

# Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2018, 9:00 am to 11:00 am  
HCISD Parke D. Hayes Building, 310 W. Bacon Rd. Hillsdale



## Attendees:

Stefanie Rathburn - Great Start	Rebecca Belcher - DHHS
Jen Houston - Highfields	Darcy Affholter - GSRP Reading
Ruth Brown - County Commissioner	Jo Essenmacher - Reading GSRP
Stacy Ansel - HCISD	Rozanne Pauze - Parent
Andrea Bricker - Integro	Christine Gjestland-Highfields
Micha Moore - Hillsdale Community Schools	Kelly Castle - Parent
Mindy Wilson-HCISD	Sydney Alley - Domestic Harmony
Linda Wise - HCISD/GSRP	Jackie Barber - CAA
Tonya McCallister - Parent	Kristy Wood - Child Care Network
Gina Fosdick - Great Start	Laurie Brandes - Substance Abuse Prevention Council
Yvonne Parker - CAA	Shelley Hawver - CAA
Mackenzie Tipping - Hillsdale Hospital	Jonathan Tobar - HCISD
Larry Bricker - DHHS	Nadia El Anani - Jonesville Library

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Mari called meeting to order. Round Robin introductions.

## 2. Updates

- Trusted Advisor Update  
Received 2nd round. We have funding to continue playgroup opportunities through September as well as contract for part time facilitator to help with outreach. New funding will also allow GSC to expand and start weekend nutrition programs in school districts who previously expressed interest. Micha Moore is helping to get this up and running with Stefanie. 1st round of funding ends March 30th.
- GSC/GSPC Survey  
Thanks for those who filled it out. Hillsdale County had 57 who responded, which is 68% response rate.
- Parent Liaison Report  
7 new parents and 21 parents total at last set of Parent Meetings. No meeting next month as the Early Childhood Investment Corporation will be conducting a strengthening families assessment instead. Dates for the assessment are March 13-14 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The follow up/feedback meeting is scheduled for the same time on March 27th.

## 3. Are you a Systems Thinker?

- Stefanie shared a short video describing systems thinking. Handouts distributed indicating importance of defining problem, designing strategies (both of which are areas of work that occurred during strategic planning), acting (implementing the action agenda/work plan), and then learning. Reminder of the need to constantly be evaluating and refining based on outcomes from each effort. Additional handout highlights the habits of a systems thinker. Indicated we would be revisiting this in future efforts.

### HCGSC VISION

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

### HCGSC MISSION

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.

#### 4. Sub-committee work

- Mindy facilitated conversation with group about brainstorming agencies/services/businesses to reach out to for possible donations for the upcoming Community Baby Shower. She addressed questions group had about the event. Stefanie captured the list for the committee on flip chart pages.
- Groups split into committees for work time.
- Report outs following committee time:
  - **Literacy Committee**
    - Some locals have family literacy nights, but don't often offer to preschool population. Efforts in place with Reading. Darcy is working with Reading staff to get this up and going. March 22nd at Reynolds Elementary from 6 to 7:30pm. Pre-K through 6th grade. Camping Theme. Laura Loveberry will be presenting at event. Volunteers for food. Finalizing plans this Wednesday. Donate books to Linda, Stacy or Darcy for book swap.
    - Book Borrowing Bins getting started this month. Goal is to make books more available to children in the community. If you have ideas about places... send to Linda Wise.
  - **Pediatric Family Health & Community Resources**
    - Reviewed flyer for Community Baby Shower
    - Brainstormed best ways to advertise event
    - Any donation places, please let committee know. Doing quick work to get donation letters out.
    - Send thoughts ideas about who to invite or donations to Mindy, Mari or Andrea.
  - **Child Care**
    - Unlicensed child care has been focus.
    - Attend parent meeting to inform parents of importance of high quality child care. Goal to spread word on what it is and how to access it.
    - Been in contact with newspaper to promote programs increasing star rating and information about what star rating is and also recommendations for parents when searching for high-quality childcare.
    - Shifting focus to high need of quality infant toddler care.

#### 5. Updates

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LIACC)  
Mindy reported:
  - 145 total referrals since July 1, 2017
    - 59 DHHS/CPS
    - 42 Medical
    - 11 WIC
    - 12 Parent/Family
    - 21 Agencies

Mindy shared that next month she would share information regarding Early On compliance data.

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- School Readiness (GSRP & Joint Recruitment)  
Mindy reported on Preschool Connect. She shared the flyer, sharing that the event is intended to kick off Hillsdale County joint recruitment for preschool. Agencies who are interested in having a table at the event to share what their agency has to offer should let Mindy know. A formal invitation will be coming.
- Agency Updates
  - Early Head Start has a smaller waitlist than typical. Shelley invited now would be a good time to make referrals. For questions, they can reach out to Kelly Emery.
  - Head Start: following Preschool connect, the Great Start Collaborative website will host the online interest form for county-wide preschool
  - Family Counseling Center (Mari): Parent Talk session starting soon. See flyer
  - Music Man Jr. (Mari) 54 youth from our county participating. Opening This Friday. Tickets online at [theaterforyouth.com](http://theaterforyouth.com)

Next meeting is scheduled for March 26th 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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