

***Power of We Consortium***  
**Meeting Agenda - June 17, 2011**

- I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements** (10 minutes)
- II. Mid-Michigan Capitol Caucus:** (45 minutes)  
The bipartisan, bicameral Mid-Michigan Capitol Caucus was created to bring together elected officials from both parties to discuss issues pertinent to our Mid-Michigan community and to seek viable solutions. The eleven member group meets approximately every 4-6 weeks with a focus on 7 priorities areas. We will welcome two members of the Caucus, Chairperson Joan Bauer (D), State Representative, District 68, and Co-Chair Paul Opsommer (R) State Representative, District 93, who will provide an overview of the efforts currently underway to influence positive outcomes for the Capital Area. Time will be allocated for dialogue with Consortium members.
- III. Collective Impact** (15 minutes)
- A. Asset Independence Coalition,** one of the 12 coalitions of the *Power of We Consortium*, coordinates resources of public and private institutions to promote the financial independence of low to moderate income residents of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. Coordinator Amber Paxton will provide recent figures of the very successful 2011 tax filing season for area residents. Amber will also engage the Consortium membership in discussion about the benefits of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and how the Consortium can support efforts underway to increase the number of income tax returns for eligible residents and expand financial education opportunities.
- B. AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps State Programs** (20 minutes)  
The PWC has sponsored a VISTA Program for 5 years, and an AmeriCorps State Program for 2 years. Current members from both programs will provide a lively demonstration of the valuable service being provided throughout Ingham County and the impact this service is having on our community.
- IV. Action**
- A. Early On Application Approval & Great Start Collaborative Update** (15 minutes)  
Early On is designed to assist families in accessing and coordinating social, health and education services that will promote the development of their young child under age three with a disability or developmental delay. On an annual basis the Early On Program re-applies for a non-competitive grant from the State Department of Education, the lead agency for the State's Early On program. The Birth to Five Great Start Collaborative supports the 2011-12 application and requests Consortium approval. Michelle Nicholson will provide pertinent information regarding Early On, the broader initiatives of the Great Start Collaborative, and the impact of the recently secured \$942,000 Kellogg Foundation grant for Birth To Work.
- B. Proposed Summer Recess** (2 minutes)  
Historically the PWC has taken votes of the membership to cancel meetings in July, August and December each year. We will consider a recommendation by our co-chairs to cancel our July, August and December meetings on a *permanent* basis. Alternative means to conduct business will be utilized, e.g. e-mail.

***Next meeting of the Power of We Consortium: Friday, September 16, 2011***