

Great Start Priority: Healthcare Professionals



Infants and young children who are healthy are more likely to be ready for school and more likely to be successful throughout life.

Great Start Livingston advocates for comprehensive physical health & child development services, including screening, assessment and intervention, as well as timely and appropriate referral for specialized developmental, behavioral and social/emotional assessments and interventions.

"The health of our children is paramount to their educational success as well as the overall health of our community."

- Dr. Donald Lawrenchuk, Medical Director of Livingston County Department of Public Health



Great Start is focused on promoting healthy development of young children in Livingston County by:

- ➔ Working with community partners to increase awareness of issues impacting the health of our youngest children.
- ➔ Educating parents on the importance of regular check-ups and having a medical & dental home.
- ➔ Advocating at the local & state level to ensure young children have access to affordable, quality health care.

The purpose of Great Start is to assure a coordinated system of community resources and supports to help all Livingston County families provide a Great Start for their children from birth to age five.



About Livingston County:

- * Livingston County is home to 10,106 children ages 0-5.
- * Approximately 6% of Livingston County children ages 0-4 are uninsured.
- * 31% of children in Livingston ages 0-5 are covered under Medicaid as of March, 2012. This represents over 3,100 children!
- * 72% of 19-35 month old children are up to date for recommended vaccines. The Healthy People 2020 goal is 80%.
- * 25.5% children received WIC in 2010 vs. 17.7% in 2006.

Sources: Kids Count 2009, Kids Count 2010, Livingston County Department of Public Health, DHS Green Book 2010, Healthy People 2020, DHS Green Book March 2012, 2012 Revised WIC Counts (4/24/12) Section 1.B.5 page 22

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Since its inception in 2009, the Great Start Collaborative (GSC) has worked to strengthen the early childhood system in Livingston County. Our goal is to ensure that every child is safe, healthy, eager and ready to succeed in school and become productive, contributing citizens of Livingston County.

- The Healthcare Professionals Committee is working to ensure that young children and their families are healthy and to increase the awareness of the critical impact a child's health has on their future success. Members of our committee include parents, GSC members, health care professionals, LESA Early On professionals, direct service providers and other interested community members.



Focus of the Work

- Build partnerships between pediatricians/pediatric offices and the early childhood community.
- Improve appropriate referrals to Early On and other services for special needs.
- Improve provision of comprehensive services for MICHild/Medicaid recipients, including dental care.
- Emphasize assessment of the whole child, including social & emotional health.
- Provide parents with developmental information and resources to support their relationships with their child's physician and their ability to advocate for their child's best interests.
- Determine what percent of children are uninsured and how to reach them.
- Support one-stop physical and developmental screening availability.
- Increase awareness of, and access to, existing services for special needs children, specifically Early On.
- Promote healthy lifestyles including nutrition and exercise through targeted efforts based on data supported initiatives.

Accomplishments:

- Health Enrollment Training - Provided by Michigan Primary Care Associates (March 2012, May & September 2011 & October, 2010) training 40 providers to enroll children in MICHild and/or Healthy Kids. Another Health Enrollment training scheduled for September 2012.
- Advocacy Document - Created a resource for parents: "Steps to Building a Relationship with Your Child's Doctor".
- Connecting with the uninsured - Participated in Community Connect on 1/28/12. Enrolled 4 families and spoke with connected with many others.

Committee Co-Chairs :

Elaine Brown: Livingston County Department Public Health
Gina Coopersmith: LESA/Early On



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