

Washtenaw Success by 6[®]

October 2009 Update

2010-2013 Strategic Plan for Washtenaw Success by 6 and the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative

As part of our ongoing work to ensure that the Washtenaw County community is one of the best places in Michigan to raise young children, the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative ran a county-wide public input and conversation process over the summer months, and then worked with the Collaborative Leadership Commission, the Washtenaw Birth to Six Interagency Collaborative Committee, and the Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition to finalize a three year strategic plan. This plan is designed to support the wide range of agencies, programs and organizations that work throughout the county to ensure that families and young children receive the support they need: including parenting support and information, child care provider support and training, early developmental delay intervention, and access to a wide variety of parenting, literacy and education programs.

This strategic plan will be implemented over the coming three years by the staff, with the essential support of a strong core of volunteers who make the work possible. Volunteers make up our Leadership Commission, the five Recommendation Task Groups taking on work in particular areas, the Parent Coalition. Also, individually volunteers take on a great many tasks - from creating the over 300 parent packets needed on a monthly basis, to creating publications and brochures, to staffing information and outreach booths at community events. Thank you to everyone who is part of making Washtenaw Success by 6 and the Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition successful!

November Leadership Commission Meeting

Monday, November 9th, 2009
8:00—9:30 am
Washtenaw United Way—2305 Platt in Ann Arbor



Strategic Plan Priorities 2010-2013

Goal One: Raise the awareness of parents, caregivers and all citizens about the importance of positive early childhood development to later success in school and life.

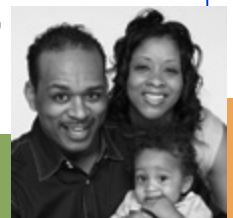
- Expand and develop outreach to businesses and chambers of commerce throughout the county
- Great Start Collaborative will partner with the Washtenaw Birth to Six ICC and the Washtenaw Area Council for Children to hold the yearly Legislative Breakfast
- Develop strong community fair and event presence with materials, outreach and resources for families
- Develop outreach to and the involvement of all county Kiwanis, Rotary and other service organizations
- Build a volunteer base of individuals who are trained to educate others on the importance of the first six years of life to support the outreach at community events and festivals
- Maintain the regularly updated, highly linked web-site for Washtenaw County parents, caregivers and all citizens designed to support them in their parenting, and stress the importance of the first six years to future quality of life
- Expand web-site to include materials designed to support community members in understanding local, state and national political issues that relate to young children and to take action as they feel is appropriate
- Expand web-site to include materials designed to reach out to the business and professional community – helping them understand the importance of the first six years

Goal Two: Ensure that all Washtenaw County young children receive preventive and ongoing health care including having adequate health insurance, physical medical care, dental care, mental health care, and developmental delay screening, assessment and services.

- Maintain the Children's Health Care Advocate position – with responsibility for promoting and expanding children's health insurance participation in Washtenaw County
- Expand existing outreach to medical centers, physicians and clinics around developmental delay, referral, assessment and response
- Provide Fluoride Varnish Rinse to all GSRP and Head Start enrolled children in Washtenaw County
- Increase Washtenaw County community wide awareness about oral health needs of young children and access to services
- Ensure the continuation of the Infant Mortality Reduction Coalition to achieve Washtenaw County HIP goals, despite loss of state and county funding and dedicated staff member
- Increase number of Washtenaw County children receiving Ages and Stages developmental assessments
- Increase Washtenaw County community awareness about social-emotional health needs of young children
- Conduct county collaborations designed to enhance family support for children with social and emotional needs

Goal Three: Improve the quality of child care and early education in Washtenaw County through additional training, collaboration between programs and agencies, and best-practice skill building.

- Develop and implement training programs and resources around challenging behavior, cultural competency and developmental delay support for child care providers
- Expand Hanen Center Speech and Language trainings to support parents and child care and education professionals in their work to develop children's language and literacy
- Implement a single web-based system for enrollment in Head Start and Great Start Readiness Programs across the county



Strategic Plan Priorities 2010-2013

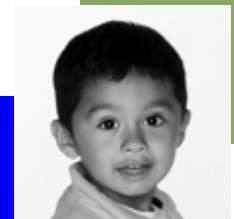
- Increase child care providers knowledge about social/emotional health in general and specifically about milestones and services available
- Promote and support Great Start Child Care and Early Learning Regional Resource Center (GSCCELRRRC)
- Continue to ensure increased communication and collaboration between the county Head Start and GSRP Programs

Goal Four: Ensure that parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skills and resources at hand for safe and supportive parenting of all Washtenaw County children.

- Maintain the existing parenting network to provide parenting information and support packets to parents at regular intervals in their children's first five years
- Continue regular monthly newsletters to provide a single central point for parenting information, updates on family friendly, free county events, and promote safe family behavior
- Expand the community engagement of the First Steps Washtenaw Program in all school districts
- Maintain the existing preschool education and outreach program in conjunction with the Ann Arbor District Library and Child Care Network
- Plan and hold a county-wide Preschool Expo – designed to educate parents on the value of preschool and all available options, including Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program and private pay preschools
- Complete program review of First Steps programs in all districts
- Explore offering expanded parent education programs throughout the community
- Develop specific approaches to the following communities, with both plans and funding options fully developed
- Continue to expand and develop programs and supports that ensure that parents are receiving developmentally appropriate support, have access to information about child development, and are able to participate in ensuring that their children are kindergarten ready.
- Increase public awareness about family support and parenting education opportunities

Goal Five: Connect parents, caregivers, and the Washtenaw County community with services for advancing safe and supportive parenting and ensuring quality child care/early education.

- Maintain the series of brochures from Washtenaw Success by 6 that are distributed throughout the community consistently promoting the core early childhood resources – First Steps, Libraries, Head Start, Child Care Network, Early On, and others
- Maintain a resource directory on the Great Start Collaborative website for parents that includes economic support services and other information about basic needs; health related agencies and resources; child care and early education programs and supports; and parenting programs and activities
- Expand 211 listings and resources for families with non-emergency parenting support needs
- Expand the community directory to make it searchable and produce a printed version for families without access to the internet
- Develop an advocacy work group of the Great Start Collaborative (parallel to the existing four work groups) dedicated to coordinating advocacy work on the behalf of young children.
- Enhance the advocacy support provided by the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative.



Programs and Activities

Washtenaw Success by 6 and the Washtenaw Great Start Collaborative are active throughout the community, ensuring that services and supports for families and children are in place. Our current work includes:

- Childcare trainings in challenging behavior, Hanen Speech and Language, and Developmental Delay, funded by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
- Continuing to build and expand the parent network which delivers age appropriate parenting information and a monthly newsletter
- Coordination of Early On Services county-wide
- Maintenance of the Children's Health Insurance Advocate through the department of Public Health
- Coordination of the County-wide Interagency Coordinating Council - Washtenaw Birth to Six
- Advocacy on behalf of our children and families at the local and state level
- Continuation of all of our programs and initiatives

Staff Members - Who to Call

The daily work of Washtenaw Success by 6[®] is carried out by the staff. Please feel free to contact them with any questions or ideas.

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Kelly Stupple:

Children's Health Insurance Advocate
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Donna Lasinski:

Parent Liaison for the Parent Coalition
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**Our website has resources for
parents and children**

www.washtenawsuccessby6.org

Leadership Commission Members

Direction and oversight of Washtenaw Success by 6[®] is provided by our strong Leadership Commission - who are all committed to ensuring the success of the youngest children in Washtenaw County - they are:

Leadership:

Martha Darling - Community Volunteer
Mark Ouimet - County Commissioner
David Rutledge - WCC Board Member

Members:

Anya Abramzon	Jewish Family Services
Chris Aris	EMU Children's Institute
Elaine Brady	Parent Member
Pam Byrnes	Michigan House of Rep.
Shannon Campbell	Junior League of A.A.
Robert Chapman	United Bank and Trust
Jerry Clayton	County Sheriff
Mindy Costello	Parent Member
April Davis	Parent Member
Julie DuChateau	Parent Member
Joseph Dulin	Roberto Clemente
L. Edwards-Brown	Juvenile Court
Cheryl Elliott	Ann Arbor Area Comm. F.
Richard Fleece	Washtenaw Public Health
Mark Foster	Rotary Club of Ann Arbor
Bryan Girbach	Milan Area Schools
Robert Guenzel	Washtenaw County Gov.
John Hansen	Ann Arbor Chamber
Norman Herbert	Community Volunteer
Sandra Hilton	Perry Nursery School
P. Horne-McGee	Washtenaw Head St.
Marj Hyde	First Steps Ann Arbor
Donna Lasinski	Parent Coalition Chair
Shannon Luhrs	Parent Member
Mike Manchester	Ypsilanti Chamber
Cynthia Maritato	Washtenaw DHS
Jennie McAlpine	UM Work/Life Program
Susan Miller	Community Volunteer
William Miller	Washtenaw ISD
Josie Parker	Ann Arbor District Library
Katie Prall	Parent Member
Todd Roberts	Ann Arbor Public Schools
Stan Reedy	Community Member
Sandra Rupp	United Way of Washtenaw
Donna Sabourin	Community Support/Treat.
Steven Sheldon	Community Health
Clay Shouse	High/Scope Foundation
Pam Smith	Child Care Network
Nancy Thelen	MSU Extension
Larry Voight	Catholic Social Services
Patricia Warner	UM Mott Hospital
Althea Wilson	Parent Member