



**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2023**

**Attendance:**

Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Yvonne Parker, CAA	Christie Campbell, CAPA
Betty Elliott, Child Care Provider	Bryce Asberg, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center	Laura Orłowski, Jonesville District Library	Anna Weide, CAA/Early Head Start
Allison Wirick, Hillsdale GSRP	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Abby Alley, HCISD	Alex Bergmooser, BHSJ CHA
Abbey LoPresto, DHHS	Wendy Playford, GSC	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC	Andrea Bricker, Integro
Linda Wise, HCISD	Stephanie Hines, HCISD	Kaitlyn Reese, HCISD	Kimberly Kin, MSU Extension
Mari Nunez, Jonesville Schools			

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

**II. GSC Office Updates**

- A. Call out for Marketing/Fundraising Workgroup
  - 1. 1st meeting scheduled for March 13th at 11. Will be providing lunch
  - 2. Few people
  - 3. Open invitation, let Stefanie know if you want to join
- B. Outreach Sponsorship
  - 1. limited success so far
    - a) 102 Be our Guest cards from McDonalds
    - b) Hospital: \$200 to go toward Resource Guide Marketing
  - 2. Sent menu of GSC opportunities and expenses associated with them
- C. Potential Grant Increase from Department of Education
- D. Safety Fair
  - 1. June 20th from 11 to 3pm at Fairgrounds
  - 2. Large list of topics/potential tables representatives
  - 3. Event has the potential to be huge in agency participation
  - 4. Need to try to get family participation
  - 5. Next Planning: March 20th, 9am at Hayes in conference room
- E. Summer PLAY Planning
  - 1. Next planning meeting April 20th at 1pm at Hayes
  - 2. Looking for activity prep help from agencies so we can have support in planning and prepping event activities

#### F. Project Connect

1. GSC will be participating. Will be providing Talking is Teaching learning kits.
2. Hope to disseminate all of them

#### G. Doula Follow-Up

1. Doula training (4 day training this past weekend)
2. 4 people from Hillsdale County who participated in the training
3. No Certification needed, but can register and then market yourself as a Doula.
4. Free training, State sponsored it.

#### H. Social Media Training

1. Next Tuesday, here in the basement meeting space of Hayes
2. Very limited sign-up currently... hoping to get a few more.
3. Please grab a flier and try to share it out
4. 3 Separate opportunities; Can pick and choose ones most relevant to your work

#### I. Parent Liaison report:

1. Craft Night was a success
  - a) Every child free Happy Meal
  - b) Kandee from ISD shared fine motor skills and provided a brochure with tips for families to promote at home
  - c) Best attendance for a monthly family opportunity
2. Parent Meeting
  - a) one new parent in February
3. Recruitment for Parent Coalition
  - a) Good discussions at Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad
  - b) No turn out for GrownUps & Goodies
4. Upcoming Events
  - a) Game Night 3/7 4 - 5:30 p.m.
  - b) Parent Coalition 3/21 11 a.m. - Noon or 5 - 6 pm at lower level of Hayes
  - c) Reading Celebration 3/30 4:30 to 6 at lower level of Hayes

### III. Strategic Planning

#### A. Engagement Activity Follow-Up

1. Handout:
  - a) Information from previous months work on looking at who we have engaged, who is missing
  - b) Started new initiatives because of this
    - (1) New Room Format
    - (2) Name Tents
    - (3) Picture Directory (future)
  - c) This is informational mostly, but we are trying to improve meaningful connections
  - d) Look at the "who is missing" column
    - (1) Do you have connections or names of people that would fill this void?
    - (2) Please let Wendy or Stefanie know
    - (3) This will help us build connections instead of "cold calling"

#### B. Hillsdale County Data: What does the data tell us?

1. Today, we will look at what the data tells us and also be looking to collect additional qualitative data from parents with real conversations.
2. Couple different things in packet:

- a) Instruction sheet & note taking spot
  - b) 3 different data profiles
    - (1) all from Michigan League for Public Policy
    - (2) There is some county specific, some overlap amongst data collected
  - c) Instructions for activity:
    - (1) Will break into groups
      - (a) Sticky note on your packet
      - (b) Group based on colors of sticky note
    - (2) As a small group, spend 20 minutes reviewing
    - (3) Conversation - consider the following probe questions:
      - (a) In reviewing the data, what surprises you the most?
      - (b) Which of these data points is having the biggest impact on children and families in Hillsdale County?
      - (c) What data is missing? OR What additional data would be helpful?
    - (4) Take notes on each
    - (5) Turn sheet back in as a group.
    - (6) Eventually, we will take results of data and develop themes to complete root cause analysis to determine what might be the cause of these issues. Will “drill down” to get to the bottom..
    - (7) Goal is not to get to the bottom of why, or strategize on problem solving, but rather to dive into data and find the “ah ha’s” .
3. Bring us Back Together
- a) Take a minute to reflect
  - b) I used to think, but now I know:
    - (1) all answers in the data, but now we have more questions than data
    - (2) Need more and more detailed
    - (3) Used to think I/we were doing a good job, but now I know we need to continue
    - (4) Stable home environments worse than thought
    - (5) Worse than the state when considering suburbs of Detroit
    - (6) Hillsdale was bottom for a lot of things, but some data points show we are increasing/improving
    - (7) data was going to help, now I know it makes more questions
    - (8) numbers were correlated in certain areas, now know it doesn't always mirror each other
    - (9) Used to think Data “ug” now I actually enjoy looking at it because it gives us data to focus on
    - (10) concrete and get an answer, but now I know you need more baseline to actually even start to develop a hypothesis
    - (11) Concerned about special education students
    - (12) used to think concrete and would answer questions, but now know it created a lot more
    - (13) Looking at data would be cumbersome, but seeing it from different viewpoints is very helpful
    - (14) Hillsdale County has problem with housing, now I know it's true
    - (15) Data would tell us a story, now I feel it does, but there is so much more to learn

- (16) Do data and forget it, we use it all the time.
- (17) Data was boring, but now I know a lot more and enjoy it
- (18) Boring, but helpful and only a partial of what is really happening.  
COVID
- (19) Validated... our jobs are important

#### **IV. Community Updates**

##### **A. Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**

- 1. Audit from State last Spring- 0 findings 100% compliant
- 2. New Strand Report:
  - a) No corrective action plans
  - b) Met all targets
  - c) Target was 82% and we are at 76%
- 3. Family Survey is what provided the data from this report
- 4. 215 referrals now from July 1, 2022 (up from 190 this time last year)
- 5. New Staff Member: Wintra Cain
  - a) Kelci will be going on maternity leave, will return in the fall

##### **B. Agency Updates**

- 1. Child Care Network: Have been approached to provide child care at Beacon Hill Apartment complex. Potential of opening at the complex itself. Need to find a provider that could operate a center or train staff. Send people their way. Birth Toddler and Beyond. Quick turn around for a proposal due in 2 weeks.
- 2. Joint Recruitment
  - a) Preschool Connect was held the week of February 14th online.
    - (1) many families applied
    - (2) 23-24 Enrollment is open
  - b) Preschool Round-up (Fliers at table)
    - (1) In-person
    - (2) March 14, 4:30 to 6pm at the Hillsdale United Brethren (HUB) Activity Center
    - (3) Families can bring enrollment paperwork and complete process on-site
    - (4) Activities for kids
    - (5) Meet preschool providers
- 3. GSRP Data Dive: March 24th 9:30 to 11:30am

**Next Meeting...April 10th**

**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.