



**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2021 via Zoom**

Angie Turner, CAA	Abbey LoPresto, DHHS	Mindy Eggleston, HCCF
Yvonne Parker, CAA	Barb Brick, CPIF Resource Solutions	Kaitlynn Swick, HCISD
Wendy Playford, GSPC	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC	Maria Ansett, Karen's House & St. Anthony's Family Center
Mallory VanWagner, BHSJ CHA	Mari Nunez, Jonesville Schools	Andrea Bricker, Integro
Trista Rink, CAA	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Linda Wise, HCISD
Mackenzie Rickman, BHSJ CHA	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Laura Orłowski, Jonesville District Library
Char Halliwill, Integro	Kayla Horton, HCISD	Jen Houston, Highfields
Sharron Elliott, Michigan Works	Kelly Castle, Parent	Rozeanne, Grandparent

1. Welcome/Introductions

a. Share favorite Fall activities

2. GSC Office Updates

● Director Report

- Retreat sessions work plans and grant were submitted
- Full copy and abbreviated version of subcommittee plans will be emailed to each member
- Ask Stef for full copy of entire GSC work plan
- Designate an early childhood programming activity every year - this year added activity Talking is Teaching
  - Learning activity kits also environmental and physical prompts in waiting rooms etc.
- Working to finish up current Trusted Advisors Grant
- Grant due next month for the next and FINAL Trusted Advisors Grant
  - Pull a small committee together to discuss the use of these funds

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**HCGSC MISSION**

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- If interested, drop in chat or email Stefanie
    - Same grant but \$10,000 more than previous
  - The Great Give hosted by the Community Foundation on November 30th
    - We have been invited to apply this year
  - Literacy Hub Grant Funds - Jackson ISD wrote the plan that benefits Hillsdale County we do not know of the status yet
    - If approved, substantial funding \$8,500
- Parent Liaison Report
  - Parent Coalition will look different this year
    - Meeting held every month of GSC meeting - Wednesday before GSC meeting
    - Less community presentation and follow the structure of a working meeting
    - Held first meeting last week
    - Invite any parent that shows interest - invite to attend a smaller more parent focused meeting will be smaller and more welcoming
    - Name of meeting is to be determined - creating a name that feels more inviting
    - Parent meeting - October 13th at Jilly Beans in Jonesville
- Summer Events Highlights
  - Picnic in the Park
    - Funded by Trusted Advisor Grant
    - Goal: Reach hard to engage families in different locations
    - Picnic in the Park at different locations and communities
    - 13 families and 6 of them were new to the GSC
    - Very informal - brought pizza and had conversations
  - PLAY Events
    - Face to face for July and August - great turn out and nice to return to face to face
    - July event brought in 14 families with 21 kids
    - Partner with Early Head Start/Community Action Agency to make the to-go bags similar to the activities families on-site received
    - Newspaper articles for both of them
    - August event brought in 12 families with 21 kids
    - We were able to feed families this summer due to added PLAY funding from the Hillsdale County Community Foundation

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- HCCF also donated funds for goodie bags for participating families
    - Fun and quite successful
  - Story Walk
    - 51 families with 94 children (this is only 9 less than the past 2 years combined)!!
    - 39 of the families in attendance were first-timers!
    - 11 participating vendors
    - 48 tokens redeemed
    - 17 families redeemed token at a participating library for second free book
    - 24 families heard of the events through recruitment at the farmers market and/or signs
  - Talking is Teaching
    - Focused on Dads
      - Second opportunity was this past Saturday
      - 3 families this past Spring
      - 5 families completed on Saturday
      - Trying to focus our efforts on aiming at hard to reach populations - dads
      - Great participation and questions from families
    - Last Talking is Teaching is focused on prenatal
      - Encouragement to share the flyer with any expecting families
      - incentives are worth the while
        - Bag - goods, gas cards, Kroger cards, restaurant card
      - October 9th morning and afternoon times

### 3. Subcommittee Reports: Work Plans 21-22

- Child Care
  - Provider networking opportunity 9/21
  - Pathways to Licensed Care
    - One applicant has already submitted packet
    - Another applicant is working on it
    - If you know of any providers, please send them our way!
    - October 18th childcare subcommittee meeting to be rescheduled
- OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES WILL REPORT NEXT MONTH (time)
- Community Resources
- Literacy
- Pediatric & Family Health

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- School Readiness Advisory

#### 4. Community Updates

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
  - Early On currently servicing 98 families - home visiting program for eligible children/families
  - State is rolling out grant for this year although we do not have it yet; it looks like funding has increased
  - Agency Updates
    - Joint Recruitment and Enrollment for preschool
      - Multiple locations with openings - if you know of any one with preschool aged children
      - Flyer - [Preschool Joint Recruitment Flyer](#)
    - School Readiness advisory meeting on December 10th @ 8:30 am via Zoom
      - If interested, please let Mindy Wilson know
    - Linda Wise shared - preschool in need of subs and assistants in programs
      - If you know anyone, contact Linda Wise
    - Community Action Agency also has openings for assistants - hiring floaters to support rather than substitutes
      - If you know someone that is interested, contact Yvonne Parker
    - Doug Spade - wanted to promote Story Walk
      - Asked to share his contact information if you are in need of air time
      - Contact info:
        - Doug Spade with Buzz 102.5
        - (517) 266- 9898
        - [talkback@dougspade.com](mailto:talkback@dougspade.com)
      - Virtual Baby Shower - St. John's United Church of Christ community baby shower (Jackson)
      - Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health
        - partnering with DHHS to bring Celebrate Babies Drive Thru Event on Friday October 22 @ 11:30am -1pm (working on flyer)

**Next Meeting...October 18th**

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