



## Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024

### Attendees:

Linda Wise, HCISD/GSRP	Yvonne Parker, CAA	Daniel Klink, CAA
Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools/GSRP	Laura Orlowski, Jonesville District Library	Rebekah Dobski, Hillsdale Community Library
Stephanie Hines, HCISD	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony	Anna Weide, CAA/EHS
Jessica Hurley Fawley, Love INC	Wendy Playford, GSC	Christie Campbell, CAPA
Isabella Stycos, BHSJ CHA	Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Andrea Bricker, LifeWays
Mindy Eggleston, Hillsdale County Community Foundation	Janell Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services	Shannon Porter, Child Advocacy Center
Kevin Knapp, MSU Extension	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Abby Alley, HCISD
Sarah Greeley, Community Choice Credit Union	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC	

### 1. Welcome/Introductions

- **Appreciation & Opening Activity**
- This meeting kicks off the start of our 2025 work plan year together.
- Thank you gift from the GSC (GSC Crock full of goodies)
- Opening Activity: Grouped by color of the pen located at your spot. Come together to discuss the key components of the work of the GSC. Record your top 3 as a team. Report out together.
- [Notes captured from the activity](#)

### 2. GSC Office Updates

- [October GSC Data Summary](#)
  - i. Wrapped up Grants
    1. Advancing Healthy Births Grant
      - a. Safe Sleep Webinar
      - b. Bassinets shared out
      - c. Breastfeed resources

#### HCGSC VISION

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

#### HCGSC MISSION

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.

- 2. Literacy Hub Grant
      - a. “Building A Strong Literacy Foundation” Training
    - 3. See the report linked above for data & numbers associated with these initiatives.
  - ii. Upcoming Events(See details in the report above and fliers attached)
    - 1. Fall Fest
    - 2. Winter Event New location- will take place in the Hillsdale Area Career Center (HACC) Gym.
  - iii. Family Coalition report out (See report linked above for details)
    - 1. Family Coalition meeting (see flier)
    - 2. Little Free Library Pop-Ups (see flier)
- **FY 2024 Annual Report**
  - i. Question: Book donations, just over 1871 donated- what do we do with them
    - 1. Little Free Libraries get the vast majority of the used books donated
  - ii. Question: How do we donate or share ways to donate books?
    - 1. Prefer children’s books
    - 2. Contact Wendy or Stefanie to donate
    - 3. Will do another book drive in the future, but we are currently at storage capacity. When we do a drive will depend on the rate in which we go through our current books.
  - iii. Question: How does this compare to last year
    - 1. FY 23 we gave out 3,000 books for the year vs FY 24 we gave out 7,300 books.
    - 2. This summer we had to cancel a summer playgroup, so we had one less playgroup to give out books which made playgroup specific numbers for this year lower
    - 3. Welcome Baby visits: 29 families last year took advantage. Planning on doing some major work on this to try to keep this initiative in place. This is the one initiative that we have got to improve on to justify the resources put into it.
- **Other**
  - i. **FY 25 Work Plan**
    - 1. Been submitted, consider approved unless we get feedback from state (we have not)
  - ii. **Talking is Teaching**
    - 1. **Go Media Campaign**
      - a. More intentional posts targeting Talking is Teaching
      - b. Advertisements on streaming services
        - i. Marketing Talking is Teaching and GSC
      - c. Has begun and in place through February
      - d. Targeted to focus on Hillsdale County and channels where families are prevalent

**HCGSC VISION**

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

**HCGSC MISSION**

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.

## 2. 2025 Calendars

- a. Another county did these last year and shared with Liaisons across the state
- b. We made a 2025 version for Hillsdale County
- c. Very simple activities for families to engage in that promote talking
- d. Bright, happy fun
- e. We have already ordered these and are looking to get them out to families!
  - i. Focusing/targeting families with children not yet enrolled in school
  - ii. Have 500 to give away
- f. Ask providers giving the calendar away to ask “have you received your talking is teaching calendar” so we don’t duplicate and also so that we get these calendars into the hands of families who will utilize them.

## 3. Subcommittee Reports

### ○ Child Care-

- i. Celebrate and appreciate childcare providers
  1. held a networking and celebration event
  2. provided free items and giveaways
- ii. Childcare Chirp
  1. Newsletter
  2. Struggled with dissemination
  3. Trying to brainstorm and create a stronger listserv
  4. This year we will only disseminate pertinent information to the workforce
- iii. Hillsdale Area Career Center Advisory Meeting attendance and support
- iv. Birth to 3 Literacy training well attended in our county
- v. Encourage childcare providers to engage and participate in GSQ levels
- vi. Regional Planning Involvement
  1. what can employers do to support child care for their employees
    - a. continuing these efforts

## 4. Kids Count - definitions, new data and more discussion

- [Kids Count & GSC Data Set Follow-Up](#)
  - i. Lots of questions were posed about definitions of things during the last meeting
- Next month the Child Advocacy Center and Michigan League for Public Policy will present during our GSC meeting
- Take a look at the data and determine what additional questions you still have. This is in preparation for their presentation next month.
- Discussion & [new summary notes captured](#)

### **HCGSC VISION**

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

### **HCGSC MISSION**

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.

- i. Preschool Numbers: 2017 to now is a drastic change
  - 1. Data around the outcomes that GSC looks at. Since preschool initiatives have data around reading proficiently changed/improved
- ii. Age Ranges: 0 to 5 then 0 to 8... is the 0-5 numbers/data included in 0 to 8 data?

## 5. Community Updates

- **Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**
  - 70 referrals since July
    - more 3 & 4 years olds not choosing school for multiple reasons, but bottom line parents not choosing to send children
  - Early On Conference year: All staff attending in November together
  - Transition Group: Hopping this year, children with a variety of needs, some higher needs.
  - Partnering in Fall Fest- Come join us
- **Agency Updates**
  - Tonia/Domestic Harmony- October is domestic violence awareness month. Read victim stories on silhouettes at the courthouse
  - Christie/CAPA - Safe Sleep Awareness Month: Comercial playing at Movie theater, WCSR, social media campaign, banners & yard signs for Oct i
  - Mindy/Hillsdale County Community Foundation Grant Applications due Nov. 1st
  - Preschool spots still available mostly 4's available, but please encourage all families to apply if interested so we know where we need to expand
  - Andrea/Jackson Hillsdale Infant Mental Health Chapter:
    - Updated mission/vision for Infant Mental Health Chapter
    - Celebrate Babies
      - Intentionally inviting professionals and providers into meetings
      - Swag Bags
      - Sharing electronic recourses
      - Fall Fest engagement
      - Lansing Event in November; Babies Speak- going to the Capitol
  - Janell/Calmng Breath Doula Services
    - State budget increased Doula Care (cover 12 instead of 6 visits previously)
    - Increased the reimbursement for birthing care
    - Doulas are not just prenatal and birth, they are also postpartum and that could mean different things to different people. Up to 1 year postpartum
  - Bella/Health Department:
    - Breastfeeding Newsletter

### HCGSC VISION

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

### HCGSC MISSION

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.

- Covid Test Kits available
- Brooke/Child Care Network - [Childcarenetwork.org](http://Childcarenetwork.org)- more robust and easier to navigate. Links to resources. Training events, resources for families for child care, MiRegistry connection. Check it out.
- Stefanie/GSC:
  - If you want calendars, please give the number to Stefanie or Wendy
  - If you want to be part of Fall Fest, let Stefanie know asap

## 6. Closing

### **HCGSC VISION**

To ensure every child in Hillsdale County is safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and in life.

### **HCGSC MISSION**

The purpose of the Hillsdale County Great Start Collaborative is to assure a coordinated system of community resources to assist all Hillsdale County families in providing a great start for their children prenatal through third grade.