



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes September 2022

Laura Orlowski, Jonesville District Library	Mari Nunez, Jonesville Community Schools	Anna Weide, CAA/Early Head Start
Trista Rink, CAA/Head Start	Yvonne Parker, CAA	Kaitlyn Reese, HCISD
Kris Dewey, BHSJ Community Health Agency	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony	Maria Ansett, Right to Innocence
Angela Turner, CAA	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Wendy Playford, GSC
Stephanie Hines, HCISD	Andrea Bricker, Integro	Abby Alley, HCISD
Christie Campbell, CAPA	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Mindy Eggleston, Hillsdale County Community Foundation
Stefanie Rathburn, GSC		

1. Welcome
2. Summer Celebrations
 - Child Care
 - 5 different licensed programs as a result of HCCF Grant
 - May Celebration - provider/network appreciation dinner at El Cerritos
 - Joint Recruitment
 - Preschool Connect week - 86 applications
 - To date, 211 preschool GSRP applications have been processed.
 - Story Walk
 - 71 families in attendance, 147 kids
 - 50 new families
 - 13 vendors participated, 2 of whom were new partners
 - 143 tokens redeemed
 - Positive feedback from families
 - Community Baby Shower
 - 41 families, 15 male caregivers

HCGSC VISION

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- 20 agencies participated
- 19 presenters
- Positive feedback
- Enough donations that all adults in attendance walked away with 2 door prizes
- Had a debrief with the planning team for tweaks. Possible Spring 2024 next baby shower
- **PLAY Events**
 - 3 summer PLAY events
 - 55 families, 108 different children over the 3 events.
 - Each family received a \$10 gas card at each event
 - Hillsdale County Community Foundation supported events.
 - July: Melissa & Doug water wow toys - huge hit!
 - August: Each family was given a craft supply bag, which included scissors to help with fine motor skills AND families were able to get a \$25 pizza gift card.
 - 79 new emails from families that attended August events.
- **Activities outside of 21-22 Work Plan**
 - **Welcome Baby Initiative**
 - Welcome Baby visits - bags filled with goodies and resource materials, provided a visit by Early On or Early Head Start provider
 - The hospital offers every family a visit where they will receive the information and bag. Families can sign up until the baby is 6 months old.
 - First 100 bags are stuffed, under 10 visits have been completed.
 - Looking at both a marketing plan and how to sustain this initiative once it starts to become utilized more consistently
 - **Literacy Backpacks Initiative**
 - 950 backpacks disseminated
 - 2850 books/literacy resources
 - Fresh food distribution sites - GSC had many volunteers
 - All local Kindergarten students received backpacks
 - Grandparents also received backpacks for their grandchildren through some of the food distribution sites

2.5 Compass Activity - Mari introduced activity as an opportunity to learn more about each other's personal styles. Activity required some room movement, individual reflection and group discussion

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3. Subcommittee Reports on 22-23 Work Plans

- Child Care
 - Increasing number of slots in the county due to HCCF grant. Have until November to spend funds.
 - Targeted marketing in Waldron just recently
 - 29 active family and group homes (several programs are not accepting children right now, even if they do show up on county list).
 - Star Ratings are changing at the end of this year into different levels.
 - Creating awareness in the community that slots are needed.
 - Tri-share
 - Child Care Forum planned for this grant period
 - Continuing Child Care networking opportunities - anticipate holding 4 again this year
- Community Resources
 - Required language in template from the State with focus on increasing nutrition and physical activity
 - Required language to partner with WIC to address increased WIC referrals
 - Goal to consider fresh food initiatives and tie in the relationship to and between GSC and WIC.
 - Looking at ways to incorporate Talking is Teaching into more community-wide efforts
 - Increasing awareness of resources available to the community.
 - Hoping to connect more to schools.
 - QR code on Friday Folders, businesses, etc.
 - Developing a system to review the resource guide.
 - How to best use social media for marketing
- Literacy
 - Working to intentionally incorporate Talking is Teaching into events
 - Partner w/ local libraries for 1000 books before K.
 - Family Activity Challenges will be shortened to 2-3 minutes
 - Continued Literacy Pop-Up and Story Walk efforts
 - Continued Little Free Library efforts
- Pediatric & Family Health
 - Increasing awareness of prenatal healthcare
 - social media connections
 - Partnering with Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health Chapter - Celebrate Babies in October
 - Welcome Baby initiative - develop marketing plan

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- Community Baby Shower - looking at every other year (Spring 2024)
- Strengthening relationships with providers - how to celebrate providers in community. Delivering baskets to providers and a chance to spotlight them on the Facebook page.
- Partner with Region 9 Perinatal Quality Collaborative - recruit Doulas and how to engage them as partners in our work
- **School Readiness Advisory**
 - A focus is on addressing that kids are 'Ready for School' in the community.
 - Meetings are 4 times a year.
 - Work on recruitment and enrollment structure.
 - Focusing on how to prepare students for Kindergarten.
 - Joint recruitment and enrollment process
 - Review data associated with preschool teams to guide curriculum use, professional development, site locations.
 - GSRP coordinates with Child Care Network
 - Working to smooth out application process
 - Goal to market to families that may not have access right now.

4. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**
 - Abby and Mindy presented that Abby is now the lead in the early childhood department and will be representing Early On in this meeting. Since July 1st, they have received 72 referrals and are currently serving 100 children, aged 0-3 within their department. In addition, they have hired a new teacher!
- **Agency Updates**
 - **Mindy**
 - Preschool Opportunities - for kids turning 3 or 4 by December 1st, there are openings
 - School Readiness Advisory Committee (SRAC) will be held on 9/23 at 8:30; will be virtual - please let her know if interested
 - Tentative Fall Fest date of 10/19 from 4:30 - 6 pm. More information should be coming out from Kim Svacha/HCISD
 - **Christie**
 - CAPA is holding a Stewards of Children training 9/17 from 10 - 12; sexual abuse program; training is free

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- Andrea
 - Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health Chapter will be participating in statewide initiative Celebrate Babies weeks of October 17th
 - considering expressing gratitude to providers serving families in their homes
 - considering the compilation of a video for sharing on social media and websites
 - considering a Facebook Live Yoga for caregivers and babies
 - considering parent focus groups
- Wendy
 - recruitment of Parents
 - will be holding first meeting next month
- Tonia
 - October is Domestic Violence Awareness month; will be silhouettes on courthouse lawn and promoting purple lights in community - there is an order form on their facebook page
- Mindy
 - Youth Grant through the Community Foundation will open October 1st; online now; must fill out preliminary application first
 - reminder that the youth like to see that you have some skin in the games within your application summary
- Stefanie
 - Region 9 Perinatal Quality Collaborative will be presenting to the full group in October
 - Reminder of Literacy Pop Up 9/14 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. in Reading
 - Hillsdale County Kids Count data shared; will be looking more deeply throughout strategic planning process this year

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