

Summary of recommendations and ideas expressed by members of the Advisory Group for the *Early On*® Center for Higher Education on March 7, 2008.

In attendance: Cheryl Bloomquist, Jamia Brewer, Lindy Buch, Julie Ricks-Doneen, Laura Jensen-Hunt, Harold Johnson, Stephanie Peters, Katie Silverman, and Debbie Weatherson,

Recommendations regarding participation as Advisory Group members with the *Early On*® Center for Higher Education and general recommendations for the direction of the EO Center.

- Identify 2-3 achievable objectives for each year.
- Timely follow-up.
- Maintain communication between the quarterly meetings.
- While in discussion, be mindful of the mission of the *Early On*® Center for Higher Education (based on federal and state laws and regulations, etc.) while sharing your own agenda. Recognize the people bring both aspects to their involvement.
- Be flexible in determining term limits. There are advantages to having people serve for longer terms (4-5 years), especially when new projects are initiated.
- Acknowledge the complexity of issues and allegiances. Know that some limits exist for those in decision-making places.
- Build a sense of community (i.e. a community of learners) among the Advisory Group membership
 - Provide opportunities for the membership to present on topics at each Advisory Group meeting, and in other forums.
 - Engage members in meaningful work between meetings.
 - Strengthen work between faculty and providers of early intervention and parents.
 - Offer faculty- to- faculty mentoring opportunities.
 - Offer web-based opportunities for conversations on relevant topics, to request assistance, pose questions, and share feedback on resources, etc.
- Strengthen the expertise and knowledge of the Advisory Group membership
 - Allow time at each meeting to share resources (bring-brag-breakfast); offer presentations by Advisory Group members and “outside experts” at meetings.

- Resources and materials should include not just new topics and activities in the field, but allow for in depth discussion of the impact of current activities and the “state of the field.”
 - Provide information on upcoming learning activities, events, and services at the local and state level.
- Stronger use of technology for communication between Advisory Group member and with the field at large: i.e. videocam, video conferencing, wiki, etc. Give options to people.
- Provide materials to read in preparation for the Advisory Group Meetings.

Additional Comments about the Summary of Needs Assessment by Topic

- Reminder that the one-page summary of responses does not capture the depth and breadth of the topics, rather it uses a “bullet format” to identify top priorities offered by the members of the two focus groups held in January 2008.
- Embed in each module, or possibly produce a separate module on the following core issues/topics/skills:
 - Forming and maintaining relationships with the family
 - Developing and applying the skills of: problem solving, effective communication, and observing and documentation.
 - Application and evaluation
- Reframe the topic “developmental red flags” (the third priority) to a more holistic approach, i.e. focus of this module should be supporting a strong working knowledge of the typical development of infants and toddlers, birth to three (social-emotional, brain development, etc.) and the application of the knowledge when working with families.
- Include an FAQ section (frequently asked questions).

Additional Comments

- Use up-to-date technology in the modules: direct links to URLs, podcasts on the topics (5-7 minutes “chats with Sr. Barbara” on natural environments: rational, philosophy, history and current status in Michigan. “Chats with parents” on their experiences with natural environments, etc.)
- Identify existing high quality resources that utilize technology (e.g. CEED, State of Maryland has modules on IFSP, etc.)

Suggestions for reaching other faculty in Michigan to expand the network with EO Center for Higher Education

- Mi AECTE listserv

- ACCESS list
- IHE Advisory Group w/ ECIC (through Lindy Buch)
- Pediatricians through the ABCD Project
- DEC (of CEC) – Michigan
- Associations for P.T's, O.T.s, SLP
- Graduate Councils at each university
- Ask recent graduates for names of faculty
- Enroll parents to make contact with faculty
- Wiki or Blog
- Have each member personally contact 5 colleagues/friends in the field to spread the word

Faculty requesting speakers for their class:

- Julie Rick-Doneen, Oakland University
- Cheryl Bloomquist, Northwestern Michigan College
- Katie Silverman, U of Michigan, Dearborn
- Elizabeth Grace – CCD 118 Infant and Toddler Caregiving – each semester
- Holly Hoffman – SPE 126 Intro to Special Education – Fall 2008, Tues 7-10pm
- Marcia Rysztak – CHDV – Foundations in Early Childhood Education – Fall, 1-4pm

Other ways Advisory Group members want to participate:

- **Periodic discussions about resources:** J. Ricks-Doneen, C. Bloomquist, L. Jensen-Hunt, S. Peters, K. Silverman, E. Grace, M. Rysztak, D. Wilbur
- **Assist with development of modules:** J. Ricks-Doneen, D. Weatherston, C. Bloomquist, L. Jensen-Hunt, K. Silverman, H. Hoffman, D. Wilber
- **Assist with planning Colloquim:** J. Ricks-Doneen, L. Buch, C. Bloomquist, K. Silverman, E. Grace, H. Hoffman, D. Wilber
- **Reviewer of grant applications:** S. Peters, L. Buch, E. Grace, M. Rysztak, L. Utzinger, D. Wilber