruit men into nursing; women into building trades; or minorities into medicine would be prohibited.
- other preferences would be permitted; for example: "legacy" admissions into college because "Dad went there"; admissions based on such things as athletic and music abilities would still be permitted under the proposed constitutional amendment.
- discrimination based on race and gender still exists and affirmative action is still needed to contest such discrimination.
People opposing the ballot proposal are available to speak. For more information on this matter go to www.oneunitedmichigan.org.

** Mich Dept of Educ, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs – Blanche Derren

** Education Budget News:

* MICHIGAN BUDGET:

The House agreed with the governor and the Senate in transferring large funding obligations from MDE to the state's School Aid Fund (SAF). The largest of those transfers was \$24.7 million for Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) testing (\$16.3 million restricted and \$8.4 million federal). Another \$9.6 million in funding for the school breakfast program (all General Fund) was also transferred to the SAF. Advocacy efforts continue to seek parity in legislative language between the competitive and district preschool grants.

* FEDERAL BUDGET – EVEN START:

The President recommended cuts in and the eventual elimination of Even Start funding. An action alert (generated by Todd Platts, R-Pa.) has been distributed to generate

congressional support for restoration of Even Start funding to the current FY05 funding level - \$248 million. From MI, John Conyers (D), Detroit, has supported this action alert to date.

** On-going Operations in Michigan:

* EVEN START IN MICHIGAN: The department is processing Even Start grant applications; competing grants go to superintendent for review next week with final announcements on June 1.

* 21st CENTURY CONFERENCE: The registration deadline was extended to May 5 there is online registration.

The Keynote topic by Patricia Stahl: high quality socio-emotional environments for children and committing ourselves as mentors to the children we work with.

* MICHIGAN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS:

Competitive MSRP: Grant applications are due May 24th.

State Aid MSRP: The 2006-07 Community Needs and Resources Assessment (CNRA) is available online and due May 9th.

Announcement of the Fall Kick Off went out recently. The Kick Off will take place in 18 sites during Sept and Oct. Many Intermediate School Districts are generously hosting this professional development event.

* EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE):

The State Performance Plan (SPP) includes specific indicators for preschool.

Data will be collected on Child Outcomes: Social/Cognitive/Meeting own Needs and also on the percent of preschool children with IEPs who receive special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers.

The SPP recently approved at the federal level, is beginning to figure out how to collect baseline data. The goal to have an online data collection system for fall 2006 ECSE data. Link to SPP at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/12-1-05PartBStatePerformancePlan_143754_7.pdf

Partners include: MDE Office of Spec Ed/Early Intervention Service, Early Childhood Workgroup made up of MAASE (MI Assn for the Administrators of Special Ed), School District Administrators and spec ed. teachers.

** Department of Human Services, Child Development and Care (CDC) Kathi Pioszak

* ANTI-FRAUD PROGRAM — The CDC Program Office, in conjunction with a CDC Fraud Workgroup, has developed a new "STOP CHILD CARE PROGRAM FRAUD" poster as part of a campaign to increase public awareness of child care fraud. Child Day Care Licensing Consultants have received copies. A laminated copy of the poster will be distributed to each DHS local and district office in June. Copies of the poster will also go to 4C offices and Community Action Agencies. Posters are available upon request.

* PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS — A Head Start PROTOCOL (social/emotional) professional development session was held in Flint in April with over 50 people attending. Mental Health consultants and contractors from Head Start, Child Care Expulsion Prevention and school districts came together to network around social/emotional issues affecting young children. Another professional development session will be held at the

Dickinson/Iron ISD the end of May. There is still room for others to participate in the Iron Mountain session. Contact is Nancy Willyard, Director of the Head Start-State Collaboration Office, at 517-241-5091.

* MIGRANT CHILD TASK FORCE — The Michigan Migrant Child Task Force, established under the Interagency Migrant Services Committee, is beginning to implement its strategic plan. Site visits to migrant camps are being planned for this summer to meet with farm workers. Staff from the Head Start Bureau, Region V office,

politicians, along with members of the Task Force, will meet to discuss child care issues during these visits.

The strategic plan has the following priorities:

- Caregiver education and training
- Data & Research
- Access to Community Services
- Health, Housing, Transportation, policy alternatives
- Collaboration

The vision of this Task Force is to "improve the future of migrant children in Michigan and the education of their caregivers." Their mission is to "collaborate, educate and advocate for policy and programs that ensure a bright future for migrant children."

In 2004 and 2005, Task Force members visited farm worker families and providers in migrant camps across the state to elicit feedback on the direction of the Task Force and elements of the strategic plan.

* TRIBAL CHILD CARE TASK FORCE — The Tribal Child Care Task Force brings together representatives of all twelve Michigan Tribes to address child care issues. The task force's steering committee is planning a "Future Search," scheduled for the end of August, to develop a strategic plan around Tribal Child Care issues. Listening sessions are currently being conducted to gather information that will help determine Future Search activities. Paul Cloutier, Director, Indian Affairs, DHS is the lead. His number is (517) 335-7782.

* INFANT, TODDLER, YOUNG CHILD CONFERENCE — Mark your calendar "Supporting Families with Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children Conference," November 13-15, 2006 at the Amway (Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids. The ECIC will provide some scholarships for child care providers to attend. If interested in a conference brochure and scholarship application, e-mail your request to DeborahJensen@childcrt.org or visit www.childcrt.org and look for "Supporting Families" conference link. Conference material will be available AFTER August 1, 2006.

** FIRST GUEST SPEAKER:

* MIKE FOLEY, Chief Operating Officer, Michigan Early Childhood Development Corporation (ECIC).

The ECIC vision is that all children in Michigan enter school safe, healthy, and eager to succeed in school and life. There are three objectives: (1) Be a clearinghouse for ideas and offer technical assistance to communities; (2) Be a focal point in helping stakeholders in Michigan use resources in collaborative and coordinated ways; (3) Promote investment in the public and private sectors in early childhood matters.

The ECIC plans to establish "Great Start Collaboratives" across Michigan. GSCs will be organized through intermediate school districts, but involve local collaboration across a wide range of organizations. At present, the ECIC has provided small grants to 14 ISDs to carry out this project: seven are designated as Great Start Collaboratives and seven have "capacity building" grants that will prepare them to become GSCs. The Governor has proposed additional funding to extend the GSC effort to all 57 ISDs. In addition to the grants, the ECIC is providing technical assistance to the grantees.

The ECIC has awarded other contracts in three areas: (1) Professional Development training for child care providers - awarded to two entities; (2) Providing resource and referral services - awarded to three entities; (3) A contract to study and assess the childcare workforce has been awarded.

The ECIC hopes the Michigan Legislature accepts the Governor's funding recommendations for the fiscal year 2007 budget. In addition, the ECIC is assisting in the renewal of the Legislative Children's Caucus composed of leaders from both parties

in both the Senate and the House.

The ECIC is still in its early developmental phase. Its first CEO, Judy Samelson, was just hired and began her new job on May 1. The ECIC staff is too small and will need to grow to handle all of the duties assigned to the ECIC.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

* Why did only 38 of the 57 ISDs apply for GSC grants? — Some ISDs felt they were not ready to apply but most of those will probably apply in the next round. Some took a "wait and see" stance because they believe that programs like GSCs can disappear quickly because expected support dries up.

* Why should money that could be available for services to children be used for the ECIC? — To achieve the ECIC vision requires a much larger commitment from the people of Michigan. We are taking a small amount of money now in hopes of vastly increasing the resources eventually devoted to early childhood.

* Isn't the ECIC Board having trouble keeping up with things? — The ECIC has had some growing pains, in part because there were so many things to get done in the initial stages of the ECIC. The Board Chairperson, Marvin McKinney recognizes this problem and is taking steps to develop the Board's ability to guide the ECIC.

* Why do foundations seem reluctant to fund the ECIC (all of the funding to date has come from public funds slated for child care programs)? — The foundations are expected to provide significant funding soon. They have wanted to be assured that there is bi-partisan government support as well as buy-in from other parts of the private sector.

* Why should child care providers support the ECIC when they see its funding coming mostly from money that previously supported the child care system? — This is a problem. The ECIC has the challenge of bringing good results to the child care system; the ECIC will treat this challenge seriously.

** MDCH Mental Health Services to Children & Families — Deb Marciniak

* INFANT-TODDLER CONFERENCE — Save Sept. 29 for Michigan AEYC's Infant-Toddler Conference, held on September 29, 2006 in Novi. Last year, the conference with a strong emphasis on social-emotional development. We're glad to see another infant-toddler conference this year.

* HELPING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SKILLS

+ The "Practical Strategies" section of the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) web site presents short practical items for caregivers' use. These include scripted stories to help children understand social situations, resources to help children build relationships and learn social-emotional skills, and resources to help teachers develop behavior support plans. Go to:

<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/practical-ideas.html>

+ Also at the CSEFEL web site: Transcripts (English and Spanish) of two online events held last year in the chat series sponsored by the Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior (CEBP) and the CSEFEL are now available:

< "Looking at Challenging Behaviors through a Cultural Lens" (with Amy Santos)

<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/chat/santos-trans.html>. < "Supporting Peer Social Skills in Early Childhood Settings <<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/chat/bovey-trans.html>> " (with Ted Bovey).

<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/chat/bovey-trans.html>. < See the CSEFEL Chat resources page for information on other online chats in the series; go to:

<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/chatresources.html>

** Division of Child Day Licensing, DHS - Don Vita (vitad2@michigan.gov)

* Child Care Center Rules — The proposed revised rules have to go to the Legislative Service Bureau for legal editing. Soon, they will go to the legislature's Joint Committee

on Administrative Rules; JCAR will have 15 legislative days to examine the rules. Nobody knows whether the 15 legislative days will extend into the fall. JCAR may choose to say nothing about the rules and simply let them be enrolled and take effect. Nobody can predict when the rules will take effect.

* New Staff — The Division continues to seek new staff and has begun interviews.

* Other News — Area managers are doing training on the new rules for home based child care. About 1200 families have been trained. There is a fairly serious problem of up to 50% of people who sign up for the training do not show up.

— Finger printing issues, particularly the need to speed up the process has caught the attention of the Legislature. It is uncertain how quickly things can change, however, given the budget pressures this spring and elections coming up later.

— The training now provided regarding the new rules will count toward the continuing education requirements of the new rules.

** SECOND GUEST SPEAKER:

* SHARON HUDSON, Coordinator, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Mich Dept of Community Health

* Federal money to deal with lead is drying up — There is a goal at the state and federal government levels to eliminate lead poisoning by 2010. However, federal funds for lead issues will end in 2010 and state funding is very small.

* A big issue for young children — Lead poisoning continues to be a huge problem for the early childhood education field. The damage done by lead is not reversible. Kids, by playing on the floor and putting things in their mouth, are closer to lead than adults. Because the young brain develops so rapidly and establishes crucial systems needed throughout life, lead poisoning in the early years can create many problems. Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health issue for kids in the USA (and the world).

* Lead is everywhere — The USA ended the use of lead-based paint in 1978 and lead in gasoline in 1985. This has helped a lot, but much lead remains in large part because lead just stays around; it does not bio-degrade and so much is used even today. The largest source of lead is in dust from deterioration of lead-based paint.

Many occupations and recreational activities put lead into the environment. Shooting ranges produce lots of lead dust.

A growing source of new lead in the environment is foreign imports. Many countries with whom we trade do not regulate the use of lead. In particular, many imported toys are decorated with colorful lead based paint.

* Poverty and lead in kids — 90% of kids with elevated blood-lead levels are Medicaid-insured kids. Low income families tend to live in distressed older houses that have lots of lead dust, both inside and around the house.

* For more information on lead poisoning you can contact Sharon at: HUDSONS@michigan.gov; 517-335-9242

** TANF Reauthorization — There was no update

** Head Start Reauthorization — There was no update

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting notes compiled by Steve Manchester, Michigan AEYC, with assistance from many of the people who made reports.