



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes December 2, 2024

In attendance:

Linda Wise, HCISD/GSRP	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Stephanie Hines, HCISD
Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools	Anna Weide, CAA	Heather Upton, CASA
Kathryn Boring, DHHS	Abby Alley, HCISD/Early On	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony
Rebekah Dobski, Hillsdale Community Library	Isabella Stycos, BHSJ Community Health Agency	Laura Orłowski, Jonesville District Library
Wendy Playford, GSC	Sarah Greeley, Community Choice Credit Union	Christie Campbell, CAPA
Andrea Bricker, LifeWays	Hillary Zimmerman/virtual, Hillsdale Hospital	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC
Janell Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services	Mariele Bush, North Adams Community Memorial Library	

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Engagement Activity: Kristy Wood - will plan to do this activity at a future meeting
3. GSC Office Updates
 - o [December GSC Data Summary](#)
 - i. first month event held at the Hillsdale Area Career Center
 - ii. good feedback from parents
 - o Other
 - i. November Data Presentation
 1. Michigan League for Public Policy- We loved their presentation so much and found it so valuable
 - a. Go watch the recording if you missed last month's GSC meeting & their presentation
 - b. Asked them to come present right after the KidsCount Data is released
 - c. More information to come!
 - ii. Talking is Teaching
 1. Calendars- sorted and ready to go. Be sure to grab yours
 - a. Please, please remember to ask families if they have received theirs yet before giving them one.

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- b. Please walk the families through how they work and show them a few things so they will be familiar and more likely to use them all year long.
 - c. We have a limited number, so we want to make sure we get them to as many families as possible without overlap
 - 2. Talking is Teacher Leader - 2 parent leaders facilitating activities at each monthly event promoting Talking is Teaching
 - 3. Marketing campaign with Go Media is up and running
 - a. was recently on Disney+
 - i. 2500 impressions
 - b. YouTube 45% watch full ad
 - c. Impressions- 82,000, Views & Engagements
 - d. Go Media contact has been fabulous to work with
 - e. Please like and share our daily Talking is Teacher posts
 - iii. Advancing Healthy Births RFP
 - 1. Wrapped up 1st round at the end of Sept.
 - 2. Presented to Region 9 Collaborative on now we used our funds along with 5 other areas
 - 3. Round 2 funding request has been submitted
 - a. We applied for funds around ChildBirth education/Prenatal Care for a conference to target parents/families that will be heavily incentivized. Potential date in February to do our first “Love Yourself, Love Your Baby” event. More amped up baby shower that is targeted education and less agency/organization connection
 - b. Dec. 11th we’ll know if funded
 - iv. Great Give Updates- Tomorrow 12-3-24
 - 1. Scale here for coin weigh in
 - 2. Today is the last day that Jonesville Subway will give you 10% off your order if you bring a new or used children’s book. Subway reached out to do this for us. 10% of funds goes to GSC and the books as well.
 - 3. Dean Jennings Office Fundraiser events were fun and raised funds
 - v. New & Exciting Partnership
 - 1. Participating with the Airport next Sept. for their fly-in event
 - 2. Excited to meet new families
 - 3. A new event and venue/partnership for us
 - 4. Fly-in Event runs 7am to 2 pm on September 14, 2025- Mark your calendar
 - 5. Looking for volunteers from our GSC to support our involvement in this event.
 - vi. Other
 - 1. Winterfest is next week, Thursday. Please let us know if you would like to participate as an organization.

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4. Community Spotlight: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
 - Hillsdale Community Library, Rebekah Dobski
 - Jonesville District Library, Laura Orłowski
 - North Adams Community Library, Mariele Bush
 - i. The initiative started in Nevada and is throughout the United States and Canada.
 - ii. Goal to get a child to have 1000 books read to them before Kindergarten
 - iii. 9 public libraries in Hillsdale County
 1. We have 3 libraries currently on board
 - iv. Rolled out after Labor Day
 - v. If they read a book everyday at 2 years old, they get to 1000 by Kindergarten.
 - vi. Easy to get it started/going
 - vii. Big Question: Does it have to be 1,000 different books
 1. No
 2. It can be the same book, multiple times
 - viii. The goal is to read with your child
 - ix. Goes hand-in-hand with Talking is Teaching. Children will pick-up on things as you read to them. It helps with all developmental areas; language, social emotional, communication
 - x. what they are read at preschool, daycare, babysitter, older sibling, grandparents, etc. counts...any books read to them by anyone
 - xi. For all of Hillsdale County
 - xii. Anyone can sign-up at any of the 3 libraries participating: Hillsdale, Jonesville, North Adams
 - xiii. Can turn in logs to ANY of the 3 libraries participating: Hillsdale, Jonesville, North Adams.
 1. We have a shared google document to track families who signed up and their progress
 - xiv. They get sheets to fill one at a time. Once they fill one out, they get a sticker and a new sheet.
 - xv. They get a sticker they get to wear
 - xvi. At 100, 500 and 1000 books they get an extra special prize
 - xvii. They get their picture taken when they complete
 - xviii. Every child not yet enrolled in Kindergarten is eligible to participate
 - xix. The Great Start Collaborative is sponsoring the prize they receive when they hit their first goal - a new book to keep.
 - xx. Hoping other libraries will join in now that we have it up and running
 - xxi. GSRP classrooms read 2-3 books per day, so parents can just ask the teacher what books are read to make sure that they get recorded on their sheets
 - xxii. Currently have about 35 signed up. No sheets turned in yet.
 - xxiii. CAA preschool classrooms got fliers during parent teacher conferences
 - xxiv. Handouts: 2 fliers and a book mark

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5. Subcommittee Reports

- Child Care - Tabled for next month.
- Community Resources
 - i. Been working and visiting food pantries once a month
 - 1. Kings Kupboard, Salvation Army, Jonesville Mission
 - 2. Goal is to hand out Community Resource Guide & books
 - ii. Making updates in Community Resource Guide
 - 1. LifeWays had an intern that was slowly working through updates, but she just went on medical leave, so we are problem solving that.
 - iii. Social Emotional Kits
 - 1. Used to have people sign-up and get through mail
 - 2. Will be distributed through some of the libraries now, at Domestic Harmony and through home visitors
 - iv. Developmental Information Goal
 - 1. Just at beginning stages of laying out what our plan is for this
- Literacy
 - i. Working on locations for Book Nooks and Hillsdale County Kids Read partners
 - 1. OB Office is locked in for 1 location
 - 2. Looking for a 2nd location
 - 3. Looking for places throughout the county- anywhere
 - 4. Biggest challenge is that the medical communities don't want excess stuff in the waiting room for sanitary reasons.
 - 5. Can fit 20ish books on the nook
 - ii. Family Coalition is working on placement for 2 new Little Free Libraries
 - iii. Book Distribution at Food pantries
- Pediatric & Prenatal Health
 - i. Baby Shower is the large event working on now
 - 1. extra committee put together for this
 - 2. working through sponsorships
 - ii. Loca Provider Collaboration
 - 1. reaching out to develop partnerships and finding ways to we can connect our work more
 - iii. Welcome Baby Bags
 - 1. Any Hillsdale County Resident who has a baby can sign up for a welcome baby visit and receive a welcome baby bag
 - iv. Advancing Healthy Birth grant- Large project
 - 1. likely another committee to work on this if we are approved for this grant
 - v. Social Media
 - 1. Have Facebook posts we put out
 - 2. please comment, like, and share on your pages to get the word out
- Preschool Leadership & Advocacy/Data Dive

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- i. Still accepting applications for any families interested in preschool
- ii. expanding GSRP- any potential licensed partners interested in becoming a GSRP sub-recipient can contact Mindy
- iii. Start to plan for Joint Recruitment and Enrollment 25-26
- iv. Data Dive
 1. Just completed our first Data Dive
 2. Looked at ASQ & TSGold Checkpoints
 3. Based on data, we set a goal to work on to improve
 4. Action Steps:
 - a. Take home letter identification materials on talking is teaching, teaching strategies gold, NCPMI, Hillsdale County Padlet- encourage families to work with students at home
 - b. Students will take home material focused around math to encourage families to work with their students at home
 - c. Solving Social Problems- Have students take home information to connect family with this goal.

6. Community Updates

- o Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
 - i. Winterfest is next week- Planning for that
 - ii. 126 referrals for Early On since July
 1. slowed down for a bit
 - iii. Playgroups 3 days a week
 - iv. Monthly playgroup for our families
 - v. Early On Conference in November
 1. Lots of great sessions with new things to implement
 2. AAC- Assistive Augmentative Communication Device
 - a. strategies to enhance communication skills for children not yet talking or communicating effectively
- o Bailey- Working on a January open house during the day to see if families want to come see what's going on during the day
 - i. Working to help Baily and our whole county
- o Agency Updates
 - i. Janell/Calming Breaths Doula Services
 1. Monthly Meet-ups
 2. Ball Exercise Class (flier available)
 - ii. Tonia/Domestic Harmony
 1. Great Glve Tomorrow
 2. Angel Trees
 - iii. Bella/BHSJ CHA
 1. Breastfeeding Resources coming soon

7. Closing

- o Weighing coins and gift cards
- o Grab Talking is Teaching calendars if you have not yet

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