



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes February 22, 2021 via Zoom

In attendance:

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| Shelley Ellis - Hillsdale GSRP | Kayla Horton - HCISD Literacy | Wendy Playford - GSC |
| Sharron Elliot - Michigan Works Southeast | Angie Turner - CAA | Laura Orlovski - Jonesville Library |
| Sara Clark - Parent | Lindsey Pung-Terry - MSU Extension | Christie Campbell - CAPA |
| Maria Ansett - BHSJCHA | Andrea Bricker - Integro | Kristy Wood - Child Care Network |
| Linda Wise - HCISD GSRP | Christine Gjestland - Highfields | Stefanie Rathburn - GSC |
| Mari Nunez - Nunez Counseling & Consulting | Kaitlyn Reese - HCISD Literacy | Jen Houston - Highfields |
| Shawn Vondra - Hillsdale Community Schools | | |

1. **Welcome/Introductions** - Mari opened the meeting up and reminded those in attendance to drop their name in the chat for sign-in purposes.

2. **GSC Office Updates**
 - **Director Report**
 - Stefanie provided an overview of the Home Visiting Needs Assessment recently completed for Hillsdale County. She walked through the profile provided following the assessment and discussed the data included in the profile. It was suggested that participating agencies can use the data for their own planning purposes and that the GSC subcommittees will be reviewing this data in comparison to Kids Count data as we begin to think about planning efforts for 2021-2022. Members were encouraged to reach out to Stefanie if they need more information about the content in the profile.
 - **Parent Liaison Report**
 - January PLAY Packet Pick-Ups - 19 families with 27 children received bags for January; first month partnering with Early Head Start with them receiving an additional 36 bags
 - February PLAY Packet Pick-Up is tomorrow from 4:30 - 5:30 pm at the lower level of Hayes. Promoted on our Facebook page if GSC members want to share directly from there to promote increased attendance.

HCGSC VISION

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

HCGSC MISSION

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- February Parents Night with Julia Cook was on Screen Time: Good vs. Bad. It will be posted on the public GSC Facebook page until March 1st or anyone can join the private Julia Cook Facebook page to watch beyond then. Special thanks to Kayla and her team; lots of coordination with technology and they have made it work wonderfully! There have been 84 views with 3 interactions up to this point.
- March 16th Parent Meeting talk with Julia will be about teaching social skills through books.
- April Parent Meeting talk with Julia will be about personal safety.
- Planning for the next round of Trusted Advisors funding has begun! Kelly, Mari, Wendy and Stefanie are exploring ideas for targeting the Talking is Teaching training for fathers and for families prenatally.

3. **Setting the Stage for 2021-2022 Work Plans** - Stefanie invited the group to begin having conversations with their staff, community groups, parent groups, etc. to begin some information gathering that will aid in our decisions about what direction to take our work for 21-22. It doesn't appear that Hillsdale County will be required to complete a full strategic plan but will need to update/revise our action agendas for each subcommittee. The questions that we'd like to gather additional information on are:

- What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Hillsdale County families with young children?
- Are there populations of the county that we should be targeting more? If so, which populations and why?

As participants gather their own thoughts and/or thoughts of colleagues or peers, they can document their learnings in the following google form. If anyone with input doesn't have access to Google, they are welcome to share with Stefanie and she will add to the full group's contribution.

[Setting the Stage for 2021-2022 Work Plans](#)

4. **Child Care Celebration & Shout Out Brainstorming** - Kristy provided the group with information about why we're trying to gather this information - looking at recognizing child care providers and maybe not even via an event, but other ways of honoring them. COVID has been a challenge for many of us but especially for child care providers throughout this last year. At one point, they could only operate their child cares for children of essential workers, which meant they were opening their homes to the most at-risk families. The child care shortage is not as well known as we'd like it to be and this last year has been impacted by closures. There are currently 30 home care providers in the county. There are 8 centers, with lots of variation in hours, school year, etc. Kristy did not include the GSRP programs in these numbers. We just want to be able to let them know we appreciate them and the importance they have in our county. Group broke out into breakout rooms with about 7-8 minutes for brainstorming. Asked to collect notes with a plan to share back with the full group. Due to time constraints, it was decided to have notetakers include ideas in the chat box and further discussion can take place at the March meeting. The following was provided in the chat box:

- thank you videos
- May 7th is Child Care Provider Day - gift box kick off to each center with cleaning, self-care and developmental toys, books and resources

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- partnering with Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health - they can help with this initiative
- celebration in the park
- handwritten thank you notes
- honor the way providers go above and beyond
- parent thank you quotes

5. Community Updates

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) - no report for February
- School Readiness
 - Linda shared that if anyone is interested in reviewing data that has been collected to discuss how best to support our children in their programs and homes, the next data dive will be on March 5th from 9 -11 a.m. If interested, please reach out to Linda.
 - The next School Readiness Advisory Committee meeting will be March 5th from 11:30 am - 1pm - this is rescheduled from the one originally planned on a snow day. Please let Linda or Mindy know if interested in the zoom link or can complete the google form linked here to indicate interest. [Data Dive Interest](#)
- Agency Updates
 - Preschool Connect for this year will be virtual. It will be held the week of April 12th and all will occur through Facebook - Hillsdale County Preschool Connect. Posts from private and public preschools, sharing videos, tips for preparing young children for preschool will be included throughout that week and online interest/registration will begin. Flyers to be available soon!

Next Meeting...March 15th

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