

Next meeting May 21, 2013
Early Childhood Literacy Coalition
Minutes
East Lansing Public Library
April 16, 2013

Present: Mark Buzzitta, Thais Rousseau, CADL; Deb Hill, Karen Woodman, CACS Head Start; Karen Black, Clinton Great Start Collaborative; Becky Le Boeuf, Delta Township District Library; Mindy Schafer, DeWitt Public Library; Ronda Rucker, Eaton Great Start Collaborative; Mary Jo Gallagher, East Lansing Public Library; Emily Baker, Ingham Great Start Collaborative; Beany Tomber, WKAR

Minutes of the Feb. 2013 meeting were available for review. Ronda Rucker announced that author Nancy Shaw would be visiting Eaton County literacy sites this spring.

Evaluation of 2013 Literacy Events

March 17 Event

Members all agreed that the event at Hannah Community Center went very well. Attendance was up from the previous year. (Who knows why?) The set up was good with plenty of room for activities in both gyms. The gross motor area was popular. **Ronda Rucker expressed concern about parents making the connection between the gross motor activities and literacy. We need to be more intentional about this.** The hours from 1-3:30 were good. Bringing all the characters out at the end before the last performance worked well.

Several concerns were the lack of adequate parking, probably because it was St. Patrick's Day and students were parking at the Center and walking into town. **There was also concern that we need a place for characters to change before 1p.m. so they can be out and available as soon as people arrive.**

There was a problem with the expected volunteers from Maple Valley Honor Society. They have lost interest and didn't want to participate. We had to scramble at the end to use children of members who were there to wear and guide characters. **We need to rethink how we recruit volunteers next year. Mindy Schafer and Mary Jo Gallagher said they had library volunteers who would love to help at this event.**

Everyone liked Tricia's performance. Attendance at the first show was very good, but at the second show was very light. **We should think about just one performance next year.** The storytellers were also well liked.

Promotion through member agencies is probably the most successful but the television promotion done by Mark Buzzitta and WKAR was useful for reinforcement. Also the print promotion in Eaton County in the special edition of the community newspaper and in East Lansing and Meridian Township in the Towne Courier. Word of mouth also seemed to be an effective tool.

We received 61 evaluation forms back. (Handed out 200 bags to families.) The summary of all the comments made was sent electronically to members. The comments should be reviewed before planning for next year's events begins.

Attendance at 2013 Literacy Events

<u>Individual sites</u>	#events	#Attended
CADL	10	418
CACS Head Start	13	1700
Clinton Great Start	4	101
Delta Township District Library	3	330
DeWitt Public Library	3	350
East Lansing Public Library	1	80
Eaton Great Start	14	744
Ingham Great Start	<u>6</u>	<u>135</u>
Total	54	3858

Hannah Community Center Event

From 61 evaluation sheets	111 children, 100 adults
Bags and books distributed to families	200

Financial Report

Characters	\$720
Performer	\$200
Hannah Center Rental	\$228
<u>Books</u>	<u>\$200</u>
Total	\$1348

Selection of New Chairperson

Beany Tomber reviewed the history of the Early Childhood Literacy Coalition beginning in May 2000. It was originally organized by Kathy Johnson, CADL, Jan Bernet, IISD and Beany Tomber, WKAR. Members are drawn from local libraries, childcare agencies, parent educators, and public broadcasting. They have worked together to develop a strong and effective collaborative body to advocate for early childhood literacy in the four-county area. Membership is open to any organization or individual who wishes to join.

Beany has chaired the group since its beginnings and she feels that it is time to step down as chairperson. She will continue to represent WKAR on the Coalition. Duties of the chairperson include keeping the membership list of the group current, sending notices of

meetings and minutes, conducting meetings, and providing guidance and leadership to the group.

Members discussed ideas of how they might handle the duties of the chair. Mindy Schafer offered to be responsible for taking the minutes. The possibility of a shared chairperson was mentioned. Members felt they needed more time to think about this and confer with their respective organizations on how much involvement they could commit to. It was agreed that they will think and talk about this and make a decision at the May meeting.

The next meeting will be May 21, regular time and place. The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.