



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes September 21, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees:

Stefanie Rathburn, GSC
Mindy Wilson, HCISD
Kayla Horton, HCISD
Angie Turner, CAA
Rozanne Pauze, Grandparent
Kristy Wood, Child Care Network
Darcy Afholder, Reading GSRP
Sharon Bisher, Community Foundation
Linda Wise, HCISD

Betty Elliott, Creative Child Care
Trista Rink, CAA
Andrea Bricker, Integro
Yvonne Parker, CAA
Wendy Playford, GSC
Clint Brugger, CAA
Christine Gjestland, Highfields
Christie Campbell, CAPA

Maria Ansett, BHSJ CHA
Laura Orłowski, Jonesville Library
Abbey LoPresto, DHHS
Jen Houston, Highfields
Terrina Liogghio, 2-1-1
Jo Patterson, HCISD
Kaitlyn Swick, HCISD
Sara Clark, Parent

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Rename self in zoom to say your name and agency/role; help others to know who to reach out to if something is shared that they'd like additional information on

2. Coming Together Activity/Follow Up from Retreat Sessions - postponed til October meeting given Mari's absence

3. GSC Office Updates

- **Director Report**
 - Moved from Hayes to Dean Jennings (right next to Greenfield- 3471 Beck Rd. Hillsdale, MI)
 - Story Walk was held August 1st.
 - Had great volunteer turn out-14 GSC members/community partners
 - 26 families, 53 kids in attendance
 - Easy to socially distance: outside on courthouse lawn and spread out
 - 7 families just showed up. Didn't know anything about it. Were just walking by. Gave input on how to engage or inform new families
 - 12 Farmer's Market vendors involved, 4 of whom were new partners this year

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- All but 1 token was redeemed that was handed out. Last year our tokens were NOT used up... this was a great improvement. 25/26 used their token for fresh produce.
 - Trusted Advisor Grant Funding
 - Centered around Talking is Teaching
 - One target audience is Child Care Providers this year. Licenced child care providers were invited to attend a training. There are incentives for participation.
 - Working to implement with Head Start and GSRP staff as well.
 - Also trying to target foster parents
 - Will provide training virtually to parents; incentives will look different than face to face offerings did.
 - Kelly and Mari are facilitators of content. They are working on virtual model.
 - Funds must be used by November
 - Webinar tomorrow to learn about next round of funding available January through August 2021.
 - Everyone will be invited to a brainstorming session on how to use the next round of funding. Watch for an invitation from Stefanie if you are interested in being part of that conversation.
 - Work Plan
 - Emailed to everyone. Full work plan as well as a 1 pager that shows your individual subcommittee work
 - Each GSC is required to allot a certain amount of their funding to direct service programming. For the last 3 years, we have implemented Parents as Teachers programming via contracts with Highfields and Integro. Sad to say, we are no longer offering that service. Contracted agencies were great, but it is costly to train and keep and we had too much turn over. We couldn't afford to keep up with training, and it was costly for the small number of families being impacted with the remaining funds.
 - Will be shifting our requirements of supporting programming funds for students to Early On.
 - Please remove Parents as Teachers fliers from any marketing efforts that may still exist in your agency.
 - Early Head Start does use the curriculum in our county.
- **Parent Liaison Report**
 - PLAY Packet Pick-up (As opposed to face to face events)
 - June- 42 families/70 children
 - July - 34 families/57 children
 - August - 30 families/63 children
 - 74 different families over the entire summer
 - We had greater number of attendees, but difficult to assess engagement

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- Will continue PLAY packet pick-ups throughout the year.
 - Parent Meetings
 - Potential dates and topics TBA
 - Parent Recruitment
 - Actively recruiting for new parents
 - If you know of potentially interested parents, please spread the word about informational zoom meeting coming up Sept. 23rd at 9:30 am
 - Plan to record and post or send out to interested parents.
 - Inquiry about an available flier - Wendy agreed to send out following today's meetings. Was also included in newsletter that went out at beginning of month.

4. Subcommittee Reports - Work Plan for 2020-2021

- **Community Resources (Andrea)**
 - Zoom meeting 10:35 to 11:20 today if you want to join. Link in agenda.
 - We are working to develop some pandemic pages for resource directory. Resilient Hillsdale County is also working to support residents in getting services and support they need. Work better, not harder, come together as a larger group to compile these resources and make them known.
 - Desire to shift the audience for the Resource Guide and make it accessible and promoted for parents, not just service providers.
 - Also exploring additional opportunities for ways to promote link, including schools and social media platforms.
 - Will be hosting a Lunch & Learn
 - Had it planned right as pandemic hit
 - Wanting to still do it but exploring ways to do it virtually
 - Will be hosting a Lunch & Learn
 - Work to enhance value of google group to expand beyond just being used to seek out resources but also to promote resources, events that could benefit others in community
- **Early Care/Learning & Literacy (Kristy, Kayla, Linda)**
 - New team members to the Literacy Team
 - Develop series of videos to demonstrate for 3rd grade reading law
 - target parents so they know how they can best support their kids - content specific for each session (0-3, prek-K, K-2nd grade, 3rd grade, and beyond).
 - Family Literacy Nights - via live videos on facebook/zoom
 - Engage families in themes around areas of the home and focus on literacy in those locations.
 - Book Borrowing Bins
 - Pulling back for now until past COVID
 - Free Little Libraries

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- Leave open at discretion of business/residence where they are located
 - Available for those that choose to use it
 - Will post about safety/COVID
 - 3rd Annual Story Walk Planning for next year
 - Texting App - Ready4K
 - put in child's age and they get texts that support learning
 - Talking is Teaching
 - Embed materials in OB/GYN offices and birth centers
 - Trying to get information out to more parents
- School Readiness Advisory Efforts
 - Meet 2-3 times a year with parents and community members/stakeholders in early childhood to address early childhood/preschool/child care topics and issues
 - Partnership with Help Me Grow in response to need for child care for essential workers in light of pandemic needs
 - Intake form to help tracking
 - Parents in need of child care fill out intake forms and then they are connected to child care providers in their area.
 - Will continue in the future, as needed
 - If not enough available, ISD's would open an emergency center. Do not currently have the need.
- Support access to quality child care opportunities
 - Healthy Senior Healthy Youth grant was used to pay for cost of getting licenced to increase number of licenced providers in our county
 - Doing "shoutouts" on FB to countywide providers
 - Child Care Forum, with targeted outreach to Human Resource Departments - done virtually
 - Celebration Event for Child Care Providers
 - Hope for early spring/summer of 2021
- **Pediatric & Family Health (Mindy)**
 - Continue the "Did You Know campaign" through collaboration and partnership with Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health Chapter
 - Will support the Celebrate Babies Initiative through marketing efforts
 - Continue to spread importance of prenatal care through Facebook & social media posts
 - Looking to explore and collaborate on texting app like some other subcommittees are looking into
 - Creating informative bookmark that shares the importance of pregnancy before, during and after pregnancy as well as one that highlights the role of dads.
 - Using Talking as Teaching to incentivize and promote prenatal health

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5. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**
 - What is Early On? Home Visit program to support families of children who are demonstrating developmental delays or have medical conditions placing them at risk for delays
 - Phasing back into home visits with personal protection equipment
 - COVID forced us to find new ways to connect with families and even strengthened relationships for some families.
- **School Readiness**
 - Reminder that there are still preschool openings in the county; must be 3 or 4 by December 1st
 - Joint recruitment is underway
 - Parents can apply by calling 437-3346 or by visiting [Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative](#)
 - Hillsdale County Early Childhood Programs and Service on Facebook. Please like and share.
<https://www.facebook.com/hillsdalecountyearlychildhood/>
- **Agency Updates**
 - CAA is opening up soon. Must call to schedule an appointment currently, but hope to open in October.
 - DHHS has cloth masks available. Let Abbey know if your agency is in need of any.
 - Stefanie shared on behalf of Alpha Omega Care Center that they have a new name: Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center

Next Meeting...October 19th

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