

**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**



**Attendees:**

Emanuel Boyer - Hillsdale College  
Stefanie Rathburn - Great Start  
Yvonne Parker - CAA  
Sharon Bisher - Community Foundation  
Darcy Affholter - GSRP Reading  
Nancy DeBacker - Alpha Omega  
Kelly Castle - Parent  
Rozanne Pauze - Parent  
Abbey Bauerly - DHHS  
Jonathan Tobar - HCISD  
Marylou Sitkiewicz - Litchfield Schools

Angela Turner - CAA  
Andrea Bricker - Integro  
Christie Campbell - CAPA  
Stacy Ansel - HCISD  
Mari Nunez – Family Counseling Center  
Terrina Liogghio - Central MI 211  
Betty Elliott - ChildCare Provider  
Amy Glover - Parent  
Lona Carpenter - Parent  
Roxanne Waldran - Integro  
Kristy Wood - Child Care Network

Patrice Caldwell - Reading Schools  
Geri Neill - Parent  
Beth Rubley - Highfields  
Mindy Wilson-HCISD  
Cheryl Schaerer - Parent  
Linda Wise - HCISD/GSRP  
Clint Brugger - CAA  
Sara Clark - Great Start  
Shelley Hawver - CAA  
Kristin Klug - CAA

**Agenda Items:**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions-** Mari called meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Turned over to Mindy for Team Building Activity.
- 2. Team Building Activity-** Mindy, Chair of Pediatric and Family Health, led a warm/up team building activity.
  - a. Find a picture in your phone, or think of a picture you would choose if you do not have a photo with you that makes you happy and makes you smile.
  - b. Round 1: Find someone born in the same month as you. Share your photo.
  - c. Round 2: Find someone wearing the same color as you. Share your photo.
- 3. GSC Office Updates**
  - **2018-2019 Grant Application-** (Stefanie) Submitted on Friday! YAY. This year we are working with a limited carry over budget that will be depleted over the course of the year. We will need to be more conscious about where funding is going. Stefanie will have those individual discussions with each subcommittee's chairs.
  - **2018-2019 GSC Meeting schedule** (Stefanie)- Last meeting we did a little schedule rearrangement. We now have a revised schedule for the rest of the year
  - **Parent Liaison Report** (Sara)
    - Happy to announce that we have decided to participate in two county-wide events as a Coalition..one will be Fall Fest and the other still being planned. Focus around social emotional development of young children.
    - Parent meeting set for October.
    - Flier on upcoming PLAY events through December 2018.
- 4. Agency/Organization Spotlight - Early On/HCISD -** Mindy present on the Hillsdale County Early On Program.

## **5. Subcommittee Updates- Stefanie**

### **• Merger of Child Care and Literacy Subcommittees-**

- Last time we met, we were working on updating action agendas.
- Office of Great Start came up with new required language, blending childcare and preschool language into one action agenda outcome.
- Previously we had separate sub-committees, but no preschool focused group, which now has required language.
- We are not reducing the work, or changing our goals/work, but it will be structured a little differently.
- New subcommittee will be called Early Care & Learning/Literacy (ECLL).
- People on these committees will still be spending time doing all they were focused on, but they will also have a voice on the other topics as well.
- We will try for a year and see how it works.

### **• Reports from Subcommittee Chairs on Action Agenda Content**

- Stefanie initiated conversation with overview handouts - one in chart format, reflecting early childhood outcomes set by state with our local goals, objectives and strategies. Second handout also included activities to support the strategies.
  - Pediatric & Family Health (Mari provided report)
    1. Community Baby Shower- Off and running with this planning. Will be April 27th at Hillsdale High School again. Have plan to put into action and get it to come together. Love your Community grant will help fund this. Want to do better at collecting data on the success of this event to support the requirements of the event. Resource Fair with Agencies & Program information booths. Participate in learning, as well as meet. Connection for agency providers as well.
    2. Outreach to Medical Community- ways to engage medical community. Invite or pass information through connections
    3. Partner with Tobacco Cessation Coordinator
    4. Partner with Parent as Teachers
  - Community Resources: (Andrea provided report)Want to increase awareness
    1. Engage MI Bridges and 211 database to help community members learn about these resources
    2. Develop a parent survey to inform the work of the committee
    3. Develop Listserv:
      - Want to have changes in real time
      - Place to answer questions
    4. CAPA- Childrens Yellow Pages -making into wallet size, quick reference
    5. Partnerships with Hillsdale College to move forward with web-based directory of resources.
  - Early Care Learning & Literacy

#### **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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1. Linda reported on the Preschool track:
  - 2-3 School Readiness Advisory Meetings
  - More focus-based on a particular topic (i.e. preschool to kindergarten transition and wrap-around childcare needs)
2. Stacy Ansel reported on the Literacy track.
  - Families support literacy
    - partner with schools to host family literacy nights
    - Community Book Bins- Expand to 15 around the community
    - 3rd Grade reading law- Retained starting next school year.
    - Community Book Drive
    - Story Book walk next spring and summer at farmers market
    - Every event with GSC & Stacy, we send home books with kids. Books go FAST, so we want to incorporate the book drive to help support this continuing. Lots of places we can make cuts, but don't want to make it here!
3. Kristy Wood reported on the Childcare track.
  - Sponsor 10 providers- Great Start to Quality Training.
  - Exploring Faith-based community as option for child care facilities - meeting in November to discuss with Ministerial Association
  - Continue FB posts to highlight centers/providers
  - Business Manufacturing Locations have expressed interest in the concern for lack of child care... starting dialog to see if they may be interested

## **6. Subcommittee Work Time**

- Work until about 10:40.
- Index Cards in center of table
  - What tasks does your subcommittee need to support your work between now and the next meeting? Write down and Stefanie & Sara will review and follow up in an attempt to support the accomplishment of committee tasks so you can be effective and efficient in your work as a committee.

## **7. Community Updates**

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**
  - New Grant available to support Early On in our County...applying now and hopeful to receive funds in October.
- **School Readiness**
  - 6 GSRP classrooms blended with Head Start
  - 7 GSRP throughout county
  - Total of 13 programs in county

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- In need of 1 teacher position to be filled
- GSRP is moving into PQA-Revised- Found it to be more beneficial for all programs within our county.
- 6 professional development training opportunities planned for our county. Topics are based on data from last years PQA.
  - Cultural diversity
  - Hands on
  - Planning & Recall
- **Agency Updates**
  - Department of Health & Human Services
    - Letter about time limited food assistance(handout) for single, able-bodied adults.
      - Required to work or volunteer 20 hours per week(Not combined, one or the other) to total 80 hours per month. If do not meet, reduce eligibility.
      - Letter went out within the last month to all families who are receiving services
      - Hillsdale County has a large population receiving Social Security benefits. Do not anticipate that it will have a large impact.
      - Must follow through on paperwork if you meet deferment requirements (listed on back of handout)
      - No Sanction time
      - Agencies available to support/volunteer?
  - Community Action Agency
    - NO funding for utility assistance
      - In future, must go to DHHS first to get this type of assistance
      - Michigan bridges portal 1st.
      - Might be able to do some agency referrals, but must go to DHHS initially
  - CAPA
    - Children's Charity Ball will be February 9th with topic of Human Trafficking on Local Level
  - Community Action Agency
    - Head Start has openings in Reading and at Greenfield for 3 & 4 year olds
    - Warm the Children Application Due- 19th & 20th
  - Great Start Collaborative
    - Training scheduled for October 22nd - New ways to engage parents
    - Must register by Thursday Sept. 20th to get the free book offered by GSC.
  - Alpha Omega
    - VIP, Vitally Important Parents- Fathers. Parenting skills for dads. Please refer dads that might need parent help

**Next Meeting...October 29th 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

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