



On behalf of the chairs and staff of the ECIC Social-Emotional 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 Social-Emotional Committee gathered leaders from across the state to:

- Serve as a forum for shared leadership, coordinated planning and strategic communication regarding the promotion of social-emotional health of young children;
- 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 topics of social-emotional health development of young children (0-5);
- Plan and host a seminar for community leaders to provide them research and best practice information about social-emotional health;
- Provide recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee of the ECIC which will further advance social-emotional health for children 0-5 and their parents/primary caregivers.

In early March 2007, leaders in Child Care and Early Education from across the state gathered to give recommendations to update component specific goals and objectives in Michigan's Great Start Blueprint.

In late 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 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 March. In addition, we also provided recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee of the ECIC to further advance the work about social/emotional health of young in Michigan.

In June 2007, the committee developed the following long-term outcomes for the Social/Emotional Health component of the great start blueprint:

Infants, toddlers, young children and their parents are socially and emotionally healthy

An early childhood mental health system of care that promotes social-emotional health for all young children, prevents emotional disturbance in young children at-risk and provides early intervention for young children with an emotional disturbance.

All early childhood practitioners and settings support healthy social-emotional development.

In spite of the committee's tremendous amount of work done thus far, there is still much to be accomplished. The committee's future plans include hosting a convening for community leaders and their constituents to provide them with research and best practice information in the areas of social and emotional health of young children. Information regarding the convening will be posted on the website.