



**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes March 4, 2024**

Sarah Greeley, Community Choice Credit Union	Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools	Janel Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services
Jeremy Bryan, Community Choice Credit Union	Bryce Asberg, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network
Stephanie Hines, HCISD	Christie Campbell, CAPA	Isabella Stycos, BHSJ CHA
Abbey LoPresto, DHHS	Wendy Playford, GSC	Abby Alley, HCISD/Early On
Rebekah Dobski, Hillsdale Community Library	Anna Weide, CAA/Early Head Start	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC
Linda Wise, GSRP	Heather Upton, CASA	

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

- Divided into teams for opening activity of “A Game of 3’s” (included as answers for anyone who may wish to reuse)

**2. GSC Office Updates - Stefanie and Wendy reported the following:**

- Funding
  - Applied for V.C. and Velma Knight Memorial Grant through HCCF
    - Talking is Teaching - widespread marketing campaign
    - If not approved or only partially funded, will consider YOUTH grant through HCCF to fully fund effort
- Planning underway for:
  - Community Baby Shower - next meeting 3/5 from 1-3pm Hayes Lower Level
  - Safety Fair - next meeting 3/20 1 - 2:30 p.m. at Hayes Lower Level
- Events since last meeting
  - Talking is Teaching Parent Training 2/10
    - 12 families - total of 16 adults
  - Craft Night
    - Text reminders were sent
    - 35 families - 59 children and 46 adults

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- Hillsdale Craft Supply on-site with a card-making craft
  - Family Coalition
    - Little Free Library
      - Installations:
        - LFL delivered to Litchfield City Offices
        - LFL picked up by CASA
        - Michigan Works and Waldron resident to be installed by HCISD maintenance
        - LFL in both Jonesville city parks met with city manager
- Upcoming Events - Wendy
  - Family Coalition Meeting
    - March 19 from 4 - 5 pm in the lower level of the Hayes building
    - Registration is requested
  - March is Reading Month Night
    - March 7 from 4:30 - 6 pm in the lower level of the Hayes building
    - Special guests, bag o' books, grab & go dinner for kids
    - Registration is requested
  - Talking is Teaching parent training
    - Saturday, April 13 from 9 - 11:30 am at the Hayes building
    - Registration is requested
  - Community Baby Shower
    - May 18 from 9 - Noon at Hillsdale High School
  - Safety fair
    - June 18

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

- **Child Care (Kristy)**
  - Subcommittee is working on ideas for child care provider appreciation in May
  - The Regional Planning Coalition has 4 more months of planning and strategizing.
  - Working to find new way for dissemination of Child Care Chirp...News Your Business Can Use newsletter
- **Community Resources (Stefanie)**
  - Conversion to canva is complete; view won't look different however platform for managing edits and timeliness for making and seeing edits is greatly improved
  - Continuing to work through edits that have been identified over last year; about ½ way through what's been received to date.

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- Continued exploration for giving attention to nutrition and physical activity
- Have begun to have a presence at King's Kupboard food pantry to promote community resources monthly
- **Literacy (Stephanie)**
  - Story Walk planning underway
  - Additional businesses/agencies partnering with Kids Read Hillsdale County
  - Continue to be intentional in marketing/planning for Talking is Teaching efforts
- **Prenatal & Pediatric Health (Stefanie)**
  - Developing an intentional plan for marketing Welcome Baby
  - Efforts to enhance relationships with prenatal and newborn community (douglas, OB offices, OB floor, etc)
- **Preschool Leadership Advocacy (Stephanie)**
  - Preschool Connect - month long Facebook event; prizes, multiple posts daily; encouraged agencies present to share with families who have preschool aged children; can be found at Hillsdale County Preschool Connect on Facebook
  - Preschool Round-Up; April 9th 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; in-person opportunity

#### 4. Team Brainstorming

- **What are ideas for a 15-20 minute keynote speaker at the Community Baby Shower?**
  - Strengthening Families framework
  - Talking is Teaching
  - Helping Hands - org presentation
  - Pediatrician - speak about well child visits/immunizations
  - Safe Sleep
  - Family Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - Triple P
  - Caregiver self-care
  - Bryce - keynote speaker - inspirational - love - kids just need you - how to be present
- **What are ideas for recognizing child providers during Child Care Provider recognition in May?**
  - coffee or any gift cards
  - dinner
  - free resources
  - wishlist purchases
  - spotlight provider
  - provider lunch...picnic? networking opportunities
  - day care provider of the year; all their "stars" and get recognition

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- ice cream cake from Udderside
- help advertise open spaces, promote their business
- amazon gift card
- flowers
- books
- massage gift cards
- new books
- radio promotion
- relaxing day: facial, manis, pedis
- networking night with chair massages with snacks, books, flowers, cake and ice cream
- look into Hillsdale Beauty College services - mani
- look into Adrian Massage School
- **Creative (“out of the box”) ideas for getting books in the hands of children?**
  - caroling but with reading
  - ships - sea
  - airport - air - drones - anything with annual Fly-In event, Operation Good Cheer with addition of books
  - school open houses; kindergarten round-up events
  - grocery pick-up
  - restaurants
  - recreational marijuana shops
  - school literacy nights
  - community festivals - pass out in parades
  - Book or Treat Halloween
  - give books out at fair booth
  - give books at Hospice Camp Courage
  - hand out at Loaves & Fishes
  - book distribution after doctor, dentist appointments
- **Recommendations for improving efforts to get updates for the Resource Guide?**
  - send emails once a month
  - annual mailing for updates
  - quarterly mailing for updates
  - fair booth
  - in-person visits with agencies
  - Simply Hers magazine
  - social media
  - email or listserv for us to send flyers/updates/information and to ask for updates
  - ask at our GSC meetings
  - google form for edits every 3-4 months/QR code/script for use by those making phone calls

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- partner with 211
- paper update given at all events with agencies
- radio spots for updates
- outreach to township clerks

## 5. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) - Abby**
  - 185 referrals since July 1st
  - continuing to offer monthly playgroups for enrolled children
  - continued collaboration with GSC for community events
- **Agency Updates**
  - ChristieCAPA
    - new Triple P flyer
    - Annual 5K Color Run April 20th 9:00 a.m.
  - Bryce/Helping Hands
    - Fatherhood Group starting April 4th 6-7:30 p.m., runs for 2 months; few spots remaining; working on post for social media for GSC attendees to share; group will include dinner, devotion, evidence-based lesson and discussion, can miss 1 week and still graduate; earn gift certificates and/or bucks to be used in Helping Hands store
    - Interested in speaking with anyone who offers or has offered child care for events they offer
    - press release for 1st car seat that was disseminated
    - they have more than doubled the number of clothing items handed out last year and are in need of restocking
  - Janell/Calming Breath Doula
    - Mommy Meet Up Groups every Friday at 10 a.m.
    - Starting Prenatal Postpartum pelvic floor ball birth class beginning Saturdays at 10 am
    - Childbirth Education classes - next round is starting mid-March

## 7. Closing

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