Great Start Collaborative Minutes
October 5, 2026

Welcome/Introductions

Attendees: Janell Morse/Calming Breath Doula Services, Sophia Popper/CAA, Dennis Irelan/HCISD, Bryce Asberg/Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center, Allison Wirick/Hillsdale Community Schools, Laura Orlowski/Jonesville District LIbrary, Andrea Bricker/LifeWays, Rebekah Dobski/Hillsdale Community Library, Holly Loader/CAPA, Linda Beemer/McKinney-Vento, Savannah York/BHSJ CHA, Brieanna Gardner/CAA, Jessica Schlickenmeyer/HCISD, Linda Wise/HCSID, Abby Alley/HCISD, Yvonne Parker/CAA, Nicole Butler/CAA, Clint Brugger/CAA, Wendy Playford/GSC, Stefanie Rathburn/GSC

Community Discussion

Parent Education In Hillsdale County

- **What supports are available?**
- **What supports are missing?**
- **If time & money were no object…**

GSC Office Updates:

- September Data Summary
- Family Coalition
- Annual Report
- Kids Count Hillsdale County
    - Discussion about comparison data being from 2019 and 2020 versus the most recent data collection year?
    - Discussion about data like 3rd graders not proficient in reading being indicative of scores from one point in time via M-STEP testing scores vs. data collected from other assessments that may paint a different picture; encouraged to remember that one data point does not make a trend
    - Stefanie will share these observations with presenters for November and encouraged the group to send any additional thoughts/questions they have to her to pass along for their planning and consideration.
- Other
    - Work Sessions - please add your name if interested in receiving a calendar invite for one of the four work sessions scheduled for the coming year

Committee Reports

- **Preschool Leadership & Advocacy/J. Schlickenmeyer**
    - 223 students currently enrolled in GSRP and blends
    - Jonesville is only site that is full
    - Preschool Interest Form can be found on the GSC website

Community Updates

- **Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)/A. Alley**
    - 52 referrals processed since July 1st
    - Fall Fest coming up on 10/15 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Transition groups taking place at First Baptist Church this year; 20 2-year-olds in each session

- **Agency Updates**
  - Clint/CAA - shared information about Warm the Children
  - Stefanie/GSC - shared samples of new Welcome Baby materials; asked group to share the new video posted to Facebook; widespread marketing starting later this month
  - Community Choice Credit Union will be hosting a Community Day and offering free lunch from PB & J BBQ Food Truck on 10.16 from noon - 4. See flyer.
  - Dennis/HCISD - School Mental Health team will be hosting a "Beyond the Moment" opportunity in May; intended for teens to educate them on available resources/supports; targeted at McKinney-Vento, at-risk, at risk and foster teens (8th - 12th grade). Currently working on resources and speakers for the day. Reach out to him if interested in being a part of the day or if you have ideas for the day. Hoping for 200 teens to attend; considering how to invite kids without attaching the stigma to the population being invited

Closing/Reflections: Next meeting will be 11.2.26 with MLPP presenting highlights from Kids Count data.