

## **County Strategic Planning April 30, 2008**

**Present:** Jan Seitz, Michael Gradis, Earl Poleski, Linda Brian, Dan Phelan, John Graves

This is the first meeting that has been held since the Education Team presented to the Commission on March 18, 2008. Jan stated that the Board of Commissioners voted to accept and support the recommendation to form partnerships in Jackson County to promote education 0-22 and beyond.

### ***Identification of partnerships that already exist:***

- 0 – 5: Great Start, area preschools, area day care facilities, Better Kid Care program
- 05 – 11: K-12 relationships (public, charter, parochial)
- 11 – 14: K-12 relationships (public, charter, parochial)
- 14 – 18: K-12 relationships (public, charter, parochial)
- 18 – 23: Higher Education connections (in and out of Jackson County)
  - The Jackson Legacy Program acts as a bridge between the 14 – 18 and 18 – 23 age groups.

The comment was made that there is not a clear connection between early education and K-12 education. There is an “operational disconnect” (i.e. there is no funding for ages 0-5 in the public school system; 0 – 5 teachers and K – 12 teachers are not on the “same page”).

The Jackson Legacy Program provides a “community connection”, but a “curricular connection” is still needed. JCC has connections with other 4-year institutions. However, they are interested in building a curricular bridge between themselves and area high schools.

Education ties into every part of the County’s Strategic Plan. Jackson has an extremely low number of citizens who have a B.A. or better. All areas (economic development, poverty levels, etc) would be affected by a rise in the number of citizens with four year degrees.

### ***Connecting education to business:***

An example of this is the chemical plant in Lenawee County. They have adapted their local education to build a workforce that is prepared to fill positions with the plant. We should be preparing our students to work in the local economy. With manufacturing jobs on the decline it is important to have a college education to fall back on. “A good education allows you to adapt in a changing world”.

The Jackson community needs to identify some educational goals. If there are no specific goals, or a common standard, there is no way to improve. We must have a consistent measure of success to compare ourselves to in order to make progress.

### ***Next steps:***

- Develop a set of common targets.
- Gain support from others (Great Start, Jackson County ISD, Board of Commissioners, etc.)
- John Graves will meet with the other groups and bring back data in order to help develop targets.
  - A draft will be created in time for the next meeting.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 3:30p at the MSU Extension.**