



On behalf of the chairs and staff of the ECIC Parenting Education and Family Support external advisory board committee, we would like report the progress to-date:

When we first began part of the charge for each committee was to focus on one component of the comprehensive, community-based system of early childhood health, development and learning services being built in Michigan under the leadership of the ECIC. The Parenting Education & Family Support Committee gathered leaders from across the state to:

- Serve as a forum for shared leadership, coordinated planning and strategic communication regarding Parenting Education & Family Support;
- Update and refine Michigan's strategic plan for a comprehensive early childhood system for all children birth to Kindergarten entry and their parents;
- Advise on the development of resource materials, technical assistance and consultation for communities, on the topic of Parenting Education & Family Support;
- Plan and host a seminar for community leaders to provide them research and best practice information in the areas of Parenting Education and Family Support;
- Provide recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee of the ECIC which will further advance Parenting education and Family support in Michigan.

In February 2007, leaders in Parenting Education/Family support from across the state gathered to give recommendations to update component specific goals and objectives in Michigan's Great Start Blueprint.

In March 2007, they gathered with leaders from across the state to yield input to Michigan's strategic plan for a comprehensive early childhood system for all children birth to Kindergarten entry and their parents. This work led to the refinement of the Great Start Blueprint.

In April and May 2007, committee work revolved around refining component specific goals. Recommendations were taken from the March Blueprint meeting that involved input from across the state and was reformulated with the recommendations presented by the committee in February. In addition, we also provided recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee of the ECIC to further advance Parenting Education/Family support in Michigan.

In June and July 2007, the committee developed the following long-term outcomes for the Parenting Education/Family Support component of the great start blueprint:

Every parent of a child 0-5 has access to information and learning opportunities about child development;

Every parent utilizes parenting practices and accesses resources that assure his/her child is safe, healthy, ready and eager to succeed in school and in life;

The Great Start System is family-centered at all levels: Individual child & family; Program; Policy, with inclusion of parents in leadership roles at all levels;

August and September 2007, although the committee has been busy, there is still much to be accomplished. The committee is working to plan and host a seminar for community leaders to provide them with research and best practice information in the areas of Parenting Education and Family Support. Information regarding the convening will be posted on the website.