



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes February 5, 2024

Attendees:

Mari Nunez, Community	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony	Stephanie Hines, HCISD
Sarah Greeley, Community Choice Credit Union	Laura Orłowski, Jonesville District Library	Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools
Wendy Playford, GSC	Isabella Stycos, BHSJ CHA	Andrea Bricker, Integro
Linda Wise, HCISD/GSRP	Janell Morse, Calming Breath Doula	Mindy Eggleston, HCCF
Shelley Keller, HCISD/School Mental Health	Bryce Asberg, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center	Anna Weide, CAA/Early Head Start
Heather Upton, CASA	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. GSC Office Updates

- a. Funding
 - i. Advancing Healthy Births - Region 9 Perinatal Quality Collaborative
 - ii. Awarded funds, but only half - had to submit revised budget - approved; funds available February - September
- b. Planning underway for:
 - i. Community Baby Shower - next meeting 2/6 at 1pm Hayes Lower Level
 - ii. Safety Fair - met 1/31; next meetings are 2/28 1 - 2:30 p.m. and 3/20 1 - 2:30 p.m. at Hayes Lower Level
- c. Events since last meeting
 - i. Pajama Party
 1. 8 families. 14 kids. Children ranged in age: 4 months up to age 8
 2. This was a rescheduled event
 - 3.
 - ii. Family Coalition - Canceled due to heating issues in the building
 1. Little Free Library - Same as last month as we are in a bit of a pause with the weather and potential frozen ground

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- a. LFL delivered to Lichfield City Offices
- b. LFL possible locations in 2 Jonesville city parks, a parent gave us the info to reach out and Stefanie did to city manager
- c. Other LFL: A conversation was had with Jonesville Middle School librarian and they are in process of installing their own
- iii. Winter Activities -
 - 1. Hillsdale Library 1st and 3rd Friday Playgroups in January were held. (Offer Hillsdale Library the opportunity to say anything about it.)
- iv. Talking is Teaching Parent Training
 - 1. held this past Saturday
 - 2. 8 families, with 11 adults total (moms, a dad and two grandparents)
 - 3. shared success story of one mom complimenting mom on what a good mom she was - caring for her 10 month old during the training and staying engaged and focused on the presentation materials; so nice to see parents building one another up and parents making connections with hopes to connect again at future events
- d. Upcoming Events - Wendy
 - i. Family Coalition Meeting
 - 1. Feb 20 from 4 - 5 pm in the lower level of the Hayes building
 - 2. Registration is requested
 - ii. Craft Night
 - 1. Feb 13 from 4:30 - 6 pm in the lower level of the Hayes building
 - 2. Registration is requested
 - iii. Talking is Teaching parent training
 - 1. Saturday, Feb 10 from 9 - 11:30 am at the Hayes building
 - 2. Registration is requested

**3. Community Spotlight: Bryce Asberg
Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center**

- private Christian, non-profit, supported entirely by a donor base (580 monetary donations in 2023); non-restricted funding, can serve anyone
- Earn While You Learn
 - evidence based parenting series
 - 11 clients currently engaged in weekly mentoring
 - remote option available for certain circumstances

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- LOVE - listening-driven approaches used by mentors(Listen & Learn, Open Up Option, Value & Vision, Extend & Equip)
- can earn bucks to use in store for baby goods
- Material Assistance Program
 - clothing materials up to 4T
 - diapers, formula, jars of food
 - 11,000 diapers and 4600 pieces of clothing distributed last year (almost double from previous year)
 - no income requirements
- Free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, options consultation
- Opportunities to earn a new car seat by engaging in learning sessions
- working with Hillsdale County courts to share referrals
 - can create a similar partnership with other agencies, as requested
- Coming soon: Fatherhood Group classes
 - anticipate 6 or 7 weeks in length, hope to begin in about 7 weeks
 - will provide dinner, evidence-based learning, devotional and discussion
 - will share more details once all flushed out
- Working on pool of volunteers to attend community events to represent HHPRC, as requested
- Currently have 3 paid staff, 20 volunteers, few auxiliary volunteers
- open 28 hours over 4 days

4. Subcommittee Reports

- **Child Care (Kristy)**
 - continuing to partner with Regional Planning Coalition
 - beginning to consider how to celebrate child care appreciation during the month of May
 - working on Literacy Essentials training for child care providers in September
- **Community Resources - Stefanie**
 - continuing efforts to figure out how best to partner with food pantries
 - piloting an opportunity to be on-site during King's Kupboard pantry once a month to promote Resource Guide QR code card
 - will be spending time considering intentional efforts to embed physical activity into the GSC (at events, through social media, marketing, etc)
 - Resource Guide has been converted from a Publisher doc to a Canva doc and edits that have been collected over past year are being made; goal to have revision complete by March meetings; no changes to marketing that links to Resource Guide

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- **Literacy - Stephanie**
 - Talking is Teaching trainings for parents and GSRP providers are happening this month
 - Outreach in place for Talking is Teaching placemat distribution across the county
 - Dates established for Story Walk 2024 - July 27th with a rain date of August 10th
- **Prenatal & Pediatric Health - Mari**
 - spent January meeting with doulas as invited guests to talk about engaging with them and other providers of prenatal and birth services in county
 - continued Community Baby Shower efforts
 - will be working on marketing efforts for Welcome Baby
- **Preschool Leadership Advocacy - Stephanie**
 - Preschool Connect flyers are available - month of March will be virtual preschool posts, recruitment, etc
 - Preschool Round-Up will be held April 9th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. - flyers to come
 - Agencies should have received communication from Stefanie about participation; please reach out if interested in sharing content for posting and/or joining the in-person event
 - Efforts are in place to gather all the dates for district preschool and kindergarten round-ups; Stefanie will send out list of those that are confirmed at this point

5. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) - no report this month**
- **Agency Updates**
 - Tonia/Domestic Harmony
 - February is Teen Dating Violence Month; 6 schools partnering with is an increase to previous years; will be promoting awareness by wearing purple on 2/21
 - Heather/CASA
 - volunteer fair held with 50 people attending and 16 agency reps on site; considering another one in the spring or summer when weather is better
 - Still working with her landlord on prepping building for install of their new Little Free Library
 - Andrea/Integro
 - After 26 years as a mental health service provider in Jackson and Hillsdale counties, Integro will be closing their doors, effective March 1st. They are partnering with LifeWays to ensure there will not be a disruption in

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services for families; more information to come as it is available

- Janell/Calm Breathing Doula Services
 - her website is being revamped; she has linked to the Resource Guide on her site
 - She is offering childbirth education as the hospital is only offering virtual and she's had requests for in-person; the classes run 6 weeks; are held at Hillsdale First Baptist Church - run 2 hours each; cost is \$30 per course
- Stefanie inquired as to whether anyone had heard anything about a Project Connect event scheduled for this year. No one was aware of a date. Stefanie agreed to reach out and see what she could learn.

7. Closing

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