



**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023**

Attendance:

Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony	Kris Dewey, BHSJ CHA	Yvonne Parker, CAA	Christie Campbell, CAPA
Mindy Eggleston, HCCF	Sharron Elliott, Michigan Works	Andrea Bricker, Integro	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network
Angela Turner, CAA	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Abby Alley, HCISD	Alex Bergmooser, BHSJ CHA
Abbey LoPresto, DHHS	Wendy Playford, GSC	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC	Allisen Wirick, Hillsdale GSRP
Linda Wise, HCISD	Stephanie Hines, HCISD		

Minutes:

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. Stefanie led welcome & introductions
 - i. Introductions: Name, share something that you appreciate about Hillsdale County
 - ii. What we appreciate about Hillsdale County: people, fair, parks, small districts, collaborative spirit, giving/supportive, connectedness, feel at home, work well with everyone here, small community-small town feel, small businesses- can get everything locally, outdoor opportunities with kids, friendly & welcoming, partnerships, was devastated coming from Muskegon area, but felt at home for 30 years now... it's the people, schools, community, great place to raise your family, you know who you need to reach out to and have easy connections

2. GSC Office Updates

- a. Great Give: \$3,178 final total earned through donations and incentives
 - i. Shy of goal, however, more funds than we started with and had the opportunity to engage with new potential partners
 - ii. Had opportunity to discover and brainstorm new ideas if we are selected to participate next year
 - iii. Funds will go toward ability to continue providing books at each event
- b. Local Funding: Received Community Foundation Funding that will support local events and ability to break down barriers for families (transportation, meal planning, etc.). Will also allow for marketing of these events.
 - i. "Boosted" Pajama Party Facebook post, which did increase registration for the event- paid advertisement on Facebook
 - 1. Have plenty of staff for PJ party
- c. GSC Budget
 - i. Struggled financially last several years

- ii. No increase from the state in the last 15 years
- iii. We have increased the activities we provide, but funding has not grown with us. We have used supplemental grants to support our ongoing efforts
- iv. We are launching a sponsorship opportunity for local business
 - 1. 1st information going out to 40-50 businesses this month
- v. Considering starting a budget/fundraising/marketing committee for the GSC
 - 1. Want to take this outside of Executive Committee for additional input
- d. Safety Fair
 - i. Will host our 1st this year
 - ii. Planning meeting last week
 - iii. Stef is working on location and date
 - 1. Will share as soon as it's finalized
 - iv. Next planning: Jan. 30th at 9am at Dean JenningsJ
- e. Summer PLAY events
 - i. Planning starting soon
 - ii. Start meeting in February
 - iii. Please get with Stefanie if you would like to be part of summer planning
- f. Parent Coalition Updates (Wendy)
 - i. Parent meeting: 3 participants at Jilly Beans in Jonesville
 - 1. Great, fun meeting.
 - ii. Winter Fest - participated and were able to hand out Talking is Teaching indoor activity kits and a gnome craft, along with various other resources and upcoming event fliers
 - iii. PJ Party Thursday
 - iv. Jan 17th 11 or 4:30 next Parent Coalition meetings. Asking for RSVP for that. fliers on resource table
 - v. Feb 9th Craft Night event, flier available

3. Spotlight Presentation: Child Care Network (Kristy Wood), <https://www.childcarenetwork.org/>

- a. Child Care Network Mission: "to promote the success of children, families, and our community through quality child care education, advocacy and family support"
- b. Help families find and pay for childcare
 - i. Family Support Program
- c. Help providers provide quality care
 - i. PD, on site support, etc.
- d. Active since 1971. Every 5 years revise vision. Currently have our 2025 Vision of Greatness
- e. Office Locations: Genesee County, Monroe County, Lenawee County, Livingston, etc.
- f. Lending Library available
 - i. They can take items to providers as it is sometimes difficult for providers to get to lending library in person
- g. Families looking for childcare. Use www.greatstarttoquality.com
- h. Family Support Program
 - i. Help low to moderate income families and families experiencing homelessness or life crisis to have access to quality care
 - ii. On childcare website, complete online form first, then a specialist will reach out.
- i. Community Programs
 - i. Host Early Childhood Conferences
 - ii. Talent Pipeline Project- Help get CDA, etc.
 - iii. Innovation Grant Projects- Staff retention, new license, etc.
- j. MI Tri-Share: Employee pays 1/3, State pays 1/3, Families pay 1/3 of cost of child care
 - i. Helps with job retention
 - ii. Supports families
 - iii. Removes barriers

- k. Child Care Network is grant funded completely. Have around 32 employees currently.
- l. How to search for childcare
 - i. Great Start to Quality went through a “rebranding”
 - ii. www.greatstarttoquality.org
 - iii. Families tab at top of page
 - 1. Type in program name or search by location
 - a. Type in address close to where you are looking for childcare
 - b. All centers and family homes near the location. Shows ages that they serve
 - c. Shows how far away from their location
 - d. Families can click the “heart” and have them saved to their favorites to review later in one list. Can compare in the list and print if wanted.
 - e. Can see if there have been corrective action plans or “citings”. Can see all reports
 - f. Helps families base their decision on what is important for them
 - 2. Quick search or full search available
 - iv. Need help paying for childcare link

4. Strategic Planning: Engagement Activity

- a. Divided into smaller groups to discuss engagement and whether we have the right folks to inform our strategic plan
- b. Groups considered who is currently engaged, who’s missing, and what do we need to do (specifically) to engage those missing?
- c. Each group turned in their notes and these will be compiled by Executive Committee with a plan developed for next steps with this activity

5. Community Updates

- a. Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
 - i. 159 Early On referrals since July 1
 - ii. Lots of CAPTA but less from pediatricians and other referral sources
 - iii. Caseloads are pretty full
 - iv. Interviews for new staff member
 - 1. Hope to have on board in February
 - v. Spring Fling
 - 1. April 20th 4:30 to 6 pm
 - 2. Drive-through style
 - 3. Come decorate your cars, etc.
 - 4. Think “Trunk or Treat”
 - 5. Save the date, more information to come
- b. Agency Updates
 - i. Christie - CAPA
 - 1. Feb 4th. Stewards of Children training- Sexual Abuse. RSVP to Christie
 - 2. Children’s Charity Ball
 - a. Feb.18th
 - b. Tickets available:website, paypal
 - ii. Mindy Eggleston- Community Foundation:
 - 1. Seniors in High School - scholarship application open
 - 2. Youth: \$500 mini-grants for youth in the community April 1st deadline.
 - 3. Sharon Bisher: Program in February. 2 classes for Lunch and Learn. Feb 9th & 16th- Marketing vs. Fundraising, and fund development. Create donors that keep on giving. At Foundation during lunch time. Sign-up coming soon.
 - 4. General Grant; due May 1st. Online Application

- iii. Tonia Gier - Domestic Harmony
 - 1. Christmas Program- provided for 25 families (included 75 children) Went well with great response from the community. Thank you.
- iv. Mindy Wilson - Preschool
 - 1. Current openings across the county for preschool-aged children. Recruitment flier provide. Please have families reach out to start the process or have them contact Mindy Wilson to discuss opportunities.
 - 2. 23-24 Preschool Recruitment will kick-off with Virtual Preschool Connect the week of February 13th. Fliers attached. Any agencies who would like to provide content for Facebook posts targeted at preschoolers and preschool families, please submit to Mindy Wilson or Stefanie Rathburn by February 3rd.
 - 3. In Person event to be held March 14th. Planning still in the process. More details to come.
- v. Kris - BHSJ CHA
 - 1. Radon Awareness Month: free radon kit from health department if you haven't have your home tested
 - 2. Cervical Cancer Awareness Month: vaccination for 12 year olds & up for HPV
 - 3. Children's Special Health Care available for children with medical conditions or accidents with long-term needs, they may be able to help. Medical focus, not behavioral. Not income-eligibility based

Next Meeting...February 6th

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.