

Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Agenda
November 19, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Attendees:

Emmanuel Boyer - Hillsdale College
Stefanie Rathburn - Great Start
Nancy DeBacker - Alpha Omega
Angela Turner - CAA
Jen Houston - Highfields
Kelly Castle - Parent
Sara Clark - Great Start
Roxanne Waldran - Integro
Tonya McCallister - Parent

Stacy Ansel - HCISD
Mari Nunez – Family Counseling Center
Terrina Liogghio - Central MI 211
Christine Gjestland - Highfields
Darcy Affholter - Reading GSRP
Clint Brugger - CAA
Laurie Brandes - SAPC
Amy Glover - Parent

Abby Bauerly - DHHS
Beth Rubley - Highfields
Mindy Wilson-HCISD
Cheryl Schaerer - Parent
Linda Wise - HCISD/GSRP
Rozanne Pauze - Parent
Lona Carpenter - Parent
Gisele Sutton - Jonesville Library

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome & Introductions - Mari calls to order and welcomes everyone.

Opening Activity

Stefanie shared that Andrea Bricker had recommended that it would be nice to do something around gratitude given the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. As Andrea is on vacation, Stefanie shared research that came out of Harvard as recommended by Andrea.

- Gratitude is related to happiness
- Research- group of people that wrote about what they are grateful for, 2nd group wrote about irritations, and 3rd group wrote events affected them, not negative or positive. The group that wrote about gratitude reported more happiness, healthier, more exercise
- Couples who take time to express gratitude felt more positive and could address conflict easier.
- Stefanie has article and can email it out. Please contact her if you would like to have it.
- Brene Brown Video recommended by Kristy Wood, addressing relationship between joy and gratitude.
- Stefanie asked group to introduce themselves & share something you are thankful for

2. Agency/Organization Spotlight

Alpha Omega Care Center - Nancy DeBacker presents:

- Opened in 1986. 5 locations in 32 years
- Nancy joined in 1986 and has been involved since the beginning
- Offer practical help and hope center
- Resource Center
- Mission: Provide stress reduction for families by providing resources
- Open by the generosity of community members of Hillsdale County- Donation Only
- Offer free pregnancy test- Client does test themselves
- Give pregnancy verification form to get help from DHHS, etc.
- Talk to find out what we can help.

- Positive pregnancy test- give first baby blanket provided by local community- many handmade
- VIP Father (Vitaly Important Parents: Fathers)
- 3 paid staff: Co-Directors(Nancy & Shawn), Sue Cogswell
- Welcome volunteers to work, mentor & work in programing
- When client comes in:
 - Meet with Mentor
 - Training Videos together with Mentor
 - Earn & Learn: support integrity
 - Get baby bucks or Dad Dollars
 - Shop in Blessing store(\$40 for crib, \$10 for mattress)
 - People buy and donate brand new cribs and mattresses
 - Get baby bucks/Dad dollars for going to WIC appointments, Literacy events, etc.
- Re-distributor of people's generosity
- Baby Bottle Blessing: Baby bottle money banks set out to collect donations
- Free materials assistants program
 - Free stuff
 - Anyone can come in off street and say, "I need diapers, wipes and clothes for my child" - Listen to circumstances and take into consideration
 - If you have clients in need, send them to us. If we don't have it, we'll try to find it.
- Empowered through education
- ISD Adult program is coming in to clean for us on Wednesdays
- 2 fundraisers coming up
 - The Great Give (Tuesday November 27th)
 - Cookie Walk- (Friday November 30th 12-6pm and Saturday December 1st, 8am to 6pm)
- Willing to wait Campaign
 - Sexual Risk Avoidance Program

3. GSC Office Updates

Parent Liaison Report

- Parent Meeting held this past Saturday, Kindermusick instruction. Nine families attended; more than ½ had not participated in a Collaborative event in the past.
- Winterfest Coming up: Flyers on Table

4. Subcommittee Work Time

Pediatric & Family Health

Community Resources

Early Care & Learning/Literacy

5. Subcommittee Reports

- Community Resources - Clint reported:
 - Resource Guide Review

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.

- Copies to view and provide feedback, scan to Stefanie and she'll get to Emmanuel or email him directly (eboyer@hillsdale.edu)
- December 7th- Listserv conversation
 - a) Scheduled a call with St. Joseph
 - b) Concern raised by Abby and Terrina....can't keep 211 updated, how do we keep another listserv up to date
- Early Care & Learning/Literacy
 - 12 community book bins out right now
 - Kindergarten Transition meeting scheduled for 11/27; contact Linda Wise for more information
- Pediatric and Family Health
 - Donation Save the Date
 - Heads up to business and agencies so they can prepare for possible donations; letter is created
 - Stefanie will share letter for you to take a look at
 - If you have business or community members that you have relationships with and would be willing to get this letter to them this year, let Stefanie know
 - Community Baby Shower
 - Save the Date Flyer
 - Stefanie will approve and send out

6. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**
 - 54d Grant Funds Received
 - Going through approval process to increase services for 0-3 year old children who qualify
 - 86 Referrals received since July 1st
 - 43 resulted in evaluations
- **School Readiness**
 - Kindergarten Transition Meeting
 - Tuesday, November 27th 4:30 to 6pm at Hayes
 - Training
 - Linda Wise provided a phenomenal professional development opportunity for preschool staff around the topic of hands on Math. The training was held last Friday and was attended by over 50 preschool educators. Lots of sharing, collaboration and new learning happened.
- **Agency Updates**
 - DHHS- Abby reported huge change coming in January
 - January 22nd- GoO to Universal Caseload (Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee & Monroe)
 - No caseworker for clients
 - one line to call in to get help
 - put in que to talk to worker in one of 4 counties

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.

- worker could be from any of the 4 counties
- Change is State-wide
 - Jackson has gone live with this
- Supposed to be more sufficient for clients; No voicemail! You get help right when you call; 1 e-mail, 1 mail, 1 phone number
- Assistance Programs
- Brief Handout provided
- CAA - Clint reported:
 - no Utility Assistance
 - Must go through DHHS, must qualify for SER (State Emergency Relief) first.
 - Online application available. Can get navigator for help with this
 - There are already people shut off and waiting. Please check and share this information
 - Great Give
 - CAA will give funds from this day to provide for people who fall through the cracks and need power on, gas card, clothing for work, etc.
- CAPA - Christie reported:
 - CAPA at Great Give
 - Feb 9th CAPA Ball @ college this year
 - Cozy Kids Campaign- PJ for kids
- Hillsdale Assembly of God - Lona reported:
 - Sign up at Salvation Army for Toys for Tots
 - Flyer for sign up dates
 - Toys distributed 10th & 11th
- Stefanie reported:
 - Screen Sense article shared
 - Acknowledgement of Jackson Hillsdale Chapter of Infant Mental Health Association for the book drive they conducted during Celebrate Babies month in October. Many books collected that will be utilized in book borrowing bins, lending libraries and distributed through Great Start Collaborative sponsored events in the county
- Tonya reported that the old Big Boy is now Hillsdale Thrift Store
 - Gently used things at good prices
 - Goal is to help organizations and agencies of our community
- Nancy reported that St. Anthony's will host a Christmas Eve Dinner with food and presents for all in attendance. Their youth group runs it from noon to 2 on Christmas Eve. No RSVP necessary

Next Meeting...January 28th 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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.