



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes January 6, 2025

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Introductions: Name, Agency, and connection to prenatal/pregnant moms

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| Kristy Wood, Child Care Network | Mindy Wilson, HCISD | Stephanie Hines, HCISD |
| Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools | Anna Weide, CAA | Kevin Knapp, MSU Extension |
| Kathryn Boring, DHHS | Abby Alley, HCISD/Early On | Brooke Rains, Child Care Network |
| Rebekah Dobski, Hillsdale Community Library | Isabella Stycos, BHSJ Community Health Agency | Laura Orłowski, Jonesville District Library |
| Wendy Playford, GSC | Jeremy Bryan, Community Choice Credit Union | Yvonne Parker, Community Action Agency |
| Andrea Bricker, LifeWays | Hillary Zimmerman, Hillsdale Hospital | Stefanie Rathburn, GSC |
| Janel Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services | Linda Beemer, Branch ISD/McKinney Vento | Makynna Reed, Calming Breath Doula Services |
| Rachel McCormack, Three Meadows OBGYN | | |

2. Community Spotlight: Centering/Hillsdale Hospital and Hidden Meadows OB Office (Powerpoint handout)

- Hillary Zimmerman & Rachel McCormack; Hillsdale Hospital
 - i. [Centering Pregnancy PowerPoint presentation](#)
 1. Sharon Rising developed the concept of centering in 1990. Cities noticed changes it created and now 48 states participate in this model
 2. Hillsdale considered adopting this model in 2022 after a Community Health Needs Assessment; data review showed alarming statistics.
 3. Nurse completing her Master's degree conducted a research project including the data from Hillsdale County; data came directly from expecting mom's.
 4. Solution to these needs: Centering

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- ii. Centering Overview
 - 1. Group of 10-13 women of similar gestation age
 - a. Start between 12-16 weeks gestation- ensures women had received an initial exam, lab work and ultrasound
 - b. 10 sessions
 - c. Try to make it stress free
- iii. 3 Key Components
 - 1. Health Assessment(1) focuses on self-care and clinical assessment.
 - 2. Interactive Learning(2) & Community Building(3)
 - a. ice breaker
 - b. facilitated discussion and activities targeted to current stage of pregnancy
 - i. reminder of group guidelines
 - ii. mindfulness exercise
 - iii. positive birth story
 - iv. discussion topics
 - v. activities
 - c. Popcorn bucket- pull out anonymous questions submitted to the container.
 - d. Closing
- iv. Patient Outcomes: What have we seen thus far
 - 1. empowered patients
 - 2. prepared for labor and delivery
 - 3. connected to resources early
 - 4. understand resources
 - 5. realistic expectations
 - 6. higher number of breastfeeding moms
 - 7. less postpartum depression
- v. Video linked in Electronic PowerPoint - link to video embedded in ppt
- vi. How it's funded:
 - 1. Hillary applied for grant funding (Michigan Health Endowment)
 - 2. Now the State of Michigan is helping to support it due to so many communities' adoption.
 - 3. Insurance is also starting to support and reimburse some costs.
- vii. Moms still connecting after pregnancy? Yes, have heard many stories about the positive and continued connection between pregnant mothers and families
- viii. They accept people to come speak to centering groups

3. GSC Office Updates

- o [January GSC Data Summary](#)
- o Doula Partnership (attached)
- o Other

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- i. Talking is Teaching
 - 1. Grant Funding
 - a. wrapped up funding through HCCF V.C. and Velma Knight Memorial and submitted the report
 - b. will be wrapping up HCCF Youth Grant funding over the next few months
 - c. Both funding opportunities have supported marketing and materials to do more widespread marketing across the county
 - i. Efforts still coming include: radio marketing, billboard time, yard signs for distribution throughout the county
 - 2. Facilitators
 - a. Mari is consulting to be able to offer an additional training in February and will be working with Allison Wirick and Kacey Rhoades to take over the facilitation effort
 - 3. Parent Offerings
 - a. trainings in both February and March for parents with children under 3; February Talking is Teaching flyer is attached.
 - b. Would love your help promoting this. Will be on social media soon, please share there as well as physical fliers.
 - 4. Calendars
 - a. calendars distributed to partner agencies who requested
 - b. additionally provided a leftover batch to 4 Head Start classrooms in Hillsdale to get out before the end of the year
 - c. few remaining for anyone who has additional needs; otherwise will be distributed at the Pajama Party this month
 - d. If you have any left that are not distributed to families, please get them back to Stefanie or Wendy and they'll get them out at upcoming playgroups/events
- ii. Advancing Healthy Births
 - 1. submitted proposal for 2nd round of funding
 - 2. awarded \$20,000, must be used by the end of September.
 - 3. Love Yourself, Love Your Baby - fun, engaging, heavily incentivized childbirth education opportunity
 - a. target date of 2/22/25
 - b. working on solidifying speakers
 - c. sessions to include:
 - i. What Your Momma Didn't Tell You: Birth Edition
 - ii. Feed Yourself, Feed Your Baby
 - iii. What To Do Instead of Scream
 - d. target of reaching 50 families

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- e. working on flier- should be available soon
 - f. heavily incentivized to maximize participation
 - iii. Great Give Updates
 - 1. HCCF raised \$284,135 raised through 1,168 gifts
 - 2. GSC raised just over \$4,000 in gifts and incentives
 - 3. Jonesville Subway
 - a. did a promotion with them where, if you brought a book, you got a discount.
 - b. Were supposed to pick-up books and donations, but there were some issues and we don't have them yet.
 - c. Still working through it
 - 4. received donations after the fact from new donors as a result of outreach
 - iv. Prenatal to 3 State Policy Roadmap: Michigan Summary attached
 - 1. See how Michigan ranks
 - 2. Handout is just an overview
 - 3. Links to dig in if you want to look more closely
 - 4. One of the indicators is for "centering" which connects to the community spotlight held at our meeting today
- 4.. Subcommittee Reports
 - o Child Care
 - i. Work Plan shifted focus to statewide initiatives
 - ii. Hosting appreciation event in May during Childcare Appreciation week
 - iii. Focusing on sharing events with employers which supports our initiative to engage employers in child care initiatives
 - iv. Hillsdale Area Career Center Advisory Committee - attend meetings and support
 - v. Free PreK for All - state initiative. Attending meetings and looking at impact to private providers
 - vi. Skipped December meeting
5. Community Updates
 - o Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
 - i. Cold but successful Winterfest
 - ii. 152 referrals since July 1st
 - iii. Playgroups are going well. Pajama Party Collaboration next Tuesday 14th.
 - iv. Transition Playgroup started back up today
 - o Agency Updates
 - i. Linda & Allison/McKinney Vento- getting the word out to families about opportunities provided to them when they are in transition (reduce the term homeless). Provided tri-folds to display and provide to families who may need it. Also have large posters to display. Just want to get the

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information out. It is a grant program, so numbers matter. We don't want to underserve and we are concerned we are missing homeless youth. Re-establishing program in Hillsdale County. Trying to get more connected to local agencies. Pathway is through the school district. ISD (Early On & Special Education are through ISD). (Link/attach McKinney Vento Flier). List of McKinney Vento contacts for local districts shared by Linda and is attached.

- ii. Stefanie reminded the group that Hillsdale Hospital is conducting their Community Needs Health Assessment (Flier to share) Encourage families to take the survey. Shortened this year to try to get families to take it. Trying to get higher and more varied responses this year. Typically get only high elderly population response. We can help reach the other populations including young families, prenatal, early childhood, etc. [Hillsdale Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
- iii. Rebekah and Laura reported that they have received funding to support the 1,000 books before Kindergarten initiative.
- iv. Mindy/HCCF has open applications for grants currently with the deadline approaching.
 1. George Romney - Volunteer focused
 2. Healthy Senior/ Healthy Youth
 3. Library
- v. Janell/Calm Breathing Doula Services: Makynna has completed her training and they now have an additional doula on staff; focused on prenatal, birth and 1st year care.
- vi. Bella/BHSJ Community Health Agency - Dangers of Marijuana use during pregnancy cards- feel free to distribute. Gearing up for the "lock it up" campaign

6. Closing

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