

**Michigan Child Care Task Force**  
**November 2008 Updates**

**Child Day Care Licensing** -- Jim Sinnamon, 517-373-3661, [jssinna@michigan.gov](mailto:jssinna@michigan.gov)

- As of October 23, 2008, there were 14,162 licensed or registered providers in Michigan, including:
  - 4,798 centers (+ 27 from September 2, 2008 report),
  - 6,226 family homes (-157 from September 2, 2008 report), and
  - 3,138 group homes (-42 from September 2, 2008 report).
- The group email lists (LISTSERVs) for both child care centers and home providers continue to grow. Group emails are available for centers and homes to help keep providers updated in a timely fashion. To sign up, go to "contact us" on the [www.michigan.gov/michildcare](http://www.michigan.gov/michildcare) web site, or copy and paste the following links into the address bar of your web browser:  
Child care centers:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455\\_49572-198496--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455_49572-198496--,00.html)  
Family and group homes:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455\\_49572-200682--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455_49572-200682--,00.html)
- Child care licensing continues to move forward with the revision for the family and group child care homes rules. Public hearings took place as follows:
  - Sault Ste. Marie, October 28.
  - Gaylord, October 29.
  - Lansing, November 3.
- Child care licensing is looking to hire 2 consultants and 1 area manager in the near future. They are new positions. Locations TBD.
- Child care licensing has begun to identify family child care homes in each county for renewal inspections. These inspections will be counted toward the statutory requirement to inspect 10% of DF homes each year.

**Michigan Budget & Tax** -- Jane Zehnder-Merrell, 517-487-5436,  
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- Forecasts suggest the economic woes generated by the bust in housing and the plunge in the stock market will have an impact on state revenues for the current fiscal year that began October 1st. A shortfall of close to half a billion is possible; an executive order to trim expenditures is expected to be issued in the next few months. The earlier the cuts are made, the less deep they will need to go to realize the savings.
- The Senate eliminated the Michigan Business Tax surcharge without considering how to replace the revenue (the House has not acted on this proposal); this would open another \$700 million hole in the budget.
- Federal level discussions continue about a stimulus package that would bolster state budgets, which are faltering across the nation. The package under consideration would increase the federal Medicaid match rate, support infrastructure projects, address state budget shortfalls, and extend unemployment compensation. For more information check the League website at [www.milhs.org](http://www.milhs.org).

**MDCH Mental Health Services to Children and Families** - Deb Marciniak, 517-381-8247,  
Ext.2, [dmarcini@mphi.org](mailto:dmarcini@mphi.org)

- *Child Care Expulsion Prevention* - In FY09, DHS is continuing to fund 16 CCEP projects (covering 31 counties), as well as the CCEP evaluation being conducted by MSU. Funds were not available to start up new projects this year.

- *CCEP to participate in* –
  - CCEP is one of six early childhood mental health consultation programs around the country selected to participate in a new project titled *Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation as an Evidence-Based Practice*.
  - This project, conducted by the National TA Center for Children’s Mental Health at Georgetown University, is intended to identify the salient features of effective consultation programs and to provide data-driven guidance for those developing or refining their consultation models.
  - The National TA Center staff will be visiting Michigan early next year to take an in-depth look at CCEP.
- *Technical Assistance Center on Social-Emotional Intervention (TACSEI) website* - <http://www.challengingbehavior.org/index.htm>
  - The **Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children**, also known as TACSEI, is a five-year grant made possible by the [U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs](#).
  - TACSEI takes the research that shows which practices improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children with, or at risk for, delays or disabilities and creates **FREE** products and resources to help decision makers, caregivers, and service providers apply these best practices in the work they do every day. Most of these free products are available right on the website to view, download and use.
  - The conceptual model TACSEI uses to deliver this information is the widely endorsed [Pyramid Model](#) framework that was created to promote social-emotional competence and address challenging behavior. For more information about the Pyramid Model as well as many other valuable resources, please visit TACSEI’s partner website, the [Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning \(CSEFEL\)](#).
- *Zero to Three: Your Baby’s Development*
  - This web site has useful info on child development, including “social-emotional development” and “temperament & behavior.” Click on “not yet registered” in upper right-hand corner to sign up for the *BabySteps Parenting Bulletin*.

The September 2008 issue of *BabySteps* includes a link to new handouts on child development with suggestions about how caregivers can support development at each age, how to play with children as young as 2 months, and ways to read cues of babies when they need a break. [http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter\\_par\\_agebasedhandouts&JServSessionIdr001=aov0f0pxz2.app8a](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_par_agebasedhandouts&JServSessionIdr001=aov0f0pxz2.app8a)

**Early Childhood Investment Corporation** – Karen Roback, 517-371-9000, [kroback@ecic4kids.org](mailto:kroback@ecic4kids.org)

- The ECIC is responsible for implementing the Child Care Development Funds for Improving Child Care Quality, including the contracts for Professional Development, Resource and Referral, Publications. Those contracts are currently in six month extensions through March 2009.
  - The ECIC is developing new Request for Proposals for these contracts based on best practices with the greatest impact on improving child care quality.
  - The ECIC has been conducting research on improving child care quality with families, child care providers, and also the organizations and agencies currently providing support to families and providers.
  - The research will inform the development of the request for proposals, it is expected to be posted in December.
- TEACH – The TEACH contract is in the second year of a multiyear contract to assist licensed and registered child care providers with scholarships for continuing educational opportunities.

- Professional Development System and Quality Rating System – Both initiatives are continuing to be developed under the Child Care and Early Education External Board Advisory Committee.

**Michigan Department of Education Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services** – Judy Levine, [LevineJD@michigan.gov](mailto:LevineJD@michigan.gov)

- *Formula Great Start Readiness Program (school districts and public school academies)*
  - The Michigan Department of Education biennially reviews alternative methods to determine the number of children construed to be in need of special readiness assistance and report its findings and recommendations to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees responsible for district funding, the senate and house committees responsible for education legislation and the state budget director.
  - A committee of practitioners met on September 10, 2008 to discuss the method by which the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) funds are distributed to school districts/public school academies.
  - The online MEGS Final Application has been delayed due to awaiting programming changes. It is projected the application will be available by the end of November or beginning of December.
- *Competitive Great Start Readiness Program* – A total of 59 programs were funded and are operating. Some programs received Expansion grants in addition to Continuation grants. Competition took place during summer 2008; program funding increased, leaving a surplus of \$1,900,200. The goal was to serve more eligible children at-risk of school failure with high-quality preschool programs with this additional funding.
  - These funds were first offered to Head Start grantees or delegates of Head Start programs, to allow for blending of the GSRP slot with a Head Start slot, to create Full-Day programs for Head Start/GSRP-eligible children.
  - To receive funding it was required to increase the number of children served in a Full-Day GSRP classroom and/or increase the number of children served in a Part-Day GSRP classroom.
  - A total of 11 Head Start and GSRP grantees received additional funding.
  - In addition, a federal award for Early Reading First was awarded to Grand Rapids Community College, a GSRP Continuation grantee. This required a number of GSRPs within Grand Rapids to increase their programs from Part-Day to Full-Day. The decision was made to offer additional funding to Grand Rapids Community College, to utilize in their program and to subcontract to Early Reading First partners, to serve children Full-Day, and directly to one of their partners.
  - Competitive GSRPs whose funding ends this year and will be re-competing will receive On-Site Monitoring Visits conducted by MDE consultants using the Program Quality Assessment tool.
- *Formula and Competitive Great Start Readiness Programs* –
  - This year, the State School Aid Act included language for both Formula and Competitive programs, requiring developmental screening be conducted on children as they enter these programs. Many questions were received regarding the definition of developmental screening, the available developmental screening tools, and how it differs from child assessment.
  - As a result, the Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services recognized the need for technical assistance training. A full-day workshop will be offered on this topic during the preconference session of the Collaborative Conference in January 2009. A second workshop will be offered during the MIAEYC conference. Information will also be included in the *Great Start Readiness Program Implementation Manual*. Programs will not be monitored for implementation of developmental screening this program year.

- Formula and Competitive programs providing Home-Based models may be asked to assist MDE in developing an assessment tool/process of these programs (currently, there is no program evaluation tool available for this purpose).
- The Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services is developing an on-line listserv for early childhood specialists for communication and networking and this is projected to be available in early 2009.
- *619 Program (Early Childhood Special Education)*
  - ISDs are currently inviting Ms. Noel Cole, an MDE early childhood special education consultant, to conduct On-Site Visits to the early childhood special education programs.
  - Ms. Cole will offer technical assistance on transition of children from Early On<sup>®</sup> to early childhood special education. In addition, other technical assistance will be offered on the definition of Least Restrictive Environment.
- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Early Learning Centers* - Consultants are conducting On-Site Monitoring Visits to complete their work on Cohort C programs. Two RFPs are in process for programs applying for Cohort F and other coaching/mentoring programs.
- *Even Start* - A competition will be held in anticipation of level funding. Three programs are in their third year of funding and will re-compete. New programs can also compete; however, it is not clear the amount of funding that will be available.
- *Reach Out and Read* - This program is now affiliated with the American Academy of Pediatrics-Michigan. A Readathon will be held in January or February 2009 as well as a Spelling Bee in March 2009.
- *Michigan Reads* - The distribution process is currently being reviewed to ensure reading kits are successfully distributed to Head Start, GSRP, Kindergarten, and first and second grade classrooms. Communication will be made to main contact persons identified in the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS). It is important the individual is aware of the program to ensure kits are distributed to the classrooms to which they are intended.
- *Great Parents/Great Start* - Applications were due on October 15, 2008, including budgets in MEGS, and are in the process of being reviewed.
- *Early On<sup>®</sup>* - Determinations were made of ISD programs in accordance with federal law. Programs were evaluated with outcomes in one of four categories which included (no ISDs fell into the last category):
  - a. Meets Requirements
  - b. Needs Assistance
  - c. Needs Intervention
  - d. Needs Substantial Intervention

**Department of Human Services Policy – No Report**

**Head Start– No Report**